

Burlington Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

7:00PM

1. Call to Order: Richard Miller at 7:08 PM. Present: Tom Finan, Mitchel Kvedar, Richard Miller, Jackie Shadford, Melanie Wilhelm Absent: John Hebert (chair), Tom Roberge
Guest: First Selectman Ted Shafer
2. Minutes from October 20, 2020 meeting were not reviewed due to the absence of the chair.
3. Citizens Comments: None
4. Communications: 2021 Meeting Schedule. Commission accepted the 2021 schedule as voted on during the October 20, 2020 meeting.
5. Old Business
 - a. Municipal Tax Reduction Program for Farmers – Ted Shafer confirmed with the town assessor that there are only a handful of farms that would qualify for the tax abatement. The Commission will work on a letter to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with a summary of the program.
 - b. Johnnycake Mountain Recreation Facility – Finan was invited to walk the property with Ted Shafer, Scott Tharau (Department of Public Works) and the Burlington Land Trust to discuss plans. Some of the topics discussed included how to control invasive plants, bird boxes for song birds, wildflowers. Miller requested that Ted Shafer provide the topography and plans to the Conservation Commission along with Planning and Zoning.
 - c. Town Website Links – All the website links have been updated by the town clerk's office. Wilhelm will work with the town clerk to add the categories that were requested.
 - d. Open Space/Land Acquisition – Ted Shafer updated the Commission on the Library Lane acquisition. If the land is sold for development in the future, the proceeds of that future sale will go to the land acquisition fund. This has been adopted formally by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. The Library Lane acquisition was finalized on December 15th, 2020. Commission asked Shafer about the Land Acquisition for 2021. Shafer suggested that the Commission draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting specific funds for the land acquisition fund. Commission will discuss at the January meeting.
 - e. Recycling – Shadford will update the group on recycling during the January meeting. Shadford plans to contact Derek Slap regarding the state response on recycling.

- f. Sustainable CT – Kvedar updated the group on Burlington’s bronze status with Sustainable CT. The Commission will review the Burlington section of the Sustainable CT website to see what has been submitted by Burlington to date. Burlington has 2 years until the next Sustainable CT certification. The Commission will review different Sustainable CT topics at future meetings (ideally one topic per meeting for ease of discussion).
 - g. Earth Day – 2021 – Shadford suggested an open house for the town using different locations throughout town. This does not need to be done on Earth Day in April. The Commission discussed a map and the availability of a grant to fund the map for the open house tour.
6. New Business – None
7. Adjourn – Motion made (Finan) and seconded (Wilhelm). Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:11 PM.

Next Virtual Meeting: January 19, 2021. Details to follow.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Wilhelm, Assistant Secretary