



## VERMONT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

### Quarterly Council Meeting

March 10, 2021

Go to Meeting

### Minutes

*Attending:* Richard Amore, Jane Brown, Cecilia Danks, Mike Fallis, Ann Hazelrigg, Joanne Garton, William Jewell, Steve Handfield, Emilie Inoue, Gwen Kozlowski, Lee Krohn, Nick Meyer, Melissa Levy, Bob McCullough, Sara Packer, David Raphael, Elise Schadler, Warren Spinner, Bonnie Waninger, Heather Voisin (VTrans)

### Welcome and Council Business

- **Review/Approve Minutes:** The minutes from the December 9, 2020 council meeting were reviewed and approved (Warren Spinner moved, second Richard Amore).
- **Council Reappointments:** 2 year appointment letters will be sent in advance of June meeting. Consider if you would like remain on the council for the next 2 years, if not, let Elise know in advance.
- **Arbor Day Award:** Dave Schneider retired in December. UCF would like to award Dave the staff "Arbor Day Award" this year. Please send any well wishes/messages to Elise to include and share with Dave.

### UCF Website Upgrade

Our program website, [www.vtcommunityforestry.org](http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org), will be upgraded this summer and we are laying the groundwork for the update. We are not anticipating any major changes to the layout or organizational structure of the site. However, as we consider which features to transition, enhance, change, or delete we are seeking Council's thoughts on the following questions:

- How do you, or have you, used the website?
- What features do you think are most important to retain?
- What websites do you think are particularly well-designed?

Add comments to Padlit board: <https://padlet.com/eliseschadler/q9ukxhw402ughsg1>

Items to note: UCF manages 3 websites: UCF, VTinvasives.org, and Ourvermontwoods.org, plus social media

Some comments include:

- Highlight UCF team in managing all websites
- Text is light/petite and can be hard to read
- Main page links/articles are subtle (might not know to click on them)
- Discussion on improving access to resources. Perhaps icons? Example could be [Vibrant Cities Lab](http://VibrantCitiesLab.org)

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**VT Urban & Community Forestry Program**  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801

Elise Schadler, Program Manager  
802-522-6015  
elise.schadler@vermont.gov  
vtcommunityforestry.org

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At June Meeting, we will have a more focused conversation as the team details a plan for the upgrade.

### UCF Program Updates

- EAB federal quarantine ended, but VT continues to support slow the spread messaging.
- Federal funding will be limited, so messaging, and funding for Forest Pest Outreach position should be broader, not solely focused on EAB.
- EAB Awareness Week- kits to celebrate locally, not in person
- Grants in progress- 10 communities removing ash, planting other species, etc. (Funded by special Forest Service Funds)
- Black Ash Discussions with Chief Don Stevens and basket makers, concerns and wishes for black ash for basket making and considering future of black ash in our forests. Discussions include working with Forest Service. Stay tuned for more in how these piece will come together.
- EAB infested area map that will have more context. Map is in draft form, but hope to help decision makers as it will highlight higher impact, older infestations, etc.
- Tree Warden Support
  - Starting tree warden school on March 15.
  - Tree Warden Contact information [reporting button is live!](#)
  - VLCT contract: will be providing online trainings for tree warden support
  - Shade Tree Preservation Plans: 10 communities working on drafts.
- Seeking 2 reviewers for Arbor Day tree planting grants and 2 reviewers for Tree Steward Awards
- Federal UCF budget increase: grant opportunity to focus on canopy enhancement, public health
- Vermont Community Canopy: DEC Air Quality settlement funds for 2 years

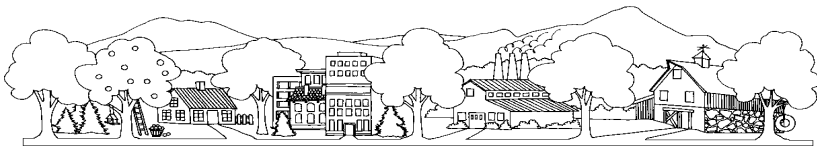
### Legislative Updates

- Danielle Fitzko shared legislative updates from FPR
  - Use Value Appraisal/Current Use amendments proposed to add a category focused on forest conservation.
  - COVID-19 funding, infusion of funds for state lands and recreation.
  - Act 250 proposed changes: trails, new oversight.
  - Global Warming Solutions Act and their proposed process to have guidance/report for public review by October, finalized by the end of 2021.
  - Question from Sara Packer regarding a proposed change to the Vermont Pesticide Use Council.
- Richard Amore shared updates from Agency of Commerce and Community Development
  - [Better Places Overview](#)
  - [Better Places Awardees](#)

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### **Presentation by Ali Kosiba, FPR Climate Forester**

Ali shared her work that includes:

- Developing demonstration sites
- Creating more resources
- Exploring carbon market opportunities
- Global warming solutions act: lower greenhouse gases, increase carbon storage

### **Meeting Adjourned**

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