

Wards 1 & 8 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA) Agenda June 9, 2021 6:45 - 9:00 p.m.

7:00 (Formal start to the meeting) Announcements & Introductions

7:05 Speak-out

7:15 UVM Update: Gail Champnois - summer students; fall plans can be found here:

<https://www.uvm.edu/president/news/fall-2021-plans>

7:25 City Council Update: Zoraya Hightower (with update on public safety reform activities), Jack Hanson, Jane Stromberg

7:50 School Commission Updates: Kathy Olwell, Aden Haji

8:00 Riverside Micro Home Project Update: Laurie Smith, Mark Furnari

8:20 People for Police Accountability: Grace Pfeil

8:35 DPW Project Update, including Sidewalk Study & Trash Consolidated Collection: Rob Goulding; Maddy Suender

9:00 Adjourn

The meeting started at 7:00 PM

7:00 Announcements & Introductions

Attendees:

Caitlin Halpert

Carol Livingston

Caryn Long

Daniel Munteanu

Erhard Mahnke

Fletcher Pratt

Gail Champnois

Glenn and Hollie McRae

Grace Pfeil

Hannah King

Jack Hanson

Jane Stromberg

Jason Stuffle

Jim Barr

Joe Spiedel

Johnathan

Karen Vastine

Lee Perry

Liam Daugherty

Linda ?

Sandy Wynne

Serrill Flash

Sophie Quest

Steph Pappas

Stephen Kredell

Tom Derenthal

Zoraya Hightower

Announcements:

Carol Livingston: There will be no NPA meetings this summer in July & August.

Speakout:

Caryn Long - 12 Weston Street was converted to duplex without sufficient parking or lot size. The issue is in litigation. Note this is the last single family house on Weston St. Will the City stand by zoning standards and win this?

Hannah King – Community Block Grant coordinator W8 – All ideas were funded. Development applications also funded. Get link?

UVM Update:

Gail Shamnois – UVM has been proactive with University issues. Among other things, UVM: Met 2x with police and others regarding North Beach; Is doing outreach on Hickcock place due to incidence(s); Gave a grant for Winterlude organized by the Old East End group; Donated to the New England seeds grant [Isham St]; Held a pumpkin contest;

Students in summer: many stayed for the summer in 2020. Expect the same in 2021

UVM did an off-campus survey.

- 492 responses - see details??
- 90% are not subletting
- Most have summer jobs
- 21% have internships, half are in Burlington.

UVM fall 2021 plans can be found here → <https://www.uvm.edu/president/news/fall-2021-plans>

Comments:

Joe Speidel – Gail has done a great job during a trying year.

Jack Hanson – Good job. Community Coalition meetings are great.

Carol Livingstonj – Should the Community Coalition present at the Sept NPA meeting?

City Council Reports:

Zoraya Hightower:

- Zoraya gave a public safety update and showed a timeline of work in progress??
- Joint committee overview – [With a goal to have a community input process] 2020 timeline shown
- CNA – RFP completed
- SRO Task Force
- Nacole – Training?
- Police oversight?
- It was noted the legislature did not move charter changes forward in the session ending in May.

Jane Stromberg:

- NPA funding – looking at increasing budget by \$500 annually
- BED – Residential rates increased by 7.5%.

- Brian Pine – New CEDO Director – replacement election in August
- June 19th celebration of Juneteenth

Jack Hanson

- Resolution passed to include youth on boards and commissions.
 - o Includes mentors
- New H2O rates were approved. Includes income sensitivity – its more fair
- Redistricting – Expect some district changes
 - o Could include changing the structure [wards and districts]
- Resolution: 189 Corridor Study – Resolution passed 10-1 to focus on reducing miles driven.
 - o Create more equitable, sustainable and affordable system
- Resolution: Mask mandate has been discontinued in retail establishments for those vaccinated.
 - o Budget: Need to pass by end of June. All depts. Have presented to Council. The mayor will present his budget 6/10
- Boards and commissions:
 - o Committee has slate of candidates... Candidates will be presented to Council on Monday
- Transportation: Special meeting on rooftop solar meeting next Tuesday at 5 P
- In person Council meetings to start in July.

Comments:

Zoraya Hightower: Charter changes remain in the legislature.

Tom Derenthal: Would the City be better off with more or fewer councilors? Jack: NPA will have a representative on the redistricting committee. Also thinks the number of Councilors is OK, but smaller districts would be advantageous.

Sandy Wynne: Properties with solar installations add some complexity to real estate sales. One person had a 30 page lease [which transfers with the property].

Sandy Wynne: 10' wide asphalt driveway the length of Mansfield doesn't make sense. Jack: This is a side path for pedestrians. Its wide to accommodate many uses and increase safety. Can this development be slowed down.

Jason Stuffle: This is an extension of the Riverside path. This provides a bike route, adds connectivity, will not be covered with snow in winter. People have been injured walking on the existing path. Sandy: Will this cover the new rain garden? Jason: not sure

Erhard – Redistricting – any info on legislative districts would change? Jack: There is no early information on state redistricting. We are looking to accelerating the process and have proposal on the March ballot.

Jonathan: Thanks to Jane for supporting NPAs. We struggle with what NPA funds can be spent on. Focus in wording is outreach for NPA. Can the possibilities be expanded? Jane: Is looking into this.... What does the NPA envision doing? Hannah: Spending should include community building.

School commissioners - No update

Riverside micro – 237 Riverside project

- 48 units + 17 on the top floor
- No fossil fuel used on site. Solar on site will collect sufficient energy for most uses.
- Walking the site is encouraged.
- Presentation was provided

Comments:

Tom D: Will units all have kitchens? Response: Yes, and there is a communal kitchen as well

Karen – There are concerns about the Winooski River riverbank. Response: This is different from areas west... the topography and stability of the site is different from many parts of the Winooski river.

Sophie: The wide multiuse path capability will be preserved.

Erhard: Is zoning exception needed for riverbank? Response is NO. Will the project apply for a zoning density increase... does inclusionary zoning apply? Response: Yes, What is the unit size? Response - 325 sq ft size on 2nd floor, larger on the top floor.

Erhard: Inclusionary zoning may have a minimum area requirement.

Erhard: Will the project continue to honor the path easements. Response: Yes and is looking at improving path access.

Fletcher Pratt: What is the timeline? Response: Currently evaluating financing options. Followed by Act 250 and permitting. Earliest opening would be in 12-18 months.

People for Police accountability: Grace

- Community control of police – creation of independent board to control the police. Requires a city charter change to institute community police control
- Board: Members are elected / will have investigative powers / Define hiring criteria / can review and react to complaints / can remove officers and chief.
- Right to due process retained by police
- The new board will investigate only when there is a complaint
- Will not replace the police commission
- Website is Peopleforpoliceaccountability.com

Comments:

Jonathan: What are the separate roles for the new board vs. existing commission? Response: Will take the question off line.

Jack Hanson: Thanks for opening the conversation. The separate function enable independence from the police organization.

Tom D. Why can't we have a single entity that includes the board and commission responsibilities?

Dissolve the commission and let the board do it all. Response: We need something new. Policy is defined by the commission.

Zoraya: The police commission is too collaborative with the police. Trust could erode quickly if the commission has enhanced responsibilities and powers.

Jack: Dissolving the police commission may be OK.

DPW project update

- Consolidated curbside collection and sidewalk construction
- Lee Perry and Madeline Slender, and Laura Wheelock
- Consolidated collection – single pickup of trash, recycling and compost for buildings with 4 or less units.
- An “opt out” option is being considered.
- Under a franchise model, vendors would bid on defined routes.
- An alternative would be for the City to provide this service.
- In any case, it would take 3+ years for implementation

- Comments:
- Caryn: Will the city provide this service? Response: For the City to provide this service, new employees, equipment and buildings would be needed.
- Zoraya: Did the City model the implementation cost? Response: \$50K has been allocated to study the options.
- Zoraya: It would be beneficial to all parties if NPAs can poll the ward members.
- Serrill: Excited about the consolidated approach.
- Jason: I would be an opt-out person because my waste is minimal. Are we doing anything to motivate people to reduce their waste stream?
- Instant Poll: 9 for municipal option, 1 for franchise option, some [2-3?] abstentions. Caryn & Erhard: We need more information to make an informed decision.

DPW Sidewalks

- Special sidewalk funding initialized with the 2016 bond has been exhausted.
- Sidewalk inventory to be completed in June, followed by data analysis and recommendations in July / August. Survey cost by Veratas [consultant] is ~\$80K. Another consultant, RSG, will assist analyze the data.

Comments:

Caitlin: What work is planned to add sidewalks? Response: The current survey includes sidewalk gaps.

Caryn: What do the consultants cost. Response: \$80K

Caryn: Why do we make extensive use of consultants? Response: DPW has highway engineers, water engineers, but not analytic engineers. Bottom line: consultants have the tools and data analytic capability.

Jason: Who determines the zones and usage of various sidewalks. Do consultants really understand how pedestrians move about the City? Response: City staff guides the consultant, informing them of uses and people movements.

The Meeting ended at 9:15 PM