NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 02, 2026

The South Burlington NRCC held it's regular monthly meeting for September 02, 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. Bossange (Vice Chr); L. Yankowski; K. Boyk; M. Huth; S. Comeau; J Wikle

Also attending: S. Kershner (City Liaison); R. Doyle

1. Ms Balerna welcomed everyone.
2. No changes, deletions or additions to the agenda.
3. Meeting minutes from August 05, 2026.
    1. Mr Bossange motioned to adopt, Ms Yankowski 2nd. Adopted unanimously. Ms Balerna and Ms Wikle abstained.
4. Comments from the public: Mr Doyle mentioned Weed Warriors and what is involved with trying to organize volunteers to continue removal/eradication/control of invasive plants in the city parks. How about replanting projects. Various committee members mentioned the history and work of Weed Warriors. We will need to investigate trying g to move something like this forward. The gentleman who was hired by the city and who ran Weed Warriors had trained volunteers what to look for and do.
5. Green Community Festival Sept 19
    1. Ms Yankowski will staff our booth all day, Ms Balerna, Mr Bossange, Ms Boyk & Ms Huth will be covering various hours throughout the event. Ms Balerna has the information for the Rewilding Project. We have a banner and various materials for our table.
6. Working group updates.
    1. We need to work on Human-Wildlife interactions.
    2. Ms Boyk said the Parks & Open Space Management Plan group had met. CivicSol shared the data they've been compiling. City Plan 2024 has the following goals related to parks and open space:
        1. 7.5 acres of developed recreation per 1,000 population
        2. 20 acres of natural recreation per 1,000 population
        3. Recreational amenity within 1/4 mile of every residential dwelling unit
        4. Protect 51% of the city's land area as open space

       Goals 1 and 2 are currently met but will fall short based on projected 2050 population, so the plan will likely recommend adding some parks and natural areas as the population grows. Goal 3 is not currently met in several parts of the city so the plan will recommend adding recreation areas or improving access in certain neighborhoods. CivicSol is still finalizing data for goal 4 but they think we are close to 51%.

       However, Ms Boyk is unsure about some of the land types or protection types that are being included in this measurement and hopes to receive more detailed data and a map before the plan is finalized.
    3. Mr Bossange will update us on what the Land Trust has involved with, including the Long Property.

We adjourned at 6:53pm Our next meeting is October 07, 2026 at 6:00pm

Next agenda items:

- how the Green Community Festival went
- Land Trust Updates.
- Rewilding