



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

Quarterly Council Meeting **Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025** **Act 250 Room, Fish & Wildlife Building** **111 West Street, Essex Junction**

AGENDA

- 9:30 AM **Welcome, Meeting Goals, & Introductions**
- 10:00 AM **Urban Forestry Updates (Josh, Oliver, Elise)**
We'll take a quick spin through updates in the field and in our state:
- Josh Behounek will provide highlights from the national Partners in Community Forestry Conference (5 min)
 - Oliver Pierson, Director of Forests, will give federal and state updates regarding UCF and other forestry programs/policy (10 min)
 - Elise will provide programmatic updates, including staffing, funding, irons in the fire, and 2025 highlights (15 min)
- 10:30 AM **Public Policy Analysis Exercise (Joanne)**
Joanne has been leading a novel and exciting effort to utilize a large language model to assess tree ordinances, policies, and explicit management practices across all Vermont municipalities. As we finalize the model and prepare to run all 252 reports, we'd like to utilize our time with Council membership to debut the analysis, consider and discuss the reports, and gather feedback about rolling this out to our audiences and beyond.
- 12:00 PM **LUNCH (UCF provides sandwiches from Martone's)**
- 12:45PM **Revisiting Council Format & Schedule (Elise)**
We have finished our pilot year with the new UCF Council format and schedule, and we'll discuss how it went and the plan for the year ahead. We'll set our meeting dates and locations for 2026.
- 1:00 PM **Subcommittee Reports and 2026 Planning (All)**
We'll hear brief (5-10 min) reports from the subcommittee leaders and then spend some time defining and defining the work plans for the coming year.
- Agency Partnerships: Elise (5 min)
 - Advancing Arboriculture: Adz (5 min)
 - Town Forests: Cecilia & Bob (20 min)
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

Josh Behounek, Davey Resource Group • Chris Campany, Vermont Planning and Development Agencies • VJ Comai, Tree Wardens/City of Burlington • Bronwyn Cook, Agency of Commerce and Community Development • Cecilia Danks, UVM Rubenstein School of Environmental & Natural Resources • Bonnie Donahue, Agency of Transportation • Mike Fallis, Limbwalker Tree Service • Savannah Ferriera, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation • Jens Hawkins - Hilke, Department of Fish & Wildlife • Ann Hazelrigg, University of Vermont Extension • Evan Horne, ANR Climate Action Office • Emilie Inoue, Agency of Agriculture • William Jewell, Wm Jewell and Company • Melissa Levy, Community Roots, LLC • Dan Mallach, VT Chapter-ASLA • Robert McCullough, UVM Dept. of Historic Preservation • Sara Packer, Vermont Electric Coop • Tim Parsons, Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association/Middlebury College • Darren Schibler, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission • Tim Smith, Rutland City Forester



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- Non-profit Models: Joanne (5 min)
- Conference Sponsorships: Elise (2 min, for Gwen)

2:00PM

Council Member Smorgasbord Updates

It's been a while since we were all together and there's a lot going on! Rapid updates from members, with time at the end for discussion:

- Rutland Urban Forestry Update (Tim Smith, 5 min)
- Burlington Urban Forestry Update (VJ Comai, 5 min)
- Integrating UCF goals into regional and municipal plans (Darren Schibler, 10 min)
- ANR's Climate Toolkit (Evan Horne, 5 min)
- Tree of Heaven, be gone! (Bonnie Donahue, 5 min)
- Language Discussion (Emilie Inoue, 15 min)

3:00PM

Adjourn, safe travels!

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Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Council Working Agreement

Meeting Management

- Start and end on time
- Share meeting dates in all minutes and all agendas, and once a year reminder
- Provide written program update – save minutes for discussion

Membership Management

- Welcome packet for all new members, and send updates to current members –post online

Agendas

- Focus agendas to support Program
- Clear objectives and outcomes for agenda items
- Agendas out at least 1 week before

Members are accountable

- Stay on topic
- Be on time
- Complete tasks
- Be brief – share airtime
- Come to the meeting prepared and ready to work
- Let group know your attendance plans
- Be respectful
- Keep it positive and acknowledge contributions

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