

2009 VPA AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Form
(One Electronic Copy)

Narrative Description
(One Electronic Copy)

Support Info
(one e-copy or one paper copy of each)

Please submit one electronic copy of this form and attachments by **Thursday June 25, 2009** to jdovan@gmavt.net (subject - VPA Awards). If paper versions must be submitted, please send one copy to: **VPA Awards Committee** c/o Jessica Hill, Vermont League of Cities & Towns, 89 Main Street, Suite 4 Montpelier, VT 05602-2948.

I hereby nominate Scott Maples for a 2009 VPA Planning Award. This submission is for (Please check **ONE** of the following categories)

Citizen Planner Citizen Board Professional Planner Plan of the Year Project of the Year

Section A: Please submit the following items electronically.

2009 VPA Award Nomination Form

A description of project, plan or the individual's qualifications and how the individual, plan or project meets the stated criteria (maximum of three pages)

For Plan or Project of the Year – A copy of the plan or project reports or documents titled: _____
_____ (One paper copy may be submitted if electronic copy is not available. Documents should be double-sided to the extent possible and bound in such a way to allow for photocopying.)

The following items are optional.

Related documents or materials titled: _____

Audio or video presentations titled: _____

Other materials supporting the submission (please list): _____

Letters of support for nominations for Citizen Planner, Citizen Board, or Professional Planner nomination

Section B: Contact Information (to relay results or ask additional questions)

Primary Contact (Typically the nominator)

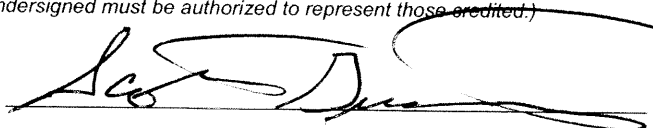
Name Scott Gustin Title Senior Planner Email sgustin@ci.burlington.vt.us
Company/Organization City of Burlington
Address 149 Church St. Telephone 865-7189
Municipality Burlington State VT Zip Code 05401

Secondary Contact (The nominee / others associated with the nomination)

Name Harris Roen Title Cons. Board Chair Email harris@roen.net
Company/Organization Burlington Conservation Board
Address Same Telephone 658-2368
City Same State _____ Zip Code _____

I certify that the submitted work was done by the parties credited and meets the eligibility requirements. I understand that any entry that fails to meet submission requirements may be disqualified. (The undersigned must be authorized to represent those credited.)

Name of Nominator



Date

6/12/09

CITIZEN PLANNER OF THE YEAR
Nomination of Scott Mapes, Burlington Conservation Board

Background:

Scott Mapes has served as a volunteer on the Burlington Conservation Board for 8 years. He has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, pushing for improved stormwater management in the city in terms of both municipal and private practice.

Stormwater runoff has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as the most significant source of non-point source water pollution in the United States. Stormwater runoff in urbanized areas has the highest proportionate pollution load as compared to agricultural or undeveloped lands. Some four years ago, the Conservation Board adopted a set standard zoning permit conditions to address construction site erosion control and stormwater management, major sources of stormwater pollution in the city. Almost two years later, Scott's efforts lead to the creation of a Mayoral Stormwater Task Force, a multi-departmental group charged with assessing current regulations and practices as they pertain to stormwater management within the city and with producing solutions to identified deficiencies. Following years of effort on Scott's part, the City of Burlington adopted a fully revised *Chapter 26, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Pollution Control*, and effectively established Vermont's second stormwater utility.

Support of Planning:

Water quality problems in Lake Champlain are well documented and ongoing. Point source pollution from entities such as wastewater treatment plants has been largely addressed; however, problems remain with combined sewer overflow events. Non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff remains contentious with no unified, effective method yet implemented to cure the problem.

Scott has been instrumental in articulating Burlington's contributions to Lake Champlain's water quality problems. Burlington has, in part, a combined sewer system. It handles both sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff; however, in large storm events, the system is overwhelmed and discharges untreated overflow into the lake. As for non-point source stormwater runoff pollution, most properties in the city are too small in acreage to require stormwater or erosion control review by the state. As a result, almost no properties or construction projects in the city have any standards to adhere to insofar as stormwater management and erosion control is concerned.

To address these problems, Scott identified two major opportunities to reduce Burlington's impact on water quality in the lake: 1) Implement municipal standards to address construction site stormwater management and erosion control; and 2) Better control stormwater management upstream with onsite performance standards rather than at the end of the pipe (in the treatment plants).

In a collaborative effort with the Department of Planning & Zoning and the Department of Public Works, Scott and the rest of the Conservation Board implemented two-tiered

erosion control standards for small and large construction projects. In doing so, a major gap in the city's efforts to improve water quality was closed. Implementation of these measures and assessment thereof indicated that there was more work to be done. Key problems of no dedicated funding or staffing remained as did a lack of standards for post-construction stormwater management.

At the request of Scott and the rest of the Conservation Board, Mayor Kiss established a Stormwater Task Force in January 2007 consisting of representatives of every city department with land holdings as well as Code Enforcement, VLCT, and Mr. Mapes. As noted previously, the Task Force was charged with assessing current regulations and practices as they pertain to stormwater management within the city and with producing solutions to identified deficiencies.

The Task Force identified two major deficiencies: 1) Existing regulations; and 2) Existing funding and staffing. With substantial assistance from Scott, the Task Force set about updating the city's stale Chapter 26 and devising a way to fund and staff an associated stormwater program to ensure effective implementation. The work of the Task Force spanned almost two years, considering myriad alternatives of how best to improve stormwater management in the city. Input was received formally through meetings with citizen groups and others, as well as informally through word on the street (largely conveyed to the Task Force by way of Scott). Scott did not miss a single Task Force meeting and was a driving force throughout in providing pro bono technical input (as a licensed PE) and in soliciting comment from outside groups and individuals.

Ultimately, the Task Force completed its overhaul of Chapter 26 to incorporate new stormwater sections to address:

- Administration and funding of the municipal stormwater program
- Illicit discharges and connections to the city sewer systems
- Construction site erosion control
- Post-construction stormwater management
- Enforcement

As a result of Scott's expertise and input, the performance standards in the revised Chapter 26 are uniquely tailored to Burlington's anomalous urban landscape in an otherwise largely rural state. Flexibility in achieving the standards is allowed, and even encouraged, by way of contemporary low impact design (LID) provisions. With broad support, the City Council adopted the updated Chapter 26 and the associated stormwater program in December 2008. As of April 1, 2009, Chapter 26 and the stormwater program became effective.

Effectiveness:

Because of Scott Mapes' persistent dedication, the city has addressed a major source of water pollution in Lake Champlain. The update of Chapter 26 and the associated creation of the city's stormwater program to effectively implement it has resulted in a comprehensive approach to improving water quality in Lake Champlain. With Scott's contributions the city now has the tools in place to:

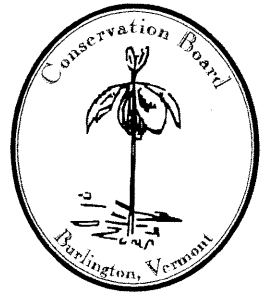
- Reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflow events
- Reduce pollutant loads in the separate storm sewers
- Implement and enforce the standards of Chapter 26
- Continue and enhance its public outreach water quality efforts
- Sustainably fund its newly created stormwater program

As the stormwater program is implemented and evaluated, Scott will continue to play a role in its improvement, thereby improving the water quality of Lake Champlain for all of those who enjoy and depend upon this resource. True to form, Scott is already engaged in the development of LID amendments to the city's Comprehensive Development Ordinance to provide incentives for the implementation of LID measures in new and redevelopment projects in the city.

Burlington Conservation Board

149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
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Harris Roen, Chair
Matt Moore, Vice Chair
Scott Mapes
Don Meals
Jeff Severson
Miles Waite
William Flender
Rene Kaczka-Valliere
Sophia Hladik



June 12, 2009

VPA Awards Committee
c/o Jessica Hill
Vermont League of Cities & Towns
89 Main Street, Suite 4
Montpelier, VT 05602-2948

RE: Scott Mapes - Citizen Planner of the Year Nomination

To Awards Committee Members:

I would like to support the nomination of Scott Mapes, Burlington Conservation Board Member, for the Citizen Planner of the Year.

Scott has been an active volunteer member of the Burlington Conservation Board for many years, and his work has always gone beyond the call of duty. In his most recent accomplishment, Scott was a key player behind the Mayor's Stormwater Taskforce and the resulting comprehensive re-write of Chapter 26 of the City Code.

The updated ordinance will result in tangible improvements in reducing stormwater pollution that flows from city surfaces and into Lake Champlain. Scott not only donated many hours of professional expertise by composing much of the language for the ordinance, but for years he led the effort help various city agencies correct this significant pollution problem. This behind the scenes work has led to a new and significant effort that will further improve the quality of life here in Burlington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harris Roen".

Harris Roen, Chair

Department of Planning and Zoning

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David E White, AICP, Director
Ken Lerner, Zoning Administrator
Sandrine Thibault, AICP, Comprehensive Planner
Jay Appleton, GIS Manager/Planner
Scott Gustin, AICP, Senior Planner
Mary O'Neil, Associate Planner
Nic Anderson, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Elsie Tillotson, Administrative Assistant



MEMORANDUM

TO: VPA Awards Committee
FROM: David E. White, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning
DATE: Wednesday, June 10, 2009
RE: Nomination for Scott Mapes as Citizen Planner of the Year



I would like to whole-heartedly endorse the nomination of Scott Mapes of the Burlington Conservation Board for VPA's 2009 Citizen Planner of the Year.

As the enclosed nomination describes, Scott has been an active member of Burlington's Conservation Board for 8 years where he has most recently spearheaded the City's efforts to address stormwater management and erosion control in a comprehensive way. His leadership role in the creation of the Mayor's Stormwater Taskforce, technical expertise in developing standards, and advocacy in seeing their recommendations adopted into ordinance are testimony to his tenacious dedication to improving our community and natural environment.

As you all can appreciate as planners yourselves, it is people like Scott Mapes that make the real difference in the communities we serve, and without them our professional capabilities would be greatly diminished. I encourage you to give his nomination for VPA's 2009 Citizen Planner of the Year the greatest consideration.

Thank you!

