



VT Urban & Community Forestry Program
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VERMONT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Council Meeting

January 9, 2019

GoToMeeting

MINUTES

In attendance: Richard Amore, Cecilia Danks, Mike Fallis, Danielle Fitzko, Kate Forrer, Joanne Garton, Emilie Inoue, William Jewell, Gwen Kozlowski, Lee Krohn, Jenny Lauer, Melissa Levy, Nicolas Meyer, Ginger Nickerson, David Raphael, Elise Schadler, David Schneider, Jared Ulmer, Bonnie Waninger.

Welcome and Council Business

Cecilia welcomed the Council members and introductions were made.

- **Review Last Meeting:** Highlights from the last council meeting were presented, and updates on several issues were provided. Updates included:
 - Tree Warden Amendments: This will be going forward again this year with the legislature.
 - EAB: A one day exhibit in the Card Room at the State House is tentatively being planned. It will highlight the financial cost of EAB.
 - Project Learning Tree: The Vermont Dept. of Education and UVM Extension 4-H may partner.
 - Green Streets Guide: The guide has been highlighted in e-newsletters and is posted online. Several videos are being created by an intern, with further publicity planned once they are completed. A hard copy mailing to towns is being considered, as towns are one of the most important audiences for this guide.
- **Review/Approve Minutes:** The minutes from the September 12, 2018 council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Program Conversation

- **UCF Staff Updates:**
 - Forest Pest Education Coordinator: Ginger Nickerson has

been hired for this position and is working out of the UVM Extension office in Barre. Ginger has been trained in the social aspects of natural resources and agriculture/food safety. Her responsibilities will include overseeing the First Detectors program, responding to public requests, promoting the Don't Move Firewood message and the young writers challenge, and working with tree wardens, three local museums and homeowners. First Detectors will be at the core, with plans to make it a two-tiered program: FD101 will function as an introduction to pests, Slow the Spread, ash ID, etc.; FD Advanced will work with communities and support expanding outreach. Please reach out to Ginger with any ideas.

- UCF Program Manager: With her promotion to Director of Forests now complete, Danielle must replace herself. The current UCF Program Manager job description was reviewed by the team and the consensus was it was ready to post. Any items not mentioned in the job description (public relations, partner relations, collaborative leadership, grant writing etc.) can be highlighted when an ad is placed. Recruitment is planned to start in February. Bonnie Waninger and Richard Amore will serve on the search committee, reviewing applications and conducting interviews.
- **Volunteer Recruitment**: Volunteers from the Council were sought for three additional upcoming projects.
 - Caring for Canopy EAB grant review committee: Elise Schadler is lead, Bill Jewell will assist.
 - Public Places Awards: Gwen Kozlowski is lead, Melissa Levy will assist.
 - Arbor Day Programming: Gwen Kozlowski is lead, David Raphael will assist.
- **Program Report Updates**
 - Lake Champlain Forest Watershed Management Partnership: UCF has been engaged in a conversation between UVM Extension and American Forests on funding a position based out of UVM's SEA Grant to lead this partnership, including establishing a community of practice and coordinating a Forestry Watershed Leadership Summit. David Raphael talked about the increased need for this, especially in dealing with conflicts between ANR, agriculture, towns and lakeshore residents. He spoke to the need for cooperation

moving forward.

- Energy Saving Trees: UCF is partnering with the VT Dept. of Health again this year.
- Tree Warden Summit: UCF would like to plan a future summit.
- Rural Roadside Vegetation: Joanne Garton continues this important work.
- Backyard Woods: UCF would like to grow this program.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: March 13, 2019