

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
AGENDA/MINUTES
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 7:00 - 9:00 PM
In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street
And Zoom online
<https://zoom.us/j/96245939050>
Webinar ID: 962 4593 9050
Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID= 962 4593 9050

Facilitator: Tom Derenthal

Minutes: Carol Livingston

LINK TO MINUTES:

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6935/files/agenda/9987>

To see NPA meetings on Youtube, go to www.youtube.com/@townmeetingtv.

6:45 Welcome and Food: Sam Ayotte

7:00 - Formal start - Introductions: name, street

Announcements: share events, meetings, activities of interest to Ward 1 community.

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol: 1)Vote on NPA Steering Committee in March - currently 5 members, at least 4 would like to continue - can have 7 SC members; slate next month with same 4 plus anyone else interested, nominated from floor or on slate. SC role: set agendas and run meetings, spend money - mostly on meeting location rental & food. CEDO helps us include city organizations and agencies in our meetings.

2) Resolution that Jonathan is proposing in March: clearer definition of relationship between NPA's and City Councilors, asking for clear time to consider issues before CC votes;

3) Ward 1 Bylaws - City wants us to add a few standard items across all NPA's, link on City page - waiting for CEDO to have clear, consistent language - grievance process, clear non-discrimination policy.

7:10 - Speakout - an opportunity to raise concerns & appreciations about Ward 1

Will Emmons - used to live on Salmon Run; running for mayor; willforbtv.com = website
Chris Haessley - running for mayor; concern about Gateway block project being "pushed through" - not transparent process

Jeanne Keller - concern about proposed MOU between city and UVMMC. What is in the MOU for us? Concern for a lot of "trap doors" in this MOU - concern that proposal is being rushed. Concern that UVMMC not telling all info.

Carter Neubieser - Paul Bierman's concern about Neighborhood Code; has set out questions of concern for folks to look at. Why some areas of city are being upzoned and

others are not. We need more public process to discuss the project.

Sharon Bushor- In 40 years living here, never seen so many project proposals and issues all at the same time. Hard for staff and for residents not able to respond and give feedback to our representatives. Want everyone to take a breath and take care of Burlington.

Fosca Bechtold (CEDO host) - consolidated plan survey is being distributed - directs how Burl decision-makers should apply federal funding.

Jake Schumann- Concern that voters get the needed information in order to make informed decisions about mayoral vote - think about whole community.

Caryn Long - Gateway block - CC meeting - concern about no-bid process.

Jason Stuffle - concern about Neighborhood Code - shift from Residential Low to corridor of Res. High- rich wildlife corridor. If we zone to maximum density then we will lose the wildlife who currently use this greenway.

Joel Kolata - concern about sleeping interrupted by car noise.

7:30 - School Commissioner update - budget, taxes, impact, cuts, adds, issues - Gary Golden

Current Ward 1 open commissioner position: Rida Kori is running. He just finished his degree at Central Connecticut; graduated from Burlington High School.

Presentation about School Budget, on March 5 ballot - LINK to presentation:

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6935/files/agenda/9984>

1) Fixed Costs & Obligations - 5% up in wages; 18% up in health care; rent & facility costs; other costs - food services, transportation

2) Act 127 - 5% cap may be going away; Weighted student formula based on student needs

Fixed costs + Act 127 led to a -2% tax rate

3) BHS/BTC Bond - increase of 8.7% to tax rate

4) Common Level of Appraisal -

50-60% of Burlington is not taxed

CLA says 87.46% of actual value of properties in Burlington

As of today, our tax rate is 13.97% tax rate. Without 5% cap, another 1 and ½% added. Vermont continues to base school resources on property taxes.

Erhard Mahnke: Income sensitivity available for homestead tax - superintendent may have info. Impact on renters - large rental increase.

Gary will post info about these 2 items in FPF.

Michael Long - impact of TIF funding on school budget?

Geoff - what if we vote no? Plan of school bd? 40-50 staff would be cut.

7:45 - City Councilor update - ballot items: carbon fees, tax increase for public safety;

City budget progress - Zoraya Hightower and Tim Doherty

2 ballot items: public safety tax - way to increase overall budget (4% tax increase) in

addition to school tax increase. Making up for shortcomings in general fund, focused on public safety. Gives CC authority to call this amount of money up, not an automatic. There will be budget cuts across other City depts.

BED inner financial workings - separate entity from rest of City

All City officials concerned about tax increases.

Questions: public safety tax will go toward police & fire, name helping motivate vote of support.

Z- currently have increased funds for public safety - CSO and CSL and CARES response; salary increases for police officers; Melo: updating equipment as well

8:10 - Neighborhood Code impact on Ward 1- update & discussion - Meagan Tuttle, city planning director

See slide show: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CityPlanning/NeighborhoodCode> OR <https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6935/files/agenda/9985>

**** Meagan's slideshow for us on 2/14:

Working on variety of changes on zoning guidelines to work on these sites as well as the current residential areas.

All green areas off limit to development - open spaces, parks, intervals, quality of life.

Blue areas = residential - looking at scale and type of housing and change what is allowable.

REs, District maps- current zoning district and proposed. Questions: why areas in ward 1 being changed from rl (residential low density) to rm (residential moderate density). Central issues - existing lot coverage and size of lot coverage - were key to deciding on changing zoning standards. This is what impacted the changes in areas of city from RL to RM.

Impact on stormwater (willard & mansfield) management - as Neighborhood Code (NC) is implemented, amount of impervious area won't be increased if new bldgs are built

What happening in rest of city - main difference between RL and RM is that it will allow a similar variety of changes - opportunities for new homes similar in both districts.

How NC implemented in willard/mansfield - not significantly expanding built areas on lots

Zoraya: this is not a completed plan - this process includes hearings for public feedback and the process can be adjusted as more public comment is given

Michael Long - concern that NC enables multiple bldgs and could be larger bldgs and comply with the code. Meagan: leaving options open so not foreclosing devt options for households.

Goal is to allow flexibility to enable greater use of buildings and land.

Sharon Bushor - pressure from investors/dev'ors in this ward must be factored into the NC plan; since Ward 1 includes UVM and housing pressure is significant.

Sam Ayotte - avoiding sprawl outward, outside Burl is problematic, hurts Burl. 70% carbon from car tires. Roads being built to 11, 11 ½ feet - maybe reclaim space for greenway.

NC is iterative process. Enables younger people to purchase homes. Need to disburse the burden across the community.

Peter Lackowski - question about blue areas in new North End - small houses with large backyards. Why>NNL left out of process? Meagan: NNE is included in the plans -

changes would be made to what is allowed in these neighborhoods as well. Differences:
lot coverage = bigger, less built on, allowing more units in buildings could happen
because of larger lots.

Zoraya: change plan to include wider adaptation of RL and RM over the whole city.

Next steps: 2/20 meeting at Fletcher room at Fletcher Free Library - see website plus 2/26
public hearing by City Council

8:35 - UVMHC MOU (Medical Ctr & City Memorandum of Understanding) - Karen Vastine
(Office of Community Devt) & Dave Keelty (VP of facility planning & devt)

Will be many more opportunities to give feedback - March 7 at Mary Fletcher mtg room at
hospital.

See slide show: <https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6935/files/agenda/9986>

Questions:

Joel Kolata - concern about increasing car use being encouraged - be creative about
how to decrease car usage. Dave K - need to look at mass transit, but many patients coming
from long distances.

Kathy Olwell - why the fast deadline - combined with other UVM and city projects. Karen
- MOU coming to an end at end of year; have been talking with neighbors; Dave - have been
looking at these plans for a few years; trying to respond to increased use of inpatient beds;
trying to stay in Burl.

Katherine Verman - concern about multiple plans in process - overwhelming; question
about housing for employees. Dave & Karen - planning the project at the same time as
employee housing. Long process ahead will take time - public processes will focus on specific
details of plans - over several years. Goal now is to create a framework for planning and
process.

Richard Hillyard - Impact on ward 1 for several projects: BED McNeil plant steam
transport; UVM MOU - housing and UVMHC. Asking for hold off on signing on these projects
until new city administration.

Sharyl Green - recently a patient - and appreciative of the size of the room. Wondering if
sizes of rooms to be reconsidered, given stresses on neighbors and housing needs in the city.
Dave - size in Miller are standard across the country. Treatment in these rooms demands
equipment and best practices. Single-patient rooms are required.

Sophie Quest - location of doctors' offices? Dave - as inpatient needs grow, can't house
all the doctors' offices.

Jean Hopkins - wondering about putting helicopter pad on top of a building. Dave -
looking at ways to integrate into planning.

Serrill Flash - Beta landing? Dave - looking at it.

9:00 - Adjourn

OUR NEXT NPA MEETING IS MARCH 13, 2024 AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE.

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,

Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,

JF Carter Neubieser carterneubieser@gmail.com

Sam Ayotte samantha.ayotte11@gmail.com