



## VERMONT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

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### Quarterly Council Meeting

March 9, 2022

Zoom

### Minutes

*Attending:* Richard Amore, Mike Fallis, Ann Hazelrigg, Bonnie Donahue, Kate Forrer, Joanne Garton, Steve Handfield, William Jewell, Emilie Inoue, Suzanne Kelley, Gwen Kozlowski, Melissa Levy, Bob McCullough, Tim Parsons, Sara Packer, Elise Schadler, Tim Smith, Warren Spinner, Bonnie Waninger

### Welcome and Council Business

- December meeting minutes: reviewed and approved (Suzanne Kelley made a motion to approve, Richard Amore seconded.)
- 2022 meeting dates and locations: call for June field trip ideas
  - June 8<sup>th</sup> ideas: Burlington Green Streets and city park tour; Middlebury, but Sept. would be better;
  - Tentative date change to Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> for Sara Packer to host
  - December 14<sup>th</sup> Montpelier
- Council vacancies update: ASLA and FPR
  - ASLA will fill spot
  - FPR- looking for county forester or other FPR staff
- Council leadership: still two vacancies

### Remembering David Raphael

David enthusiastic supporter of tree selection guide edits. The UCF team will honor his memory with a dedication in the guide and an Arbor Day award.

- David helped with tree planting and planning in Burlington after the 1998 ice storm and was very involved in the City of Burlington's open space plan. He put his heart into everything he did.
- David was Richard's first professional contact and was incredibly warm and welcoming in communities. He pushed people to be clever, creative and push boundaries. True honor to work with him.
- Tim took David's landscape design course in 1988. He still uses things he learned from David, including ground his own classes in real world situations.
- Bonnie met David as a young planner and he helped build visions that communities really invested in. Although those visions didn't always come to fruition, it showed her that you need to dream big, dream outside the bounds of the rules in order to get the rules changed.
- Emilie and Sara shared David's sense of gravitas, confident, yet rooted in humility, and his rich voice was appreciated!

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### Focused Program Updates: Breakout Groups

- Arbor Day
- Black Ash Field Naturalist Project
- Community Forestry Training

### Better Places Program

Richard shared an update on the process and elements of this program. Better Places is a non-competitive, community matching grant program empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places serving Vermont's designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas. The program provides one-on-one project coaching, local fundraising support, and two to one (2:1) matching grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000 to make your community-led placemaking ideas happen.

### \$1 Million for Tree Planting

Gov. Scott's 2022 proposed budget includes \$1 million for UCF to plant up to 5,000 trees in urban areas to mitigate impacts of climate change. Our team has started thinking about how to utilize the funding. Council reviewed UCF list of ideas. Feedback includes:

- Can money be used to improve infrastructure to enhance places where the trees will be planted?
- Support for fruit/nut trees; connection to edible walk?
- Bare root tree distribution is time sensitive and needs to be well organized.
- Make room for planting on rooftops?
- Connect to urban heat island
- Green Schools Initiative: <https://www.greenprintpartners.com/vtgreenschools> . Contact: Laura Kenney at [Laurakenney@greenprintpartners.com](mailto:Laurakenney@greenprintpartners.com).
- How to integrate into existing plans; imagine what climate change planning is; put more into what they are doing, identifying gaps
- Where can trees play a solution? Feed into other programs; move from planning to implementation
- Ways to connect with VTrans projects and help inform designs in coordination with infrastructure investment?
- It might be useful to think about how long these trees need to live for in order to accomplish the climate objectives.
- Strategic investment office- state money is not coordinated; lots of missed opportunities!

### Legislative Update

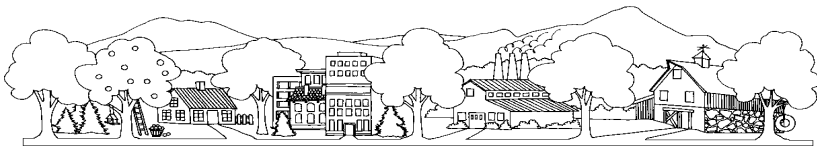
Director of Forestry Danielle Fitzko shared an update on the current legislative session and what legislation might impact UCF's work and forests in VT in general.

- H697 Use Value Appraisal Program- bill to expand UVA program to include reserved forest land category (parcels with no management); parcels would be eligible if 30% has ecological values to conserve with no management (natural communities/steep slopes/riparian areas); would have to do

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restorative management ie. invasive plants or address water quality issues.

- Biodiversity protection- essentially a conservation plan for the state to see how state will meet conservation design targets; establishes goals 30% conserved by 2030.
- H566 Forest Futures Strategic Road Map: modeled after farm to plate; planning effort on where legislature can assist road map for forest economy.
- H651 Environmental Justice Bill: will establish policy, create a council on how to meet needs, assess impact of environmental issues; would create a mapping tool to identify where to strategically invest. (Maybe \$5million?)
- Act 250: constantly changing and in many committees; doesn't look likely anything will change this session.

### VT Big Tree Program

Submit your big trees and view the map!

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/places/big-trees>

### Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and UCF

Staff has continued to work on our public-facing statement, our work plan, and a logic model.

- Draft statement was shared.
- Proposed changes to mission (in red) "To lead **citizens**, businesses, and governments in understanding the value of urban and community forests and to promote **civic responsibility** for and participation in the stewardship of these resources for this and future generations"

### Getting to know you

Gwen, Tim and Mike shared their stories!

### Meeting Adjourned

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