

**Wards 1 & 8 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Minutes from the March 10, 2021 meeting.**

6:45 Sign on to Zoom online meeting Waiting Room (See below if you have problems)
7:00 Announcements & Introductions (interest in Steering Committee?)
7:05 Speak-out
7:10 School Commission update: School Commissioner Aden Haji
7:15 Colchester Ave. Safety Study Update - Dave Cawley
7:20 City Council Update & Q/A: Jack Hanson, Zoraya Hightower, Jane Stromberg
7:45 City Assessment Update: John Vickery - City Assessor
8:15 Public Safety community input - Talitha Consults
9:00 Adjourn

The meeting started at 6:45 PM

Attendees:

Aden Haji
Anne Brena
anngoering
Bob Butani
Bridget Barry (she/her)
Brooke McKeen (she/her)
Caitlin Halpert
carol livingston
carynlong
CEDO NPAs
Chapple-Sokols
Chapple-Sokols (Jonathan)
Charis (Karis) Hnin | Talitha Consults (Talitha Consults)
Daniel Munteanu (he/him)
David Cawley
David Sidelle
Don Schramm
Edward North
Erhard Mahnke (he/him)
Glenn and Hollie McRae
Greg Hancock
Hannah King
Jack Hanson (he/him)
James Barr
Jane Stromberg
Jason Charest
John Vickery City Assessor
Jonathan
julia curry (she, her)
Karen Vastine
Karimah Edwards
kathy olwel

Katie
Kim
Linda Rizvi
Lisa Bridge
Liza Higbee-Robinson
Maddy
Martha Lang
Patricia Seelan
Paul Lande
peterlackowski
Robert Kiernan
Sandy Wynne
Sarah Sciortino
serrillflash
sharylgreen
Skyler Nash
Sophie (she/they) Aronson
sophie quest
Talitha Consults
Tiffany Pertillar
Tom Derenthal *
Town Meeting TV
Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
Zoraya Hightower (she/her)

Announcements:

Hannah King – The W18 NPA is looking for steering committee members, especially those living in W8.

Speak Out

Bob Butiani

- Bob expressed concern that developers continue to pursue an apartment development off Fletcher Place. The building(s) would be perched near a gully with dubious stability. The builder is requesting a permit from the State. This project has been in motion for ~10 years.

Karen Vastine

- Select parking spaces at 185 Colchester Ave, the State Health Dept. building, have been assigned to dept. employees. The lot is still open for some public parking.

Jared Wood [voiced by Jonathan Chapple-Sokol]

- Jared expressed concern about F35 noise. Knowing that Burlington has a noise ordinance, the question was raised: Are F35 aircraft subject to the City's noise ordinance?

City Council Report(s)

Jane Stromberg

- Expressed thanks for the town meeting vote results.
- UVM Operational Cutbacks - Described a City Council resolution that sends a letter to UVM expressing concern about recently announced budget cuts, discontinuance of certain majors and cuts in student services.
- Burlington Employee Pension Fund divestment of fossil fuel investments. A request was made to the Retirement Board. Council expects to hear back in April.

Jack Hanson

- Expressed thanks for the town meeting vote results, especially approval of the ballot initiatives and his reelection to a 2nd term.
- Town Center Development
 - o A new development agreement was approved in February. This resolves the City-Developer lawsuit(s).
 - o The right-of-way to rebuild streets [on property previously covered with buildings] will be granted to the City immediately.
 - o The developer agreed to pay construction workers prevailing VT wages.
- Ordinance Committee
 - o The committee is concerned about short term rentals, including AirBNB units and conversion of ordinary living units to the same. Public hearings will be scheduled in April 2021.
 - o Winter Weatherization Program – Work is in progress to define energy efficiency standards for rental units in the City.

School Commissioner Report(s)

Aden Haji

- Expressed thank for the public approval of the BSDVT budget.
- Announced BHS at the Macy's building opened this week. There are concerns with noise due to the classroom setups.
- Announced that teachers are now eligible for Covid19 vaccinations.

Kathy Orwell

- Expressed thank for the public approval of the BSDVT budget and her re-election to another term.
- Equivalent Pupil Calculation: Repeated concern the State formula that determines equivalent pupils and sets spending continues to underestimate the impact of poverty, English language learners and small school districts. The VT Senate has launched a task force to evaluate options, including those called out in a Rutgers study. Note: The VT Senate passed a bill in 2020 but work was interrupted when Covid19 enveloped that same year. Kathy estimates State funding for BSDVT is 19% less than fair. Winooski's schools get 39% less.

Colchester Ave Safety Study – Dave Cawley

Dave described the purpose and recommendations being sent to DPW and City Council. The project is broken down in to 3 segments; Prospect St-2-East Ave, the East Ave / Colchester Ave interchange, and East Ave-2-Barrett St. A complete description of the proposal is available on the CCRPC web here → [Colchester Ave: Bikeways, Parking, and Intersection Safety - CCRPC \(ccrpcvt.org\)](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/colchester-ave-bikeways-parking-and-intersection-safety)

City Assessment Update: John Vickery - City Assessor

- The goal is tax equity based on market value. Currently Burlington is not meeting statistical measures of equity. Notices of revaluation will be sent later in March.
- Tyler Tech has been retained for the appraisal work. They have previous experience in Burlington and expertise in evaluating complicated commercial properties.
- The evaluation will be based on recent sales [2017 – 2019]
- Note: The portion of property value in residential property is expected to increase relative to the City's total grand list.
- Timeline:
 - o March - Notice of revaluation sent
 - o April – Appeal meetings

- May / June – appeal reviews
 - July – New tax bills sent to property owners.
- The assessment presentation can be seen here → <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/assessor/reappraisal>

Public Safety community input - Talitha Consults

This was a working session led by Charis May Hnin designed to enable the NPA to ponder and articulate what a healthy and safe community means. What follows are notes from that session captured by Talitha Consultants. For a better sense of the discussion, please see the CCTV video here →

<https://cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-wards-1-and-8-npa-meeting-32>

Note: The Health and Safety section is at the end of the video.



The meeting ended at 9:00 PM