

Wards 1 & 8 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

Minutes

May 13, 2020 6:45 - 8:30 p.m.

Zoom online meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83001081325> Meeting ID: 830 0108 1325

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,83001081325# US (New York)

Facilitator: Caryn Long Host: Zoraya Hightower Tech support: Hannah King
Recorder: Carol Livingston, Channel 17 recording and live broadcast

6:45 Sign on to Zoom online meeting to Waiting Room

Hannah King: instructions for Zoom use for this meeting

7:00 Caryn Long - Announcements: plans for votes on budget & NPA steering membership; Ward 1 by-laws draft posted on NPA website; Lake Monsters season; composting (link to CSWD below); reminder about email list being compiled; masks availability for public; postponing thank-you's

South End Community Pick-up at Champlain School on Pine Street this Saturday, May 16 from 9 - 11 a.m. for food, books, and other supplies. Lake Monsters are waiting for Major League to start up before setting their calendar. July 1 is start-up of food composting statewide. Email list being compiled. Burlington Resource & Recovery Center has masks. DPW working on improvements of University Place. Draft of Ward 1 By-laws is posted on CEDO website. Waiting for in-person meeting to do Steering Committee election & budget approval. Also waiting for in-person meeting to give thank-you's to previous city councilors & board commissioner.

7:05 Speakout: Your concerns? Issues? How are you doing? What are people's unmet needs? What are ways to help?

Cindy Cook: would love to have more inclusive steering committee, so please consider serving. If interested, contact any of the SC members.

Selene Colburn: State rep for district 6-4; good to see everyone. She is running for re-election for 3rd term.

Dave Cawley: safety study about Colchester Ave. - Advisory committee has met twice. Looking from Prospect to Barrett and improvements to make it a more viable corridor. Study by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and the city. May present longer at June NPA meeting. Public meeting upcoming to hear more of the details. If interested, go to Chitt Cty Regional Planning Commission website. Study looking at dedicated bike lanes on both sides, pedestrian safety, retaining some parking. Looking at intersection of East Ave & Colchester Ave.

Carol Livingston: concerns about UVM housing - rental changeover; UVM faculty cuts

7:30 Update, Q & A from City Councilors: Jack Hanson, Zoraya Hightower, Jane Stromberg

Jack: March 9 mtg - 2 big items discussed and passed with major public turnout: Fair & Impartial Policing Policy - preventing police dept from collaborating with ICE. Winooski Ave Corridor Study approved. South of Pearl redesigned this year - 4 lanes to 3 lanes, dedicated bike lane. March 23 mtg: major actions around pandemic: established Resource Center connecting people to state & federal resources, as well as local. Also council suspended utility disconnections; stopped late fees; tax relief efforts. Currently: Jack proposed & council passed that they have a standing agenda item about climate crisis & city response. Jack also raising issue of electrification of new bldgs rather than carbon-producing power. Jack serves on Ordinance Committee and Transportation Energy & Utilities and License Committee.

Zoraya: serves on Ordinance; Community Dev't Neighborhood Revitalization (CDNR) committees. Community Dev't - block grant \$1.5 million Covid relief and other items. Spending on: rental assistance; microbusinesses - low & medium income; housing & homelessness; regular programs already running. June 1 Council mtg will discuss these expenditures.

North Beach campers asked to move last Monday - about 10-12 people. Given tents but later able to house in a motel. Let folks know about this state voucher program and contact Zoraya, Jack, or Jane. Phone number: 802 391 4333 correction

Dept Public Works - listening to residents' preference for shorter run rather than longer run work on sidewalks. Zoraya will report back. Next week: Colchester Ave. work will begin. City Hall Park construction has resumed. Champlain Pkway construction will soon be underway. CDNR Committee authorized Cambrian Rise to increase number of units from 700 +units to 900+ units. More smaller units will be constructed, responding to current market.

Move-in dates for tenants turning over. We need to figure out how to norm the VT approach vs other states. Z talking with UVM about process with parents & students moving in.

Joe Speidel (UVM): UVM working with state, governor, city to develop plan. Surveying off-campus students & sending info to families about VT regulations for COVID. Discussions ongoing between UVM & city. Outcomes not clear yet. Looking at varying ways to dispose of items. VT lodging rules about quarantines have a bearing on family members' travel until June 15. Plan for residence halls re-entry with controlled timing. More information forthcoming about June 1 move-in move-out.

Jane - serves on License committee, Transportation Energy & Utilities and License Committee (TEUC), Charter Change committee. New council approved property tax resolution to protect tenants as Covid relief is given to landlords. UVM: concern about lack of fairness in cutting faculty pay - Jane is working with Student Union and others concerned. Effort to communicate concern to UVM admin. Jane will keep us updated & can answer questions. Board of Trustees mtg this Friday, 8 a.m.

Council voted to ground F35's to no avail - concern about residents' burdens currently.

Jack: composting - by state law starting July 1, food scraps banned from landfills. Work to do to educate and enforce. Jack is concerned that state has not provided communication & resources to implement this. City, UVM, DPW will, hopefully, be providing information & outreach. Economics/efficiency of composting: study on consolidating waste streams to lower hauling costs.

Questions & comments:

Bike Path rebuilding between Perkins Pier & Lakeside - when completed?? (not sure)

Timeline for the city budget? When does the public get to see it? City Councilors haven't really seen it in detail yet. First session is next week.

Boards & commissions appointments are upcoming - reach out to councilors to get involved in city issues.

7:55 Update, Q & A from School Board Commissioners: Aden Haji, Kathy Olwell

Aden: school board discussions of impact of COVID. Superintendent publishes weekly letter to families. New superintendent - Tom Flanagan - has been meeting with board, principals, and some teachers. Board discussions: hs graduation, middle & elementary transitions (each school is planning different activities to celebrate students' transitions), school cancellation, sports cancellation. New board member orientation. Aden is interested in community engagement as well as equity & inclusion committees.

Kathy: on Curriculum & Personnel committee. HS building construction is going forward & board has found other sources of funds to cover increased expenses. Plan accepted by City Council. Building will start in a year.

New superintendent: originally from Washington, DC; has been a teacher; currently in Providence, RI with special education leadership for city schools. Moving to Burlington by July 1.

8:05 Update, Q & A from State Reps & Senators: Selene Colburne, Brian Cina, Barbara Rachelson, Chris Pearson (voting in November)

Brian - serves on Health Care committee: impact of pandemic is affecting direct process of providing physical & mental care. Still looking at current issues (health care processes) but in light of pandemic impact much has shifted in emphasis. Testing available for everyone now. Looking at health workforce development - how to support, how to recruit & retain. Looking at telemedicine - major shift now, looking at how to expand & support after pandemic. Looking at whole health care system & how it is financially struggling - every piece of the system is challenged right now. State unemployment system not working well - many still not accessing funds. If you are having trouble, contact your legislator. Economic stress has impact on physical and mental health - how do we support people? Balance between public health & the economy.

Chris - working online consistently throughout crisis. Looking at people's health and then about people's financial stability. Senate passed unanimously (House considering) hazard pay for essential workers at risk to say thank you. Senate Agriculture committee - food security

becoming issue; pressure on local agriculture to fill people's food needs - Senate looking at how to meet the demand. Dairy struggling. Composting: Scott admin wants to delay but requires legislation to do this & neither house will probably take it up. Please contact Chris if you have needs.

Selene - budgeting process: 3 budgets in play: voting in House on budget adjustment to current budget due to revenue shortfalls. Working to find funds to fill gaps arising. #2 Skinny budget - July - August. Returning in August to do budget for rest of year.

Vermont State Colleges discussion: legislature working with state college board to come up with financial plans in short term. Looking at creating task force to look at whole system of Vermont state colleges. Anyone with ideas, suggestions about this college system please contact legislators. Very concerned about UVM budget being balanced on backs of most vulnerable.

Barbara - impressed with tri-partisan work - legislature & governor. House Judiciary Committee looking at how to maintain crucial court hearings. New law enables people to complete wills, deed transactions, and power of attorney in virtual meetings. Moratorium on evictions to ensure time to work out arrangements between tenants & landlords. If problems with mortgage payments, use state resource link. Banks are wanting to work out payment structures to give people options.

You can be part of hearings and legislators are encouraging people to watch & participate.

November elections: clear decision that August primary elections will get option of mail-in or in-person voting. Secretary of State working on mailing a ballot to everyone, then collected by mail or in person. Plan for automatic mail ballot - waiting to see what happens with August primary.

8:30 Adjourn

NPA Steering Committee:

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Contact information also available on our CEDO NPA

website:<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Neighborhood-Services/NPAs/Ward-1-NPA>

Link to CSWD for composting info (check home page for latest update):
<https://cswd.net/about-cswd/universal-recycling-law-act-148/>