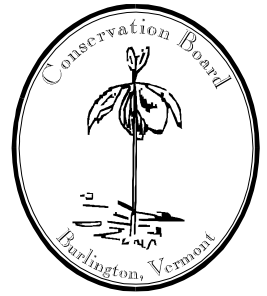


Burlington Conservation Board Open Space Subcommittee

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Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2025 at 4:30 PM

311 North Avenue, Conference Room and Remote Meeting

Present: Scott Gustin, Dan Cahill, Daniel Schmidt, Zoe Richards, Rebecca Roman, Kyle Tansley, Susan Ogden & Sharon Bushor.

I. Public Comment

Susan Ogden spoke about deer in the city. She would like to see a public education campaign. Is there a deer census in Burlington? RR, we don't have a deer census, but their numbers appear to be increasing in Burlington. Susan Ogden suggested possibly engaging with NPA's for education outreach.

Sharon Bushor lives on East Avenue near Centennial Woods. She hasn't seen deer in the neighborhood in 20 years. She's concerned with how numbers may be reduced. Notification and safety are key concerns if hunting is to be allowed. Do we understand where wildlife corridors are?

II. Deer Management Strategy Session

Daniel Schmidt, we can and do look at browse to tell where deer are concentrated. We've got some informational signage, like at Arms. Burlington is not a core habitat for large mammals. Management measures should be regional.

ZR mentioned discussion with VT F&W pointed out that Burlington is unique in not allowing any hunting. It would be interesting to bring the State back into the discussion. She mentioned the mayor's climate initiatives. Perhaps there could be a deer management task force.

RR asked about timeline. Dan Cahill said 6-8 months for the Mayor's climate work group. ZR noted that the Conservation Board could recommend that a deer task force

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be established. There would be opportunity to get expertise in a mixed group as compared to the Conservation Board managing it.

Dan Cahill, BCB noted this as a priority. What's the strategy for decision making and outcomes? Needs a push and some momentum. Invite outside folks into the work, like VT F&W. ZR, who else do we need to involve? Maybe we should check in with Parks Commission and the Council's PAC committee. Afterwards, come back to the Conservation Board.

Daniel Schmidt suggested outlining what the baseline conditions are, what the goal is, and how we might get there. Dan Cahill said we should have solid data before engaging with public outreach. Mentioned heat mapping from UVM's SAL. ZR recommended that we draft a measure for the Conservation Board to consider and pass to get the process moving.

RR, can we get more than 1 deer exclusion area, outside of Arms Forest? Dan Cahill, we have many restoration trees that have been affected by browsing. We don't need to wait for a mandate to mobilize. Daniel Schmidt, its fairly easy to install exclusion areas.

ZR, we should discuss with the full Board. Perhaps in June.

III. Adjournment

5:30 PM.