

W 18 NPA Meeting Minutes from 2021 April 14

Agenda:

- 6:45 Sign on to Zoom online meeting Waiting Room (See below if you have problems)
- 7:00 Announcements & Introductions
- 7:05 Speak-out
- 7:15 City Council Update & Q/A: Jack Hanson, Zoraya Hightower, and Jane Stromberg
- 7:35 School Commission update: School Commissioners Aden Haji & Kathy Olwell
- 7:45 Burlington Parks & Rec: Diana Wood - future plans for the parks
- 8:10 Chittenden Solid Waste District: Lee Perry - recycling program
- 8:30 Fair Housing: Jessica Hyman
- 8: 50 Wards 1 & 8 Budget Update - options & approval for 20-21 expenditure
- 9:00 Adjourn

The meeting started at 7:00 PM

Announcements & Introductions

- Angie
- Bob Butani
- Carol Livingston
- Caryn Long
- CJ Knudsen
- Dave Cawley
- Diana
- Erhard Mahnke
- Glenn McCray
- Jack Hanson
- Jane Stromberg
- Jean Hopkins
- Jess Hyman
- Jonathan Prep
- Jonathan?
- Karen Vastine
- Kevin McGrath
- Kim
- Lee Parry
- Liam Daugherty
- Martha Lang
- Sara
- Seral Flash
- Sophie – parks
- Tom Derenthal
- Wendy Koenig
- Zoraya Hightower
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Speak-out

Caryn Long:

- Added kudos to the 3 city councilors – are doing a great job
- Supports weatherization for many reasons. But many places are not in compliance. How to enforce.
- Parking Ordinance required moving cars every 3 days. This seems odd.
- Police said they could not do anything about people on the beach because only 6 officers were on duty [from dispatcher]
- Neighborhood Project Report – Many contributed significant work. Will anything come of this?
- Reappraisal – Finds results somewhat inconsistent. One neighbor's value is ~\$180K more than the rest/average of the street. Also has a 1400 sqft duplex on M. Willard with a \$63K higher value than the 2400 sqft triplex next door. Jonathan: Appeal if you are unhappy with your assessment

Dave Cawley

- Greenup day is coming up. OEE will have 3 locations at Schmanska Park, EverGreen Cemetery and at Cohousing off East Ave. Information is available at Oldeastendbtv.com

Bob Butani

- Shout out to UVM – Looking forward to the Fletcher Place block party.
- Reminder that the gully head issues persist with the project proposed for Fletcher Place. Requested the project be moved back and/or reduced in size.

CJ Knudsen

- Lake Monsters are in a new league - [Futures Collegiate Baseball League](#). Schedule is 68 games from late May to August. Chris English is the new owner. Expecting to do summer fireworks in July – August

Wendy Koenig - UVM

- Testing is 2X per week with vaccinated person 1X per week
- Continuing the Green & Gold pledge and messaging
- Summer classes will be remote except labs and clinical rotations
- Vaccinations – working with the State – encouraging students to vaccinate
- Fall – Expect operations to be more normal, but plans will mature in summer.
- Data is available from the return to campus website → [Return to Campus | UVM Return to Campus | The University of Vermont](#)
- Jane Stromberg - Commencement? Wendy – Will be broken into 10 ceremonies, all outside rain or shine. Students can invite 2 vaccinated guests. Should COVID environment become more critical, expect commencement to go virtual.

Sandy

- Eye Witness to North beach – 1000 drunk kids, frightening, huge, disgusting, appalling, parking all over and dangerous - will kids be held accountable? Wendy: As students are identified, they will experience the UVM discipline process. Sandy: They trashed the place. Would like to hear from the president and trustees. Not caring about anyone.

City Council Update & Q/A: Jack Hanson, Zoraya Hightower, and Jane Stromberg

Jane Stromberg

- 2000-3000 persons at North Beach. Commended Wendy
- New council met. State of the City address by Mayor [focused on racial and social justice]. Need a change, the report, Kyle Dodson...
- Reelected board of finance
- Reassessment – new deadline for appeals is April 30.

Zoraya Hightower

- Reappraisal – expected new taxes to be with letter. BTV is late to the game. Also finding that residential is a larger grand list share in part because commercial property values dropped.
- Parking – shout out to Caryn
- Weatherization – Jack
- First year on Council done. On same committees with new council. Will be on 3 moving forward.
- Move away from SRO's in schools... role to be more of a consultant or planning.
- Public Safety is continuing. Will continue to chair. Teletha consultants have one more meeting. C.N.A. has started police assessments. Not as experienced in providing alternatives. RFP asks for options.
- Just Cause Eviction – moving forward in legislature

Jack Hanson

- BED – goal is to get off fossil fuels by 2030. Emissions reduced 15% from 2019. COVID impacts may have bent the results. Generous incentives continue.
- Weatherization – fight goes on. Timeline decision 3year [council] vs. 5 year [administration]. Enforcement will be part of code and inspection. Parties are serious and engaged. Vermont Gas is a partner and will help verify changes. Zoraya: 5 years is when parties would need to comply but not be done?

Comments:

- Erhard Mahnke: Why did it take so long for re-appraisal? It will be hard on low income homeowners. COVID refugees are driving up prices. It should not have taken 15 years. Jonathan: Tax burden of 60% of home owners should be a less [they are a smaller % of the grand list]. Mass. Essentially reappraises annually.

School Commission update: School Commissioners Aden Haji & Kathy Olwell

- Commissioners were unable to attend due to conflicts.
- There are 3 finalists for BHS principle.
- PCB update: There was a meeting last night.
- Changes after the break. More students will be in person. This will provide some relief for families.
- Status is here →

Burlington Parks & Rec: Diana Wood - future plans for the parks

- Sophie Sauvé - Comprehensive Planner
- John – Planning team
- Max – Planner team
- Cindy - Director
- Work is in progress for kid's week. And a fireworks plan for summer.
- The presentation covered projects and the 5 year capital plan. New and upgraded features were discussed on a park by park basis.
- Programs and park plan details can be found here → <https://enjoyburlington.com/>
- The presentation is included below.

Comments:

- Carol Livingston: Schmanska Park is much improved. Some people are using park in the middle of the night [B-Ball and music]. Can access road be restricted? Response: Parks are closed at sundown. Carol: Are there activities for young people.

- Caryn Long: Pomerleau Park is a park with a playground for kids but is being used as a dog park [with poop...]. Cindy: Maybe the fence can be removed to reduce desirability for dogs. Max Tracy is engaged with neighbors.
- Erhard Mahnke: Great presentation. Great work on Schmanska Park. Back of the barn sliding door is not closed. With only glass doors, there is a vandalism concern. Cindy: Thanks to the OEE group for taking interest and care of the park.
- Jack Hanson: City Hall Park bathrooms – What are the plans. Currently locked. Cindy: Bathrooms are closed on the coldest days, and then reopened.

Chittenden Solid Waste District: Lee Perry - recycling program

- New trucks have cart tippers [no employee lifting]. 15 routes in the city, 3 routes per day. City has ~3200 tons of recycling annually. MRF disposal fees of \$80/ton are funded by a surcharge on commercial waste haulers.
- Carts are available 35/65/95 priced at \$10/\$20/\$25.
- Michele Morris – CSWD outreach and communications. Recycling is an option when: The technology exists to sort and recycle the materials and there is a market for the sorted materials. Currently the following are recycled: clean paper, cardboard, and ridged single use containers. Bags clothes and misc. metals are not allowed. Hazardous materials are not allowed.
- Tom Derenthal: Fine for dumping glass? Is there a market? Michele: Yes there is a glass a market which is turned into glass aggregate. CSWD pays \$5/ton for disposal to a quarry. Tom: Are all items with recycle triangle recyclable. The number is a resin code. Recycle only what is described. Black plastic is not accepted because there is no market for it.
- Glenn McCray – Classic blue bins are no longer available. Recycle litter continues to be a problem. How do we get the carts to be used across the city? Employees, then they see recycle litter, capture a picture which is sent to Code Enforcement for handling. The Planning Commission is considering a penalty for non-compliance.
- Nancy? – The CSWD website is very helpful. Thanks for the work being done to recycle.
- The complete presentation can be found here → see separate doc below

Fair Housing Project: Jessica Hyman

- Todd Rawlings – Housing Program CEDO. Todd read the Mayor’s proclamation on fair housing.
- Rachael Batterson – Vermont Legal Aid – Housing Discrimination Project: Most common complaint is discrimination against people with children, followed by those who need accommodation due to disability and followed by racial discrimination. Racial discrimination may be less frequent, but is out of proportion to the minority population in VT.
- CVOEO has resources to help with housing =>
- Information on Fair Housing can be found here:
 - o Highlights of the Mayor’s speech is here: <https://vermontbiz.com/news/2021/april/06/weinberger-declares-state-city-one-great-hope>
 - o <https://fairhousingmonthvt.org/>
 - o https://www.cvoeo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=dep_intro&dept_id=1
- Sandy: Recommends that listeners read this book “The color of law”. Also exclaimed that today, MLS lists in Chittenden county 9 homes less than \$300K. Burlington cannot solve this county wide problem alone. The market is tough. Many deals are in cash.
- Erhard: Movie “Owned” is available at the Fletcher Library [movie equivalent of “The color of law”].
- Zoraya: Too many don’t think housing is a problem [because they don’t see it].

- Rachael: Other videos – “Segregated by design”

Wards 1 & 8 Budget Update - options & approval for 20-21 expenditure

- Each NPA has \$2500 annually or \$5K for Wards 1 & *
- Some items include:
 - o Buying more signs to advertise NPA meetings
 - o Supporting CCTV and FPF
 - o Interpreters to foster inclusion of non-English speakers in voting and other events
 - o Support for Ward restaurants through Locavore – raffle coupons at NPA meetings.
 - o Ward movie night – Ward member Rich Price has a movie, which would be followed by discussion.
 - o Refrigerator magnets – reminder of NPA - handed out door-2-door
- The budget will be available on the web site, discussed and voted on next month
- Zoraya: Signs & Magnets using the term “NPA” is too formal.
- Glen: Publicity and outreach – are we getting the same ~40 people month after month. How do we get more widespread participation? Is accessibility the challenge? Can we poll the Wards to understand what the obstacles are?
- Jack: Lawn signs work for those who know what a NPA is. Door-2-door canvassing may be more effective to communicate and spur involvement.
- Jane: Social media is an important venue to reach younger ward members. It’s the way much of City communications are currently distributed. Also, NPAs are severely underfunded. What could be done with additional funds?
- Karen: Don’t know how to spend our budget. Community dinner would draw people. We need ideas how to better draw in Ward members. June outdoor dinner?

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM

Addendum(s):

Message to students from Erica Caloiero, Interim Dean of Students, on 4/14/21:

Dear UVM Students,

We are in the home stretch of your spring semester. And yet, the next two weeks will be a critical time for us all. State-wide and especially in Chittenden County, positive cases remain high, and the Vermont Department of Health has detected strains of the first case of the P.1 COVID-19 variant (a highly transmissible mutation of the virus that originated in Brazil).

No one should gather in a place where there is a large group of people not following health and safety guidelines, as some did this weekend at North Beach. When groups gather, the risk of viral spread increases and so does the risk of new variants that could be more resistant to vaccines. We will be working with the City of Burlington to ensure that safety measures are in place, and

adhered to, in public areas. Please know that despite updates in Vermont's guidelines, all multi-household gatherings continue to be prohibited for UVM students. Outdoor gatherings remain constrained by the parameters that have been in place all semester: masks on faces, six-foot spaces, uncrowded places. You've put so much time and energy into completing this semester—let's see it through.

Brighter days are ahead—Vermont is taking an age-band approach to vaccine registration, and you can [check your eligibility here](#). Please familiarize yourself with the [State of Vermont registration site](#) and [UVM's vaccine information page](#) so that you are prepared for your vaccination appointment. You can also download apps to the CVS, Walgreens, and Kinney Drugs pharmacies for additional locations to get vaccinated (some of these locations add vaccination appointments daily). Effective immediately, any student who is fully vaccinated only needs to test every seven days for the balance of the semester. Please complete an [exemption request here](#).

All signs indicate that the Governor remains optimistic that we'll be back to business as usual by early July—and we're already preparing for a great in-person fall semester. This means the return of socializing together with friends, live music, a vibrant downtown scene, food truck rallies, and more of what we love.

You've worked hard to keep the community safe through regular testing, wearing your mask, and keeping extra space between yourself and others. We are just around the corner from seeing the reward of that commitment. Stay strong—we're nearly there.

Erica

Erica Caloiero
Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs