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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Conservation Commission Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Approved at the May 11 2023 Conservation Commission meeting

May 3, 2023

Wetlands Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting, ~~May 5 2023~~, 4pm

Present were: Larry Cohen, Bill Boivin, Ed Lo Turco, Rob Sheahan, John Keeley and Eileen Coleman

John Keeley distributed the draft Wetland Bylaw version he had edited. There were concerns about the possible response by Town Meeting. When describing the changes at Town Meeting we should emphasize the update (to the regulations) will be a substantive process with hearings, taking input; the proposed changes can be achieved by increasing trees and protecting existing and reducing heat islands.

Draft bylaw changes to be distributed to the Con Com.

We discussed how Town itself should lead the way, planting town trees. A tree fund could be funded through donations, penalties or as an alternative to planting.

JK and EC mentioned that the Rec Department is planning a grant application for a tree plan and more.

John Keeley pointed out that the Nashua River Communities project on which we are basing our changes <https://climateresilient.wixsite.com/nashuariver/bylaws-for-wetlands> suggests making the buffer zone a resource area. However the Burlington Bylaw specifically says it is not a resource area but there are pertinent standards in the Regulations. This led to a discussion on the definition of a buffer and whether there would be a buffer to a buffer.

We will consider adding a sentence under the Jurisdiction section about the buffer zone being integral to the protection of wetland resource areas.

Rob Sheahan wondered if we should give out trees. John Keeley described how former Commissioner Kerry Melansen used to prepare and distribute ~500 trees/year. This led to some discussion of how to encourage tree planting.

John Keeley to send out a doodle pool for the next meeting date.

Adj: 5:12pm

Respectfully submitted
Eileen Coleman
Asst. Conservation Administrator