



VERMONT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

Quarterly Council Meeting

December 14, 2022

National Life/Teams

Minutes

Attending: Richard Amore, Josh Behounek, Chris Campany, Cecilia Danks, Bonnie Donahue, Mike Fallis, Savannah Ferreria, Joanne Garton, William Jewell, Suzanne Kelley, Gwen Kozlowski, Melissa Levy, Bob McCullough, Ginger Nickerson, Tim Parsons, Sara Packer, Darren Schibler, Elise Schadler, Warren Spinner

Welcome and Council Business

- September meeting minutes: reviewed and approved (Melissa Levy made a motion to approve, William Jewell seconded.)
- Reviewed council handbook edits and updates; will be formally adopted in March
 - Eliminating chair/vice chair positions and changing to automatic rotation for 2 leadership positions that will lead the executive committee for 1 year,
 - Tim Smith and Scott Wunderle will lead first rotation in 2023.
- NE ISA
 - Council discussed if this group plays a role in contributing to newsletter.
 - **Action item: invite representative to the March virtual meeting and make a plan from there.**

Expanding UCF's EAB Assistance: Internship/Student Project Presentation

UVM's NR 206 students shared their work and results of ash inventory at three locations: Colchester, Rochester, and Vergennes mobile home park. Students inventoried ash tree size, health and location. In addition to the inventory, students provided management strategies to prepare and respond to damage caused by emerald ash borer. *Thank you to the NR 206 students for thorough research and ability to help these communities prepare and respond to emerald ash borer.*

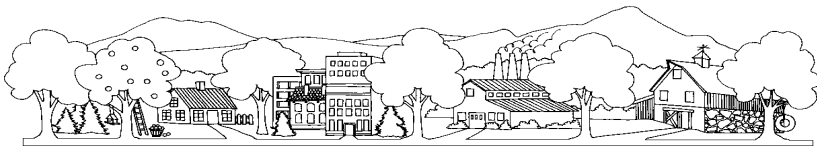
Black Ash Project

Charlotte Cadow, UVM Field Naturalist Program shared her work on black ash.

- Long term monitoring plots on state lands
 - 10 meter radius plot: all ash, pH, tree canopy cover, herbaceous covering inventoried
 - Assistance with Tony D'Amato to continue monitoring
 - [Story Map](#)
- Community Science
 - NR 206 mapped inventory black ash in town forests, then looking through the management plans to create guidance for town forests

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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- [Story Map](#)

- Building a black ash network: connecting basket makers with landowners
 - Form for landowners just launched; will continue to build out
- Furthering the work
 - Guidelines to treating black ash
 - Create black ash seed bank

Updates Galore: Round-Robin

- **US Forest Service - Danielle Gift, Regional UCF Coordinator**

- Inflation Reduction Act money has not been awarded, but will be available (1.5 billion to Urban & Community Forestry Program to US Forest Service)
- Priority: underserved areas match may be waived for those areas
- Request for applications will be month away
- Funding will be available for 9 years, most will be granted in the first 5 years (will be granted out in 5 year grants)
- Great time to think BIG with unprecedented federal investment
- Think longer lasting impact (multi-faceted projects)

- **Partners in Community Forestry Conference – Elise & Josh**

- Watershed moment for urban forestry: be bold!
- This is investment, if done right, this can demonstrate the need for this infrastructure
- Tree equity coordinators “need to move at the speed of trust”; build relationships for long term success of trees (not just come in and plant trees)
- Make sure to ensure partners and audience know about this funding/opportunities
- Workforce development challenges
- Innovative internships and apprenticeships highlighted

- **Forestry Division/VT FPR – Danielle Fitzko, Director of Forests**

- Danny will serve as interim FPR Commissioner
- Vt Forest Futures strategic map (modeled after farm to school network) is specific to forest products; in the public engagement process with a report due to legislature in Jan. 2024.
- Change in Use Value Appraisal Program: new category “reserved forest land”, land must have benefit to state that includes natural resource benefits; the updated minimum management standards will be done in January, applicable in July
- \$300K to implement forest action plan; using the money to hire 3 positions: communications, climate forester, invasive species person (response to EAB/ash preservation plan)

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Program Discussion: Website Tour & Arbor Day Conference

- Conference to move to Vermont Technical College in mid May
- Idea for sessions:
 - Panel with different lenses on trees: public health, better places, planning
 - Connectivity to downtowns and town forests
 - Town forest panel & discussion
 - Climate outlook: outlook for drier springs and summers
 - Panel: how to get stuff done: volunteer, municipal staff, tree warden
 - Engaging partners and how to do that!
 - Models of working with neighbors
 - Community nursery ideas
 - Tree equity, inclusive spaces
 - What municipalities need to get prepared; broadening the engagement in hazard, healthy communities work
 - Importance of town plans, lead to broader audience

Council Conversation: Scaling up the UCF Programs

- **Silva cells**
 - Incorporate into existing projects; crossover with stormwater and wastewater grants
 - Vtrans: municipal grants that fund downtown projects/sidewalks can't pay for trees (combine forces!)
 - **Action item: talk to Bonnie about combining forces with grants**
 - Connection local roads: building into better roads grant program
 - Build in capacity to ensure proper project development
 - Invite silva cell venders to present on how to install and connect to stormwater
 - New communities may have barriers; ensure town staff are on board
 - Connect with civil engineers to work with them (hire a firm)
 - Installation/Construction: oversight- need someone on site as they cells are installed
 - Planting: hire a contractor or someone in the town to install (consulting arborist)
- **Work force development**
 - Registered apprenticeships
 - Different types of certification of public works/road crews
 - Supporting underserved audiences
 - Training landscape crews
 - Support VTC urban forestry program
 - Create incentives to stay or come to Vermont for urban tree care

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• Schools

- Teachers to get grants to support their urban forestry work (kits for urban forestry lessons with teachers)
- Farm to school programs already exist, is there a way to tap into this network?
- Supporting tech centers in Vermont
- Growing nurseries on school campuses (students provide labor in summer)
- Partner with trout unlimited, 4H, programs that are already doing school programming
- Getting kids comfortable with working outside (grant money to support buses to access to forest)
- Summer camps for urban forestry
- Money for students to attend urban forestry/conference/opportunities

• Lifting Municipal Programs

- Pay tree warden
- Hiring arborist/urban forester
- County forester program for UCF
- Case studies and comparisons of highlighting arboriculture work down within towns
- Circuit rider model: traveling technical assistance providers
- Fund capital investments
- Add street trees/town forests to town/regional plans
- Partner with AOT
- Grant writing support & advocacy training
- Identify barriers to participation (funding people to participate, provide childcare)
- Identify individuals to help with incorporating (land acknowledgements, skills)

Meeting Adjourned

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