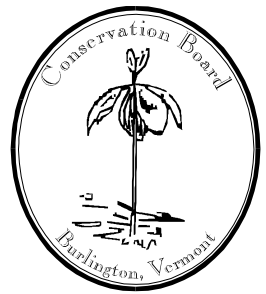


Burlington Conservation Board

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*Rebecca Roman, Chair
Caryn Connolly, Vice Chair
Zoe Richards
Don Meals
Ryan Crehan
Leslie Spencer
Kyle Tansley
Ethan Ely
Elizabeth Cunningham, Student*



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 2, 2025 – 5:30 pm
Remote & In Person Meeting

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Caryn Connolly (CC), Rebecca Roman (RR), Leslie Spencer (LS), Kyle Tansley (KT), Ethan Ely (EE), Ryan Crehan (RC)
- **Absent:** Elizabeth Cunningham (EC), Don Meals (DM)
- **Public:** Dana Allen, Shawn Len, Jeff O'Donnell, Brenan Laclaria, Rita Church, Sarah Morris, Ron McGarvey
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Permitting & Inspections), Dan Cahill, and Max Maladanski (Parks & Rec)

RR, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes

May 5, 2025 minutes

A MOTION was made by EE and SECONDED by KT:

Approve the May 5 minutes as written.

Vote: 7-0-0, motion carried.

Board Comment

KT has chosen to not renew his board membership.

CC said today is her last meeting as well.

ZR noted the Board's student membership will be open soon. How do we advertise that?

RC noted the Parks Commission recently discussed the dog task force. There are parts that we might want to weigh in on. SG said he'd reach out to Cindi Wight as to status and opportunity to weigh in.

SG noted the Open Space Plan outreach events coming up and the Board's annual report.

Public Comment

Shawn Len, rep of Burlington Bike Park Coalition, said he's here to support the Leddy Park bike loop application. The goal is to provide space for kids, big and small, with space to mountain bike. This will provide a local, free, and safe space for biking in our open spaces.

Jeff O'Donnell, speaking in support of the bike park and lives nearby, spoke in support of the Leddy Park Comp Plan. He's excited that the city will provide access to this bike park from the neighborhoods.

Brenan Laclaria, lives nearby. He's gotten conflicting information as to the scope of the project. Insufficient notice of what's to happen has been provided. He's concerned with what it will look like. He'd like to know more about what it will entail. Will there be lights? Ramps? We want to know details about the project.

Rita Church, lives on Lakewood Parkway, directly in line with the tennis courts. She knows about noise at the Park. She wants to listen to what's proposed. She does not want to find out that all of the trees behind her end up cut. She enjoys observing the birds and deer in the woods behind her home. She's concerned with the potential for smoke, dust, lights, and tree removal. She's got cameras on her property and has observed people on her porch rocking chairs at 2am. She would like the Board to consider the potential for problems.

Sarah Morris, lives on Lakewood Parkway, is interesting in knowing more about the proposal.

Project Review

1. ZP-25-258; 216 Leddy Park Rd (Ward 4, RCO-RG) City of Burlington

Create approximately 2,070 linear feet of earthen surface bike trail with features built from native soils.

Max Maladanski and Dana Allen appeared on behalf of this application.

Max Maladanski overviewed this project. The idea has been percolating for about 10 years. Leddy was determined to be the best host site. About 2 years ago, a plan for siting it at Leddy was started. There will be about a 50' wide buffer between the park and neighboring homes. An assessment by Alicia Daniel found that this area has woods of comparatively lower ecological integrity than other locations.

Rita Church asked how many folks were notified. Max Maladanski said 100-200 surveys received, in addition to multiple outreach events.

Dana Allen presented the project and noted existing and proposed conditions. He noted the presence of a mapped wetland below the bike path to the west. He noted the informal trail accessing the park from Lakewood Parkway. Trail width will generally be 6.' Disturbance will be mostly limited to removing undergrowth and saplings. Onsite soils will be used for the trails and their features. In total, 4 trees of more than 9" caliper will be removed, including one dead tree. Grading will be gradual with restoration of the forest duff layer where necessary. Side slopes of trail features will be similarly treated.

RC asked about duffing on the side slopes. Dana Allen said excavation will be limited to 2' to avoid creation of pits in the woods. Typically, the builder will put down larger branches and logs.

EE, what type of soils are on the site? Dana Allen said Adams Windsor loamy sands. Its basically old lakeshore material.

Dana Allen changed to stormwater management. It focuses on infiltration into surrounding areas. Very little impervious surfaces are proposed. Simple vegetative disconnection is proposed. Site slopes are in the 1% - 3% range generally. Minimal runoff generation is anticipated. We have met with the city stormwater folks to discuss. No "hard" stormwater infrastructure proposed. The ESPC follows state standards and addresses vegetative disconnect and surface roughening.

ZR, on the southeast corner, there appears to be a stub of trail. What does that lead to? Dana Allen, that's a new entrance off the existing pedestrian trail. ZR, how will you manage pedestrian and bike use? Max Maladanski said each entrance will have signage noting that you are entering a bike park.

LS, are there concerns with using sandy soils? Is the stockpile soil different? Dana Allen, thinks all of the stockpile was from prior onsite excavations. He's not concerned with use of the soils. This soil has pretty decent structure.

RR likes the use of onsite soils. It reduces potential to introduce more invasive species.

EE, are there invasive species onsite? Dan Cahill, yes, there are lots of them. The city has a plan to go in after the work is done to plant native species to help regeneration.

ZR asked why the Board is seeing this application. SG explained that the project is large enough to require DRB review and that it is located within a city green space.

Dana Allen displayed drawings of some of the typical trail features, like jumps, banks, and rollers.

LS asked about tree cutting. Dana Allen said the noted clearing is within the entire trail corridor. We only flagged trees above 9" caliper. We're generally avoiding large trees with this design.

RC, what is the footprint of the trail work? Dana Allen, the tread surface is 6' wide for flow trails. The jump trail is about 12' wide. RC, is any erosion fabric proposed? Dana Allen, no, we are disturbing such small areas on such limited slopes, it is not necessary.

Public Comment:

Ron McGarvey, Lakewood Parkway. Public outreach has been ongoing for several years. Not everyone is aware, but it has been ongoing. The details shared tonight are the first he's seen them.

Unidentified, any lights? Max Maladanski, no lights.

RR, it sounds like Max is the person to talk with.

Bret Lawrence, Lakewood Parkway, has there been any study of impacts on property values? Max Maladanski, no.

Ron McGarvey, he's seen plans for modifying the park access road. Is there concern about traffic on the park road and the bike park? Dana Allen said the closest the trails come to the road is about 12' or 15.'

Board discussion:

RR, this is an action item.

Dan Cahill, Burlington's connected natural spaces are not large enough to provide big woods experiences like where you may have elsewhere. We have more intention in providing a connective experience in smaller spaces.

ZR noted there are some conservation downsides as well as upsides. Dan Cahill, the roads have created a certain forest type in this area.

RR, having the trails here will limit further harm in other locations.

LS, what do Board members think about native plantings?

A MOTION was made by LS and SECONDED by ZR

Recommend approval with a provision for installation of native plantings in disturbed areas.

Vote: 7-0-0, motion carried.

Update & Discussion

1. Deer Management

Follow up from May 5 Open Space Subcommittee Discussion.

Dan Cahill addressed this item.

Dan Cahill said they have applied for a \$20K USDN grant. It focuses on planting out core areas, including areas in Leddy, Arms, and Ethan Allen Parks. We'll be doing a variety of plantings from relatively large trees to bare-root stock. In each of the areas, deer exclosures will be installed. We should find out in mid-June as to the grant application.

ZR, this is a great opportunity for us to participate in. There is an upcoming item as to urban biodiversity. Dan Cahill, we'll place tree orders in August and do plantings and exclosures in October. There is ongoing invasive species removal work.

RC there has been a lot of research lately around effective exclosures, particularly as to cost effectiveness. Dan Cahill, we are committed to the exclosures whether or not we are awarded the grant.

Executive Session

Adjournment

7:25 PM.