

# Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Council Meeting

June 9, 2021

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## MINUTES

Attending: Richard Amore, Josh Behounek (Davey Tree), Cecilia Danks, Kate Forrer, Joanne Garton, Ann Hazelrigg, Emilie Inoue, Bill Jewell, Gwen Kozlowski, Lee Krohn, Melissa Levy, Bob McCullough, Sara Packer, John Parry (USFS), David Raphael, Tim Smith, Elise Schadler, Warren Spinner, Ethan Tapper, Bonnie Waninger, Heather Voisin

### **Suggested Books/Podcasts from UCF Council Members**

- Made to Stick, Chip Heath and Dan Heath
- Dare to Lead, Brene Brown
- Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life by Eric Klinenberg - <https://www.bearpondbooks.com/book/9781524761172>
- Blazing Ahead, Benton Mackaye
- Finding the Mother Tree, Suzanne Simard
- The Fate of Greenland, Philip Conkling
- Owls of the Eastern Ice, Jonathan Slaght
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/worklab/work-trend-index/hybrid-work>
- The Hidden Forest: The Biography of an Ecosystem by Jon R. Luoma
- The Last Stand by Peter Kelley and Douglas Larson
- American Canopy, Eric Rutgow
- The Tree by Colin Tudge
- The Warmth of other Suns, Isabel Wilkerson
- Radio Free Vermont, Bill McKibben
- Barkskins, Annie Proulx
- Apocalyptic Planet by Craig Childs
- Completely Arbortrary (podcast)

### **Welcome and Council Business**

- **Review/Approve Minutes:** The minutes from the March 2021 council meeting were reviewed and approved (Bonnie Waninger moved, Bill Jewell seconded).
- **Reappointments:** Heather Voisin, AOT member (temporary); Jared Ulmer & Nick Meyer stepped down; Tim Smith stepping in for Dave S (at large member). **That leaves two vacancies.**
  - **At-large member:** Dept. of Health was excellent contact (Susan Kelly or Heidi Klein: [suzanne.kelley@vermont.gov](mailto:suzanne.kelley@vermont.gov) and [heidi.klein@vermont.gov](mailto:heidi.klein@vermont.gov)) (Richard) – Elise will follow-up
  - **Community member:** Elise mentioned two potential members: Josh Behounek (Middlebury/Bristol) and Marie Ambusk (Hinesburg), Ben Doyle was mentioned by Bob (Preservation Trust Vermont)
- **Council leadership:** 4 members on leadership team, 2 vacancies. Will re-visit filling

vacancies at December meeting

- **September meeting:** Richmond Tour in September led by Cecilia and Ethan; **date change: 9/15**

## **Program Conversation: Tree Selection Tool**

A concern has recently been raised regarding our list of recommended tree species in our tree selection guide and online tool. We'd like Council's input on several species, including those on the invasive species watch list. More broadly, we're interested in thoughts about non-native trees for "horticultural settings".

[Worksheet with background and questions found here.](#)

Lively council discussion on need to re-brand the document and better describe horticultural setting and our intent of how this should be used upfront. Items of note: council members highlighted that non-native trees do better under the stress and limitations of urban sites, while others expressed a need to ensure solidarity between urban & community forestry and other state agencies and not suggest non-native or potentially invasive species.

### **Next steps:**

- Research/document/seek species lists with which our program and VT ANR should be in alignment
- Elise will set up a call with Dept. Fish and Wildlife on what they want to see, as they have 4 categories of concern (below). Based on that call, UCF staff will reach back out to Council for next steps.
  - Rare, threatened, endangered
  - Non-native
  - Invasive
  - Seed source concerns

## **Program Updates: Staff Round-Robin**

Staff shared program highlights. Joanne's slides have relevant link and will be uploaded to the Council Private Page. Updates are also available in the [quarterly report](#).

## **Another Farewell: John Parry's Reflections**

John has worked in forestry for 44 years, with the US Forest Service for 30+. Current areas of focus upcoming: equity, removal for dead trees, job development programs.

John's reflections: a perfect career and couldn't have planned for it! Look back at accomplishments, lots to be proud of! Thank you for your work and accomplishments, John! Congratulations and come visits us in VT!

## **Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting: September 15, 2021**