

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

Agenda / **MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 14 7:00 - 9:00 PM

In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street And Zoom online

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

YouTube:

YouTube Livestream: NPA Wards 1&8 Playlist, click on upcoming/next meeting:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlJLFn4BZd2Pa3H8l30gy_gZ3NL6orXcN Note: This is for live streaming purposes only. Ward residents should intend to participate via Zoom or in-person if they wish to speak or vote.

Facilitator: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol Host: Sam Heinrichs, CEDO Minutes: Carol Livingston

6:30 Pizza and welcome

7:00 Formal start - Announcements & Introductions

Announcements:

Welcome to our new meeting venue! Let us know how it works for you! Our thanks go to Christopher McCandless and the Friends for the space, Dominos Pizza for the sustenance, and Ohavi Zedek for the parking spaces.

Earlier this Summer, the Ward 8 Steering Committee announced their decision to stop meeting with Ward 1 and manage their own meetings. If you have any questions about this decision, feel free to contact the Ward 8 Steering committee

As you may have already heard, Jack Hanson resigned from the City Council, effective today, so he is not here tonight. A city councilor has a lot to balance – constituent issues, city issues, global issues. I want to thank Jack for his efforts to find that balance. A special election will be held in the East later this Fall, and here's the important part: We need a City Councilor – they could be you! Please seriously consider running for the office – if you care enough about the City to participate in the NPA, you may just have the commitment to represent the District!

As we are now just 3 folks working on delivering NPA meetings with value to the community, we want to stress how much we'd appreciate more folks joining the Steering Committee. It is an opportunity for you to make this meeting what you want it to be. If you do not want to commit to the Steering Committee but could help with social media, please let us know -

Thank you all for participating in our summer community activities, Ward 1 Night with the Lake Monsters and the barbecue in Schmanska park. We look forward to organizing more non-meeting community activities in the future.

The Ad Hoc Reappraisal committee is holding a public forum on Thursday September 22 at 6PM in the Sharon Bushor Room at City Hall and over Zoom. If you want to share your thoughts or opinions on last year's reappraisal process, please plan to attend. Zoom details will be posted on the Committee web page, reachable from the Assessor's page on the City site. If you want to provide written comments, please send them to Joe Dempsey, jdempsey@burlingtonvt.gov. Thank you!

Earlier this year Ward 1 purchased a subscription to Survey Monkey, which could be a way for folks to express their opinions. If you have a topic you think should be surveyed, let us know. An example could be redistricting choices. In the direct neighborhood: Prospect Hill is about to be repaved. Rob Goulding of DPW reports on North Prospect Street:

Short Term Update:

Tomorrow morning our contractor will be paving the trench at North St and North Prospect at approximately 7AM. The intersection will be closed with no thru access for a few hours. We anticipate access resuming by the evening rush hour.

Longer Term Update

Our contractor has finished relining the water main. As part of the normal process for water main relining, we then conducted pressure tests to ensure structural integrity of the new liner. On one section of liner, the pressure test did not pass due to leakage. All other sections of liner have passed the pressure test.

We will be sending a camera through the liner to help finalize the plan for this section – which will determine the repair method (relining vs section replacement), scope and duration for the remainder of this project and ultimately final paving of the road. We expect the remaining water work to be done this year. All access pits will be paved to grade before the season is up. At this time, due to this delay, we now anticipate full width paving to happen in spring.

7:05 Speak-out - General Public

Martine Gulick (mgulick@bsdvt.org) is running for State Senate, introduced herself. Key issues: supporting families struggling with health care, housing, safety, education and she would work to reinstate funding for school construction.

Infinite Culcleasure (i.culcleasure@gmail.com) introduced himself as an Independent candidate for State Senate. He has lived in North End, 30 yrs, worked at Spectrum for few years; for 10 yrs - community organizer/lobbyist for children and families; equity in schools; education quality standards around literacy; wondering about implementation of bills that have become laws to foster the hoped-for change.

Brian Cina (bcina@leg.state.vt.us) is running for re-election to State House, introduced himself & key issue: health care system disintegrating /how to realign services//Norway model

Catherine Simmonds spoke in support of Jake Schumann as candidate for East District City Council seat, to fill Jack Hanson's seat. Jake Schumann (jake4btv@gmail.com) introduced himself as candidate for East District City Councilor, has lived in Burlington for 13 yrs; Ward 1 - past year; Covid Recovery Center work; then CVOEO - hotel housing assistance program

Sharon Bushor - concern about No. Prospect construction - limited communication about progress; concern about re-zoning of Trinity campus to facilitate project from UVM - none of planning commission people had toured the site - tour 9/13. Concern: housing shortage/crisis - need project to house UVM juniors and seniors. Concerned about the setback - map on planning commission - <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/plan/trinitycampus> . 400 beds plus put housing in green space - proposing 45 feet setback. Please attend Planning Commission Meetings: welcome people's comments - <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CityPlan/PC/Agendas> . The Commission is then moving to public hearing, then to city council for vote on zoning amendment. Richard Cate last night's Planning Commission meeting - asked if Trinity project would provide relief for housing crisis; he couldn't answer that it could .Caryn Long - message from Jared Wood: Every stop sign should have stop line showing where cars should stop. Concern about cars not stopping at stop signs. Willard St (state highway) - paved, still need final paving. Caryn is also concerned about enforcement at stop signs. Jonathan Chapple-Sokol asked if our NPA should write a letter as a ward to city council to install the lines. There was a show of hands in support. Jonathan said the NPA Steering Committee will write a letter.

Christopher McCandless lives across from Friends Meeting House, has been responsible for care of Friends buildings for many years. Concerns as resident of Prospect St - struck by lack of traffic on this street due to traffic; traffic on northern side of construction is too fast. He is supportive of considering turning No. Prospect into a one-way street. Christopher also expressed concerns about increased taxes due to need for new school.

Dan Hill, Burlington Traffic Manager did not attend, but wrote about the need for crossing guards. See flyer posted with minutes.

Angie Chapple-Sokol - frustration/concern that UVM and City are at loggerheads constantly about addressing the housing crisis. Concern that UVM just accepted the largest freshman class in their history. Public safety in our community: concerned about the anger & dissension about the police dept; concerned that council members acted too quickly in June 2020 when they cut the sworn officer cap - apology/acknowledgement of having acted too hastily might help. Appreciative of Zoraya's support of CNA recommendations which may help undo some of the damage done.

Carter Neubieser - he is a biker who's had close calls with drivers and rough pavement; interested in helping on NPA Steering Committee.

7:25 Ward 1 Bylaws - Review and Vote - POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MONTH - Please review the draft in the meantime:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/DRAFT%20Ward%20One%20Neighborhood%20Planning%20Assembly%20Bylaws%20September%202022.pdf>

7:50 Charter Change Committee - All Legal Resident voting - Ben Traverse

Councilor Travers represents Ward 5. Gene Bergman, Sarah Carpenter, and Ben Traverse are the Charter Change Committee. They are meeting with all NPA's about a proposed charter change for the March ballot, Legal Resident Non-Citizen voting. It was on ballot in 2015 and voted down. City Council discussed in 2020 to put on ballot again.

Overview: over 18 non-citizen residents would be able to vote for school commissioners, city councilors and mayor and vote on local questions - school bond, charter changes. Trusted Community Voices is disseminating information. See City page for more information. <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/AllLegalResidentVoting>. Experiences in Montpelier and Winooski who have passed this measure: most all non-citizen voters who registered to vote, came out to vote. Charter Change Committee is working with Winooski city about their processes to learn about details of their measure.

Q/A - Sharon Bushor: what are the concerns from community? Ben - some concerned that citizenship should be a requirement for voting; voting is a privilege of being a citizen. Today: looking at democracy and participation in govt differently than in 2015. Responses mostly positive. Another concern is the paperwork / ID logistics for city clerks offices - only a local issue (Burlington city clerk)

Councilor Traverse is also a member of the redistricting working group, with Zoraya Hightower, Joe McGee and Marc Barlow. As a result of the 2020 census results, the State House & Senate districts have been restructured at state level, as well as looking at our wards and districts because of population shifts. This Redistricting Working Group is

looking at the proposals from last year's Ad hoc Redistricting committee as well as map suggestions from various residents.

Redistricting proposals have been narrowed down to: one map with 7 wards; and another map with 8 wards; looking at the total number of councilors. At City Council Monday night, this committee was created to work on maps and options Working group meetings will, hopefully, be open meetings. Time together will be working sessions - discussion with attendees.

8:05 City Councilors' updates - Zoraya Hightower, Jack Hanson
Neither Councilor attended the NPA meeting.

8:20 School Bond Vote – Superintendent Tom Flanagan, Commissioner Kathy Olwell; Joe Weith - project manager
SEE One-page information plus a FAQ sheet as well as SLIDE PRESENTATION posted with minutes

Q/A - The cost of PCB removal is included in project bond proposal (\$25 million)
The original \$70 bond passed by Burlington voters - only \$4 million was used; the remaining \$66 million was not used and is not included in the project cost.

Sharon Bushor: state cost Burlington money because of delays and financial costs incurred by Burlington and proposes that the state pay Burlington \$15 million. Tom met with Dept ED to propose funding from the State. The State officials say Burlington has gotten financial support through the change in the weighting formula - which Tom doesn't accept. Next tack is to push for construction aid, as well as state PCB remediation. Also Burlington may be eligible for federal funding.

Concern: This is a major financial sacrifice for Burlington residents.

Carter Neubieser: natural gas & biofuels part of the design? Heating & cooling is not fossil fuel. Geothermal energy on the site. Some of science labs will need gas. But most energy will not be fossil fuel.

9:00 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

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