

W4/7 Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes  
July 22, 7-9 pm  
Miller Center

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

During introductions and announcements, Martha Molpus made a statement about soil in Leddy Park on behalf of Save Open Space. Donna Waldron shared concerns raised about dissolution of the Cemetery Commission. Theresa Lefebvre gave an update on the Farrington Park and housing cooperative. Questions were raised about the permitting process for development proposals.

A discussion of the soil pile in Leddy Park took place. Robert Bristow-Johnson expressed desire to see non-toxic dirt put into a road project. A video of the dirt pile and surrounding area was shown. Joanna Cole gave an update on legislative work related to urban soils. Jim Holway conveyed that the City, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and the EPA would be willing to hold a forum on this issue to have more comprehensive information shared and encouraged people to read the letter from Jesse Bridges. Michael Watson suggested it is poor policy to put a potentially dangerous pile of dirt near a park where children play with downhill drainage to the lake.

Theresa Lefebvre made a motion that the discussion be tabled until experts can be brought to a meeting on this subject. Linda Deliduka seconded. The motion passed with a majority of members present.

During Speak Out, Lea Terhune informed group of Emily Lyman Foundation fundraiser to help children with leukemia. Michael McGarghan expressed concern about bike safety. Jim Holway mentioned Contois Auditorium chair sponsorship opportunities and playground construction in Starr Farm Park.

#### Public Official Updates

##### School Commissioner Anne Judson

- Superintendent-Select Yaw Obeng had visa sent back for more information. He has been working unpaid to be prepared to start.
- Kindergarten classes will have potentially higher student-to-teacher ratios with no paraeducators. Schools are discussing having interns and other professionals as well as volunteers to help support.

##### Representative Jean O'Sullivan

- Vermont Gas/BT neighborhood hookup getting close, signing up indicates interest and helps advance timeline.
- Encouraged people to give at a weekend blood drive.

##### Representative/Councilor Kurt Wright

- Update on dirt pile with accompanying statement.
- Thoughts on Brandon del Pozo, Uber, sidewalk disrepair.
- Gun issues were raised.

##### Councilor Dave Hartnett

- Update on Waterfront: Sailing Center breaking ground in fall, new private marina being developed by 2018, Moran Plant past deadline, explicit public shared use plan.
- Discussion of firing range.
- Answered questions about safety conversations, three more to follow.

Representative Joanna Cole

- Campaign finance update on web portal, candidate forms.
- Update on professional licensure, notaries.

Councilor Tom Ayres

- CDNR Committee is focusing on Housing Action Plan.
- Burlington College property meeting on August 11.

A presentation was made regarding a proposed development at 451 Ethan Allen Parkway. John Anderson led the discussion as attorney for the project. Sketch plan review is complete with current filing for preliminary approval. Location is close to Ethan Allen Parkway with rest of site as designated wetlands, open space, possible park space.

There was question of the notice of withdrawal for the project from 2013 and the reason for lack of public notice of the permit request. Anderson stated project was withdrawn at that time and is now moving forward. Reason for no notice is that proceedings have not begun and notice will occur for hearing on project approval. There was an additional question about the type of housing being proposed. They are advertised and designed as middle class units with one being permanently affordable. Total cost of construction is \$1.7 million.

The North Avenue Corridor Task Force update was presented by Pat Kearney and RJ Lalumiere. Traffic and parking count is being conducted on North Avenue until late September. Intersection and traffic light designs will take into account delay, traffic timing, national standards. Finished product will be two traffic lanes and one center turn lane.

The Walk Bike Plan agenda item was postponed due to time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.