

Aaron Brown

From: charles russell <cdegr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Aaron Brown; Rebecca Kaplan
Subject: Fw: Joint Charlotte PC, CC, DRB Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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FYI

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From: Darren Schibler <dschibler@ccrpcvt.org>
To: Conservation Commission <conservation@townofcharlotte.com>; CRussell <cdegr@yahoo.com>; M Krasnow <krasnow@gmail.com>
Cc: Kate McCarthy <kmccarthy@ccrpcvt.org>; Taylor Newton <tnewton@ccrpcvt.org>; Nate Bareham <townadmin@townofcharlotte.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 11:07:08 AM EST
Subject: RE: Joint Charlotte PC, CC, DRB Meeting

Hello Claudia, Charles, and Matt,

As Kate said, unfortunately we can't attend on the 19th. CCRPC has limited capacity to attend additional CC / DRB meetings for the rest of the winter and spring since our staff is focusing on updating our regional future land use map to comply with Act 181 and other municipal projects.

What CCRPC can offer at the moment is some general context and guidance:

- Charlotte should follow a three step process to accomplish its goal of identifying and regulating locally important habitat blocks and connectors:
 1. Hire a qualified consultant (like Arrowwood) to identify and map locally important habitat blocks and connectors.
 2. Update the Town Plan to reflect this work. This can work can be completed by the Town, CCRPC or by a planning consultant.
 3. Update the Charlotte Land Use Regulations to regulate locally important habitat blocks and connectors. This work can be done by CCRPC or by a planning consultant.
- All of this work has associated costs. Charlotte needs to determine how to cover the cost of each step of this process.
- Currently, CCRPC has a contract with the Town to provide updated maps and data for the Town Plan. This work is to be completed by July 2025, but may need to extend into later summer.

- The Town has also submitted a request to CCRPC for assistance in FY26 to provide additional help to update the Town Plan. Our understanding is that the Town will apply for a FY26 Municipal Planning Grant in March 2025 to pay for CCRPC's assistance in FY26. Nate, let us know if you'd like to discuss that further. CCRPC will be able to confirm our ability to work on this project in FY26 by May 2025.
- In the context of CCRPC's mapping work to update the Town Plan: CCRPC will update any maps related to forest blocks and habitat connectors as required under statute. However, this work will NOT include collecting / creating new data such as that previously provided by Arrowwood Environmental. CCRPC does not have the expertise to complete that work. Unless the Town hires a consultant to develop an updated and specific forest block/habitat connector data set, CCRPC will default to using the existing Charlotte data (which is admittedly old) or the [Vermont Conservation Design / BioFinder dataset](#) created by VT Fish and Wildlife.
- Updating the Charlotte Land Use Regulations is a separate project after locally important habitat blocks have been identified by a qualified consultant and the Town Plan has been updated. Land use regulations need to be based on policy in the Town Plan. This future project could be funded by [Municipal Planning Grant](#) program or other funds available to the Town of Charlotte. The Town could also solicit CCRPC's assistance to help with this project by submitting a [UPWP](#) application in a future year.
- Regardless of how the Town proceeds with this, CCRPC recommends connecting with [Jens Hawkins-Hilke](#). Jens is a staff member at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and may be able to attend a CC / DRB meeting to help explain the Vermont Conservation Design/BioFinder dataset and also provide guidance on how to use the data in municipal plans and zoning regulations. CCRPC staff are also happy to answer minor technical questions that may come up during this process.

I'm looping in Nate Bareham since CCRPC has had multiple discussions with him about this initiative. CCRPC strongly encourages all Town boards to coordinate with Nate on this topic moving forward.

Best,

Darren

Darren Schibler

Senior Planner, CFM®

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

110 West Canal Street, Suite 202

Winooski, VT 05404

(802) 846-4490 ext. 3135

Direct: (802) 540-2508

www.ccrpcvt.org