

Burlington Conservation Board
645 Pine Street
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Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Public Notice

Monday, May 6, 2024, 4:30 PM

645 Pine Street, Front Conference Room or Remote via Zoom

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96126814339?pwd=YIBHSVJYVHNMM3IMUWpReExMYINqUT09>

Webinar ID: 961 2681 4339

Password: 003769

Telephone: 1 929 205 6099

1. Conservation Legacy Fund Grant Review

1.1. Continued discussion of possible changes to the administrative rules/ assumptions/ policies of the grant program and development of recommendations for the full Conservation Board and Parks Commission

2. Adjournment

3. Minutes

3.1. Minutes of May 6, 2024 meeting

4. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

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From: Sharon Bushor <sfbushor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 8:38 AM
To: Scott Gustin <SGustin@burlingtonvt.gov>
Subject: Open Space Subcommittee

[WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Good morning Scott, Please include this communication in the packet for today's Subcommittee meeting and also for the Conservation Board meeting that follows.

This communication is a suggestion to model the Conversation Legacy Fund Grant program/process after the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process.

To address some of the issues discussed at your last meeting:

1. Can a recipient who received money in a prior year apply over and over for additional dollars? YES If it sustains the proposal, expands it or is a different proposal that meets the criteria. Also demonstrated success or progress on the previous grant .

Why exclude people or entities that have a track record of success?

2. Contemplate categories for applicants to apply for. Assuming success, it may be helpful to identify areas that would help meet our collective goals;

Protect (clean up included) waterways

Create mini open spaces (pocket park)

Mitigate storm water runoff (rain gardens)

Define limited access to open spaces including accessibility for all

Include a miscellaneous category to ensure a great proposal that doesn't fit is not excluded.

And so on. The above are just random examples and not meant to suggest actual categories.

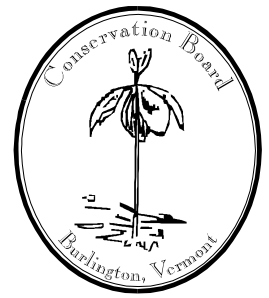
3. Total grant funds allocated for each category. This amount could be set annually so the most dollars available are in the categories where need is greatest This aspect, I believe, needs to wait until this program has seen success. I do hope it will be included in your plan to be discussed in the future.

Thank you for reading this. I hope this model is useful as you move forward with establishing the criteria to apply for and allocate these funds.

Sharon Bushor, Burlington resident

**Burlington Conservation Board
Open Space Subcommittee**

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Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2024 at 4:30 PM
In-Person and Remote Meeting

Present: Scott Gustin, Dan Cahill, Daniel Schmidt, Zoe Richards, Rebecca Roman, Leslie Spencer, Sharon Bushor

I. Conservation Legacy Fund Grant Review

Sharon Bushor provided comments relative to her email posted in the Subcommittee's packet.

SG recapped some of the items brought up for consideration last month including outside entities applying, whether the same project can receive grants over multiple consecutive years, whether multiple grants can be granted over consecutive years to the same entity, and grants to individuals.

RR suggested clarifying the process of selection. There was some confusion in the review group around how to do the math in scoring the rubrics. More guidance would be helpful. We want to be clear as to how the project ties into the climate addendum.

ZR, make sure that funded projects did the best possible in addressing the needs for nature based climate solutions in Burlington.

DS felt that the review committee really focused on the projects involving something on the ground. Maybe allow for more community engagement oriented efforts.

ZR, consider the makeup of the review committee. Emphasize familiarity with climate addendum. Could we allow review committee make up beyond BCB and Parks Commission? Group was 3 from BCB and 2 from Parks. Maybe up to 2 from the Parks Commission.

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DC, we as staff could have done a better job of queuing up the proposals for the review committee. SG mentioned the possibility of staff reports for consideration by the review committee.

Recommendations:

- Continue to allow for outside entities as long as the benefit/work is within Burlington.
- Create a worksheet page that outlines priorities of the climate addendum.
- Provide orientation for the review committee (procedural and content, consideration of ongoing work in the community {such as at the Intervale}).
- Revise the rubric to more specifically include community benefits beyond installation projects.
- Set yearly priorities.

SG offered to do a track-change of the original administrative structure to include these recommendations and circulate to the group.

II. Adjournment

5:15 PM.