

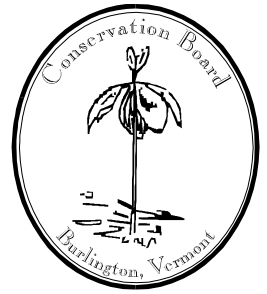
**Burlington Conservation Board
Open Space Subcommittee**

645 Pine Street

Burlington, VT 05401

www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpi

Telephone: (802) 865-7188



Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Public Notice

February 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Remote Meeting

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86184651334?pwd=bkszRzl2UUpYM2l5OFRwRC9lYUN3Zz09>

Webinar ID: 861 8465 1334

Password: 399400

Telephone: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or
+1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

I. Public Comment

II. Project Updates

- 311 North Avenue management plan update
- Intervale deer management item

III. Other Business

The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status or genetic information. The City is also committed to providing proper access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. For accessibility information or alternative formats, please contact Human Resources Department at 865-7145.



January 26, 2021

State of Vermont
Chittenden County Forester
J. Ethan Tapper
111 West Street
Essex, VT 05452

[Phone] (802) 585-9099
[Fax] (802) 878-5192
[email] Ethan.Tapper@vermont.gov

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express support for managing their deer herd in Burlington's Intervale. While deer are an important native wildlife species, deer overpopulations are a major threat to biodiversity throughout our region, and is increasingly a problem in Vermont. Where deer are overpopulated, their browsing decreases forest diversity, which in turn threatens many of the benefits and functions provided by forests, from their ability to support water quality, attenuate floodwaters and protect infrastructure, to the habitat that they provide for Vermont's wildlife, their ability to sequester and store carbon and to be resilient and adaptive in a changing climate. Overpopulations of deer can also exacerbate other issues, such as non-native invasive plant infestations (they will eat native plants while mostly ignoring non-native plants), ticks and tick-borne disease, and the ability of farmers and gardeners to grow delicious food and beautiful horticultural plants.

While Vermont has been removed from the worst of this problem, our neighboring states regard overpopulations of deer as a major conservation problem, one of the most costly and tricky to deal with of any that they face. In these areas, extremely high deer herds have massively damaged their ecosystems while causing huge cultural problems, and controlling them requires costly and unpopular measures such as baiting and culling large numbers of deer with professional snipers, catching and sterilizing deer and installing high deer fences around farms, homes and yards. Due to many issues, including declining hunter numbers, increasingly warm winters, habitat fragmentation and development and increases in "posted" land, Vermont is increasingly dealing with the impacts of deer overpopulations. As a result, Vermont's Department of Fish and Wildlife changed deer hunting rules and regulations in 2020, largely to lower populations of deer where they are overabundant.

At Burlington's Intervale, it is clear that deer populations are high and are negatively impacting native biodiversity and the function of natural communities. This issue is of special importance due to the extreme density of rare and unusual natural communities, plants and animals in this section of the Winooski River, and its importance to both wildlife habitat and water quality in Lake Champlain. A number of partners, including the Intervale Center, the City of Burlington, Burlington Wildways and the Winooski Valley Park District have joined together to restore natural communities in this area, including controlling invasive plants.

Lowering the high deer population in this area actively – by killing deer -- is incredibly important to this coalition being able to reach their mission of diverse, connected healthy natural communities which support a range of native wildlife, ecosystem services, amazing recreational opportunities and keeping this area as beautiful place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester



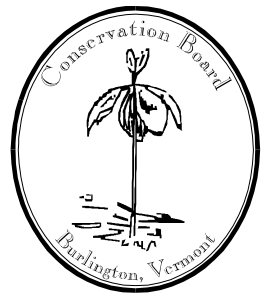




**Burlington Conservation Board
Open Space Subcommittee**

645 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPI/CB>
Telephone: (802) 865-7189

*Matt Moore
Zoe Richards
Rebecca Roman
Tori Hellwig*



Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Remote Meeting

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Rebecca Roman (RR), Tori Hellwig (TH)
- **Absent:** Matt Moore (MM)
- **Public:** Patrick Dunseith, Kate Kruesi, Duncan Murdoch, Nick Fortin
- **Staff:** Dan Cahill (Parks & Recreation), Scott Gustin (Permitting & Inspections)

Public Comment

None.

Project Updates

311 North Avenue:

Dan Cahill said that the management plan for this conserved property should be ready for discussion at the Subcommittee's March or April meeting.

Revisiting Intervale Deer Management item:

Today's meeting focused on the matter at hand and potential solutions. The March meeting will focus on a proposed framework for moving ahead, and April will likely begin the public rollout and meetings.

Adjournment

5:28 PM.