NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026

The South Burlington NRCC held it's regular monthly meeting for July 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm, in room 301 at the South Burlington City Hall, 180 Market St, and by GoToMeeting for remote participation.

Attending: J. Balerna (Chr); J. Wikle; J. Bossange; J. Hunt; L. Yankowski; K. Boyk; G. Leckey; M. Huth; S. Comeau

Also attending: S. Kershner (City Liaison); L. Smith (City Council Liaison)

1. Ms Balerna welcomed everyone.
2. No changes, deletions or additions to the agenda.
3. Meeting minutes from June 03, 2026.
    1. Ms Boyk motioned to adopt, Mr Bossange 2nd. Adopted unanimously with Ms Balerna abstaining.
4. No comments from the public.
5. We welcomed Megan Huth and Steve Comeau to the NRCC Committee. The Standing committee members introduced ourselves mentioning our backgrounds and history on the NRCC. The committee has a site on the city's main site. Natural Resources & Conservation Committee | South Burlington, VT
    1. Our next discussion was our work plan. Our plan was okayed by the city council with nothing going to the "bike rack." Our tasks are in the city plan. FY27 Committee Workplans Formatted for PDF.xlsx

6. Election of officers- we are now in FY'27. Ms Yankowski nominated Jess Balerna for Chair and John Bossange for Vice Chair. Lisa Yankowski was nominated for Clerk. All approved unanimously. Green
    1. Energy Fair on September 19, rain date 09/20. We were joined by Bettina Miguez (City Liaison for the Energy Committee & Climate Action). We discussed some of what we would like to do for the festival and what else may be there like electric mowers, cars, etc. We want to let South Burlington residents know what we do as a committee.
        1. Blowup a copy of our Mission Statement- Mr Bossange.
        2. Ms Yankowski & Ms Leckey are working on information on bug & pest control. Ms Leckey has an approved document on leaves. Ms Yankowski & Mr Bossange developed an approved statement on best practices for fertilizing and bug /pest control.
        3. Ms Yankowski will contact VINS about doing a demonstration- wildlife is part of our natural resources. Wildlife/Human interactions. Work group being Mr Bossange, Ms Hunt & Ms Yankowski.
        4. Rewilding - Ms Boyk asked if this could be an opportunity to gather suggestions for lawn areas that could be rewilded and information about neighborhood community gardens.
            1. Ms Balerna will work on a possible native garden contest, gathering interest for next year. Working group is Ms Balerna, Ms Wikle & Mr Comeau.
7. We need to more tweaking and determine what we have and what else we need. How much energy is needed for lawn care, ie: energy required. What about "carbon absorbers"? Ms Balerna will work on a possible contest, insects- Ms Yankowski & Ms Leckey.

**** Be aware we are on a time countdown******* for work groups for the festival

8. Working group updates. See the above.
9. Member updates and reports.
    1. Ms Yankowski attended DRB presentation by Ms Kershner for repair/drainage issues work to be done at Red Rocks . She also attended the city's ribbon cutting ceremony for the new boardwalk at the Market Street Goose Pond Park.
    2. Mr Bossange had sent the Meadow Management document. He moved to approve, Ms Wikle 2nd- approved.
    3. Ms Boyk is our advisory rep for the developing Open Space Plan. They are meeting with the consultants soon. Per Mr Smith, we should see a draft before the end of December.

Note: Ms Boyk inquired about the control & protection of wildfires, (VT has been besieged by wildfire smoke from Canada, that has affected air quality). Ms Yankowski mention there had been news that the State of VT was looking into having the fire chiefs of VT towns be responsible.

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5, 2026 at 6:00PM.