

Wards 1 & 8 Meeting
UVM Medical Center, McClure Conference Room
October 10th, 2018
Meeting Start 7:04 PM

Steering Committee present: Richard Hillyard Ward 1, Anne Brena Ward 8

Speak Out

- Party at Schmanska Park to celebrate renovations on Saturday, 1PM-3 PM
- Sierra Club Burlington reps: Ready for 100 campaign, which focuses on Burlington moving to 100% renewable energy in all sector.
- Maria McLellan from UVM Med Center: design charette for sound barriers last week, got lots of good input. Barrier is to be built on top of the hill on East Ave, on Mary Fletcher Drive. 12 ft high, 50 feet long fabric simulation of wall will go up in next week or two. Unpaved paths near East Ave will no longer be accessible. maria.mclellan@uvmhealth.org for more info
- Disappointed over lack of progress with mall.
- Alternate street parking on Colchester from Kampus Kitchen on down. Hoping that the new plan will consider the lack of space going down the hill.
- Miro: Mall developers have requested changed to agreement, have not yet pulled permit.
- Miro: general obligation debt is focus of recent debt policy conversations. When school bond is drawn down, we will be at \$190 million of “overlapping” debt. Acceptable level of debt. In 7-10 years, chunks of debt will be “retired”

City Council Update

-Richard Deane:

-School bond and revenue bond for wastewater to be discussed later. Will vote for both.

-Proposed improvements to crossing infrastructure at Barret St and Colchester Ave.

Director of DPW will discuss later tonight. Board of Finance will look at funding for improvements. City Council will vote Monday evening. Crosswalks should be in place this year, also a possibility there will be mid-block crossing at Chase Street. Other improvements to that intersection in the future.

-Regarding development of mall downtown: developer is private property owner, does not have to share updates with city. Jeffery Glassberg is direct liaison with him, should give us better information. Disappointing to see pace of construction. City’s interest in project is the streets: St. Paul and Pine St will be improved.

-Seeking re-election as East district City Councilor.

-Sharon Bushor:

-Schmanska Park dedication is important event. Lots of history to the park.

-Attended design charette. Hoped for more feedback and weigh-in from neighborhood.

Liked committee that hospital put together. Looking for another opportunity to weigh in. Lots of people will be disappointed in losing unpaved hill path.

-Wrote article in North Avenue news. Spoke about both bonds, supported both. Hoping that people will read about these two ballot items and support them..

-Member of Ordinance Committee. There are two form districts (5& 6), and a few properties considered that did not get put forward. Planning commission has moved request to

Ordinance Committee. Thought we would wait longer to see how form-based code worked- there are still unfamiliar aspects. We should pay attention to its implementation, as the city of Burlington will likely move to form-based code as a whole.

-Intersection of Riverside and Colchester Ave at Winooski Bridge: pedestrian crossing discussed at Barrett. Needs to be acted upon sooner rather than later. Collectively, representatives know that this is a priority. Eventually looking for total re-design of intersection.

State Representatives

-Selena Colburn

-Seeking re-election.

-Former City Councillor for Ward 1, former library commissioner for Fletcher Free.

-Just finished first term as State legislator. Grateful for support and feedback.

-Looking to create healthy economy (livable wages, affordable housing, paid family leave.) Economic development that works for the state

-Also interested in climate work: clerk of Climate Solutions Caucus.

-Serves on Judiciary Committee. Has worked on criminal justice reform extensively. VT spends a lot of money on criminal justice- wants to look at structural changes to system.

-Brian Cina

-Seeking re-election.

-Has lived in Burlington for 20 years.

-Motivated by experience in clinical social work.

-On the Healthcare Committee, trying to protect Vermonters from federal policy. Passed universal primary care bill in state through committee as first step towards reforming VT healthcare. Looking to make pharmaceuticals for affordable for Vermonters.

-On the Artificial Intelligence Task Force as social worker with expertise in human rights/ ethics. Will update on benefits/risks of AI as far as Vermont's economy, public safety, etc.

-Displeased with Governor's response to education, which pitted local districts against one another.

-Barbara Rachelson

-Seeking re-election for fourth term.

-Former social worker, worked in policy part of social work. Director (CEO) of non-profit.

-Similar interests to Brian and Selene- hearing lots of concern about affordability in Burlington, especially retirees.

-Looking to examine state budget. Vermont pays more for corrections than it does education. Paying a lot without making rehabilitative progress.

-Passionate about consumer protection, towing laws.

-Trying to get labeling on food re: humanely slaughtered meat, free-range chickens, etc.

-Concerned about law enforcement's use of technology re: privacy.

-Serving on Education Committee has made it clear that very few people at state level can explain how school financing works. Ways & Means committee has looked hard at finding new funding avenues- property tax burden is high.

BHS School Commission:

- BHS is in need of some improvements, has been for decades.
- Unreasonable accessibility routes, buildings are highly separated
 - New BHS would be one building, eliminating accessibility issues
- School is not secure: several entrances/exits, hard to keep safe.
- Maintenance issues have been piling up over the years, need to be taken care of.
 - Maintenance money in the future would come from state general education fund.
 - The intent is to budget money towards maintenance/repairs each year
- 3 upcoming tours (Oct 17th at 6 PM , Oct 23rd at 5:30 PM). 23rd will have architect available to answer questions. If these dates do not work, email superintendent who will set up tour.
 - This is a “big ask” of the community. MOU between Mayor, School Board, and community ensures that there will be consistency over the years in implementation.
 - Seven Days article and superintendent’s letter in response to article: how exactly will citizens be taxed per year?
 - BHS is asking for authority to borrow. Borrowing will happen starting in FY20.
 - Debt has already been incurred from smaller projects, BHS will add to that.
 - Impact to taxpayers is sum of those two debts
 - At it’s peak, \$302/year for those with \$250k home.
- Expected completion: 2023.

DPW, Miro Weinberger:

-2018 Clean Water Resiliency Plan

[-\(http://burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/TownHall%20Presentation_9-27-18_0.pdf\)](http://burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/TownHall%20Presentation_9-27-18_0.pdf)

- Proposed work is vital, will help us be better stewards of the lake.
- Proposal has been worked on for numerous years. Product of third-party independent research reports, sophisticated modeling of existing systems.
- The investment covers a lot of different areas, continues some recent trends (green infrastructure)
- Plan is intended to be affordable. City has worked hard to mitigate cost.
- Will take 4-5 years to complete. Projected cost \$5/month to average water consumer.
 - Burlington has 140 miles of pipes underground. 110 of potable water pipes. There used to be no proactive capital funding for repairs, city is now relining 3 miles of water system. Current plan will cover 13 miles, highest priority pipes (high consequence for failure areas). Renewing 13 miles will be significant.
- There is now funding for curbing (1/2 mile- 1 mile per year.) Will help take burden off of greenbelts.
- Plan does not address odor at waterfront.
- Tour of plant, next Thursday Oct 18th, 5 PM, at main water treatment plant at bottom of Maple St.
- “Integrated planning” approach- seeks to coordinate reinvestment in wastewater and stormwater.
- DPW has looked at containment, will continue to keep it in mind. First priority is current project. \$100,000 has been appropriated to examine each plant.

Meeting End 9:20 PM

Minutes taken by Hannah Carpino-CEDO intern