

WARDS, 1 & 8 NPA - Minutes/Agenda
Wards 1 & 8 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
August 12, 2020 6:45-9:00 p.m.

Zoom online meeting Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83884669194>

Webinar ID: 838 8466 9194

Or Telephone: 1 929 205 6099 Or iPhone one-tap : +13126266799,,83884669194#

Facilitator: Caryn Long

Tech support: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

Host: Phet Keomanyvanh (CEDO)

Recorder: Carol Livingston

Timer: Linda Rizvi

6:45 Sign on to Zoom online meeting Waiting Room (See below if you have problems)

7:00 Announcements

Reminder: 2020 Census deadline extended: online, phone, mail - way to shape future of community. July 1 was the start date of VT mandated composting. We invite anyone interested to join our Steering Committee for Wards 1 & 8. We invite anyone interested in developing a process for NPA to review local developments (set of principles to use to look at developments presented to NPA). We invite anyone interested in developing a housing discussion to let us know.

7:05 Speak-out

Maddy P: watching Monday's City Council mtg & hearing UVM & Champlain plans for student re-entry; lives on Hungerford Terrace; very concerned about UVM not being able to answer all the questions; part of neighborhood group reaching out to UVM since June; Vters have kept VT safe; feels irresponsible of UVM to leave residents responsible to report student breaking rules; feels President should have been at Monday's mtg - didn't answer Mayor's letter's concerns; believes this reopening is about money for UVM; putting residents, staff, faculty at risk. Worst summer: huge house parties due to bar closings - no masks or social distancing. BPD puts noise complaints to bottom of list so don't come until late, if ever. Same addresses are problems over and over. Supports hot line calls. Also supports regular neighborhood police patrols.

Wendy K from UVM response: joint patrols for quality of life - start when school yr starts up; working on starting up.

Tom D: received tax bill expecting to reflect reappraisal but it didn't - when will reappraisals be reflected in bills? Jonathan: in January we will receive tax bill reflecting reappraisal. About student parties: who do we call when we see problems? State police? BPD? Campus police.

Wendy K: call BPD; if unable to take call UVM will take the call to do law enforcement. State police do not get involved unless local authorities need help. Neighbors can also provide witness statement to UVM Office of Community Relations. UVM do think it is their responsibility to uphold UVM policies. Need more than pix of parties - need address, time, person who witnesses. Start with BPD then report as much as can to UVM.

Caryn: echoes Maddy's reports & experiences. Sent photos esp 2 households on Loomis, who Gail sent notices to. C believes UVM should have stronger consequences. Concerns about drinking, fireworks and students moving off-campus who are not eligible to (sophomores).

Louis: seconds Maddy's & Caryn's concerns. Adding concern about landlords: should be held responsible & receive warnings about student behavior. His address: 267 Pearl St.

Sen. Chris Pearson: last Friday community mtg: doesn't make sense that BPD is first call - they're busy. Do we want BPD to be shifted from more serious events? Can we have a hotline to UVM, giving info about problem houses?

Wendy K: Can't use UVM staff to enter private property, can't write tickets, can't enforce local laws

7:20 Panel: - COVID-19 & College Students' Return to Burlington: Mayor Miro Weinberger, Wendy Koenig, Joe Speidel & Gail Shamnois (UVM), Lt. Jason Lawson (BPD)

Wendy: main tenets of reopening plan: 4 parts: dedensification - opening UVM but students can also stay at home (1400 students - 2000) so classrooms & dining halls more open. Classes will be hybrid in-person and online so social distancing & masks. Curtailing visitors - limiting # people helping with move, no visitors; Comprehensive testing - 1 of most aggressive in nation, developed with VT Dept of Health & UVM Med. Ctr: students tested (PCR) once arrive, or results sent from home beforehand; tested again on Day 7; tested again in 5 weeks. Checking with health dept about the

effectiveness of this routine. Quarantine & isolation program in place - notices to all students explaining. Options given to support students quarantining and isolating. Reserving space for students needing isolation.

Gail & Joe: off-campus plans. June move was effective - Mayor agreed. Continuing everything from June move-in. Bulk of students off-campus came in June. Going door to door - postcards about distancing, masks, hand-washing. Noticing 3 student groups: doing right thing (getting rewards); students doing right thing but struggling with room-mates & housemates not following guidelines - working hard to end "magnet house." (this group is getting support from Gail's staff). Finally, those not doing right thing; Gail sends letter, then contacts landlord, then Green & Gold contract - need specific info from neighbors. Gail has worked with student houses in several neighborhoods. Important that neighbors send detailed information to Gail's office: dates of events, locations, details about event, name of witness.

Gail: Community Coalition mtg last Friday - UVM, neighbors, city councilors - What can UVM do in the moment to respond to incidents? Can there be a peer outreach program between students? Normally this process would be person to person; BPD role is changing so we need to figure out how to do this without falling on just neighbors, just BPD, just UVM. Community meetings are helpful. Sees people on bikepath & other places without masks

Joe: need to approach from as many angles as we can: BPD; code enforcers; UVM; neighbors to address health & safety. Real time enforcement: need as much info as possible so can follow up with students - Student Conduct boards can address problems and use given process to enforce on campus. Ways to report: in the moment with BPD, who has been working in neighborhoods with educational mission; will respond to parties, noise, alcohol; BPD collects helpful information in order to have enforcement. 2nd: if you don't want to wait for BPD; provide sworn statement to BPD the next day - name, address, pix, as much info as possible. 3rd: if student involved, can contact Gail or Student Contact office - contact info on UVM website "our VT neighbors." BPD Carolyn Irwin will follow up with non-student people. Consequences: egregious: hosting events, high # people - 250 fine, parent notif. 2nd instance: parent notif, suspension. Probation included as well in next instances.

Jay Lawson: (BPD) 20 yrs working on quality of life issues. Important: documentation piece - officers noting same info as more serious issues. If you call BPD requesting officer, they will respond - may not be quick, but will do best to respond quickly. BPD officers have to prioritize responses to calls, according to spectrum of violations.

Mayor Weinberger: entering critical period: schools reopening & students returning;

confident of continuing record of suppressing virus. Joint strategies have been working - boxing in virus. Testing, contact testing, quarantine program, Vters commitment. Reopening is a real threat, still believe in in-person learning. UVM committed to continue this record. Purpose of his letter: for UVM to clarify for the public to better understand how decisions were made - eg number of tests per week changing. Upcoming: additional talks with UVM, state, and city - hoping for movement. Still hopeful that we will all be on the same page & numbers will be the same after students here for several weeks.

Q & A:

Neil Groberg: Curtailing visitors on campus - residents walk thru? If UVM can't enter private property, can they get landlords' permission & UVM "ambassadors"? If student arrives & is tested positive, if result takes 3 days, what happens in the meantime?

Wendy K: visitors = only UVM students or staff inside student residence halls. Walking across campus with mask and physical distance is fine, as well as public places on campus. UVM staff being creative about entering private property - planning to do ambassador program, originating from student govt. Students doing peer to peer ed is crucial; digital meetings; info sessions. Not appropriate for UVM staff to enter property to try to break up a party. Testing protocol: working with med prof's, confident that we have initial testing to weed out students for quarantining (pre-testing at home), as well as coming from hot spot or traveling on public transp. Tested again after 7 days. UVM's focus is not on saving money, but feel privileged to be part of this community and recognize our responsibility to this community.

David Cawley: pandemic is huge problem so really is up to whole community to help this work, so that 30 days after student arrival we will still be in this healthy place. Working directly with students is important as neighbors. Under Covid is there any restriction for number of people in a residence? Miro: there is a limit on gathering sizes in private residences - outdoor 150, indoor 25 people. City is discussing with state about reducing these levels for short-term of current risk period.

Hollie M.: is UVM reporting testing results? Dashboard for community to see? Threshold metrics for UVM positive cases to change practices? Students go to red county on weekend, how do we know and do they know what to do next?

Wendy K: transparency on testing: companies sharing info with VT Dept of Health. UVM will post testing data on website at least 1x week, tho people have asked for more frequent posting. Threshold metrics to go to all online: don't have number yet, working with state and city to determine and staff discussing increasing the once/week testing

report about student status. Governor and mayor have power to shut down UVM operation. Students leaving for a day: memo to students & families detailing quarantine rules, how, and support; Gail also discussing with students. Monitoring weekend trips, etc - not able to do that with 11,000 students. Students are very aware of rules.

Amanda: follow-up on reporting. City has set up see-click-fix & wondering if BPD or city would find this useful for reporting Covid violations; add a Covid violation category.

Jay L: many officers use this app as private citizens; BPD receives alerts. Dept created way to track covid compliance, so part of their work currently. Mayor will also check in with staff about expanding this. SCF (see-click-fix) is being used actively by the city.

Maddy: glad neighborhood patrols will continue. Testing question: why 9/18 chosen as end date (Champlain up to Thanksgiving); how know testing is working with off-campus students; why the shift from 2x to 1x week data reporting? UVM reporting daily would be better.

Wendy K: 9/18 is not an end date for testing; this is 5 week check-in. See how testing going, consulting with team, then determine if testing needs to be more frequent. Verifying testing off & on campus; students assigned testing days so if don't test, then will be tracked online. Penalties for not taking tests - suspension or expulsion. Requests for more frequent test reporting has been taken to Pres. G.

Louis: Community Coalition mtg - never saw announcement for mtg last Friday. So how formed and mtg announcements.

Gail: started by student govt. Friday once a month 3 to 4:30. Email her at Gailshampnoisuvvm.edu - to get names added to list for mtg notification.

8:05 City Councilors: Jack Hanson, Zoraya Hightower, Jane Stromberg

Jane: last Monday's Council mtg: dedicated task force for overdue reparations to African Americans due to repercussions of slavery: per diem compensation for staff working on the task force. City consider apology for institution of slavery. UVM reopening - contact with neighbors and with staff and faculty - working to help effectively implement UVM plans. Working with DPW for additional signage regarding traffic-calming efforts, esp for large trucks cutting through neighborhoods.

Zoraya: 2 big updates: joint committee created by Racial Justice resolution - first mtg tomorrow & hopeful for kicking off process: assessment of BPD, community assessment of public safety processes needed - noise complaints, how remove burden off BPD for some calls, shifting to community & experts. Just-cause eviction - has gone through

CDNR and through Charter Change - how people avoid eviction & unreasonable rate increases; next step after Nov 9 for March ballot.

Jack: working on UVM reopening, tonight helpful but hoping real-time response improves and testing results. Council just back from 5-week break. Joint committee looking at short-term rentals. Last Monday's mtg - minimal parking requirements & sustainable transp for new devt's passed Monday night. Rank Choice Voting - vetoed by mayor, no override - veto sustained. So not on November ballot. Jack will continue to work on for potential vote at later date. University Place - redesign approved. Colchester Ave improvements underway.

Jean H: League of Women Voters will work on educating people on Ranked Choice Voting, which they support. Very appreciative to DPW for work on East Ave.

8:20 Fall, 2020, School Opening Procedure: New EMS Principal, James Kiefer, EMS Vice Principal, Sabrina Westdijk, School Board Commissioners Kathy Olwell & Aden Haji

James Kiefer - EMS Principal - public ed. for 30 years, math teacher, curricular & instructional coach; STEM teacher; last 8 years as principal. 8/20 teachers arriving to campus; 9/8 students on campus. Hybrid model - 1/2 students on campus at any given time; finding balance of keeping people safe and students continuing ed. Before entering bldg, all are asked health questions, temp taken. No visitors, social distancing, masks worn by everyone. Schools are reporting to BSD & state regularly about status.

Sabrina Westdijk - EMS Vice Principal - resident, children in district

Aden - multilingual liaisons doing incredible work, critical part of district working with families and students. We value all the work they are doing.

8:35 City Place: Mayor Miro Weinberger

In sensitive moment in project: Brookfield after 2 years of asking for more time has now acknowledged they won't continue with construction. 2 years of reassurances, B took steps to exit partnership and handing devt back to Sinex & Devinwood Assoc. City working to hold them accountable for their promises. Letter sent with expectation that City is holding them to default on their commitment. In our interest for there to be a short period for Brookfield to return to us and reset plans to move forward with project. If does not happen soon, then city would take legal action. FPF posts have more detail. Mayor wants residents to know: 1) took pains that taxpayers protected - not out of money for any costs. All expenses spent so far is private money. \$180,000 impact on property taxes. No impact on general fund. 2) In a good position to restore mixed-use to city center. Good thing mall is gone - expensive barrier to developing more productively. 2

streets will be restored. 3) Outreach coming from other in-state entities interested in this development. 4) other projects continuing: Moran, City Hall park.

Kathy O: concern that we now have open pit rather than receiving property taxes. Not losing money? Brookfield paying \$180,000 less than \$800,000. So TIF short \$50-60,000. This is result of their breach of our agreement and Mayor is pursuing this, not coming from general fund.

8:50 Midtown Motel Demolition: Jeff Nick

Built in 1958 as motel. Bought in 1995 to redevelop, but ideas didn't work out. Built on edge of ravine near Fire House. Not good quality structure; roof needs to be replaced. Would like to remove building. Closed in 2005.

Jeff's proposal is to remove motel, continue leasing parking. Put landscaping where bldg is now, put in fencing, lighting on parking lot. Parking lot blocked by duplex currently. Been to DRV once, returning in Sept. City asked about redev't. Deserves a gateway structure as potential. Hired consultant about state historical landmark status. Changes have been made to the structure over time. Devt Review Board denied development plan. It wasn't formally denied because of historical study and was just penciled plans. We understand the need for parking and doesn't change the character of the neighborhood, but use of this land may change as the City looks at this section for different kinds of development. Eliminating the bldg may help foster people looking at this space differently.

Louis - Motel and existing city pkg lot: this space could be developed. Jeff: want to develop with the City. Problems: ravine and topography.

Amanda - kind of proposals that were brought to City that rejected in past? Why now if closed in 2005? Jeff: Target wanted to build a store; REI looked at the space; hotel developer interested currently.

9:00 Adjourn

If you have any difficulties accessing the meeting before, during or after, please feel free to contact Jonathan Chapple-Sokol at (802-777-3521) or chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com and he will walk you through the process, and troubleshoot any issues.

Want to watch the meeting but not be in direct attendance? Watch on Channel 17 YouTube. You will be able to watch the **livestream**, without logging into the Zoom. And, if you're unable to tune in during the Wednesday meeting you can access the recording there, too!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLljLFn4BZd2Pa3H8130gy_gZ3NL6orXcN

NPA Steering Committee

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