

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
AGENDA

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 6:30 - 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: Sam Ayotte

Minutes: Carol Livingston

6:15 - Welcome and Food

6:30 - Formal Start - review agenda

Introductions: name, street

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

Sharon Bushor - City Council passed Neighborhood Code and Planning
Commission has taken up remaining segments. Guidelines need clarification
about the "second structure" component. Sharon urges goin online to Planning
meeting. Planning Committee this summer will work on Part 2 and Secondary
Structure. Committee meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Caryn Long- Charter Change Comm meeting 6/12 and 6/18 at 5 in Bushor room
at City Hall. Also go to School Commission mtg on 6/18 at Hunt Middle School.

Breck Bowen - AARP summer series on policy - this pm and next on housing,
then care-giving - second Wednesday of each month. Breck will post info about
meetings. Also VT Climate Council is updating City Council plan - 6/18 and 6/20 -
Breck will post in Front Porch Forum - missing transportation & housing.

Joel Kolata - 2 big road projects: Winooski Bridge and Barrett Street/Colchester/
Riverside. Roundabout option not approved because of historic house, which is
for sale. Laura Wheelock, Burlington DPW leader: cost and work for roundabout
is beyond possibility.

Carol Livingston - Lori Anderson is the UVM naturalist who plans to host tours of
Centennial Woods and share info about CW this summer. Tim Doherty is absent
tonight because he is attending Charter Change Committee.

Tom Derenthal - Regional planning commission: looking at Main St / East Ave: is not taking a big picture look at regional use and impact, as well as how South Burlington is expanding and UVM's expansion in the area.

Sam Ayotte & Joel Kolata - they bought a condo in Winooski so need to move and won't be part of Ward 1 NPA. They are grateful to us for being so welcoming and committed to working together. Joel appreciated learning a lot about public conduct, showing up, being compassionate and pushing for what you believe. We, in turn, as an NPA are so grateful for Sam's leadership and her cooking for us. Thank you's to us all.

Charlie G: CCTV 40th Anniversary Celebration - June 13 at 5 pm at Intervale Barn

6:40 - Speakout - an opportunity to raise concerns & appreciations about Ward 1

Serrill Flash - concern about COBARI intersection; disappointment about info from Laura Wheelock about why roundabout doesn't work. Serrill is hoping for a safe bridge intersection. Serrill says Laura says double lane is too difficult for a roundabout and there's too much traffic for a single lane, but Serrill feels that slows down traffic and ensures more safety and more transportation types having access. If we cannot build it as we want, then it shouldn't be built. Extreme appreciation for Sharon's attendance at meetings and updating us.

Caryn - question about roundabout. Heard it could work as single lane; Shelburne roundabout is single lane and works. How do we go to meetings and register our interest in the roundabout.

Sharon - state and regional officials: roundabout wouldn't work, costly.

Richard Hillyard - do what works for Burlington.

Sam - concern about trucks being able to fit through the roundabout; they do in Shelburne roundabout. If we contest the nix on roundabout then we need to be prepared to accurately and fully support the position. We need to ensure gutters are put up so they drain away from dumping into the river.

Joel - 80% air pollution coming from cars - need to keep pushing for ways to control traffic.

Sharon - Plowing sidewalks on the bridge can be done with a barrier for pedestrians.

September Ward 1 NPA meeting - Laura Wheelock would be glad to come to Ward 1 meeting in fall to hear our concerns. She is also open to meeting with residents informally. Following is the link to Laura's recent letter updating residents:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-OfJVwTZZc8MnRGb4OoKJhG14nvASwYtGCiOVrjvrE/edit>

Erhard Mahnke - he was recently appointed to the Burlington Planning Commission. He; hopes that going forward there is affordability built in to Neighborhood Code; contact Erhard if interested.

7:10 - City Councilor updates: Tim Doherty and Carter Neubieser

Tim was at the Charter Change Committee meeting so couldn't join us.

Carter:

Budget - transparent process; reliable info; questions answered. Deficit increased by 1 million recently; looking at financial practices review so more accurately tracking money. Concern about tax policies - increasing user fees; what's reasonable for residents. Temporary measures have 1 year length, will give us time to find ways to avoid driving out residents because of costs.

Public safety is a priority - short-term and long-term; support from state hoped for. 87 is cap of officers, but would need to hire 20 new officers. It takes 2 years to train new officers. Reality is we are not going to, never have hired more than 10 new officers each year. \$3 1/2 million (more than previously) is being spent on public safety., City Council and administration trying to meet budget gaps.

In the mix: looking at increasing taxable properties, looking at ways to grow grand list, particularly commercial properties. Commercial properties get major tax breaks compared to residential taxes. Reasonable to look at commercial properties.

Caryn - looking at abandoned properties - fining and taxing property owners who sit on their properties. Look at collecting fines for violations occurring - greenway trash; parking on lawns.

Erhard - Not going to balance budget on fees; look at rebalancing/rolling reappraisals. Need to look at appraisal of commercial properties.

Lisa Lax - how is UVM contributing for services, use of their property/land?

Tom - wondering about efficiencies of BPD; regionalizing police coverage

Martine Gulick - from New North End - constituents concerned about speeding; submitted bill for speeding tech - but whittled down to much less; will resubmit.

Carter - excited about infrastructure work being done around Ward 1.

7:40 - School Commissioner update: Gary Golden

Continuing construction project - some delays in IAA project - geothermal project; bring building up to ADA & safety regulations. Students will be at St Mark's or Sara Holbrook Ctr next year. Rock Pt project - housing 2 alternative programs. BHS - steel going up; fall 2026 entry. BPD incident: Year End Studies program - forensics program at BPD: 2 different agencies miscommunication.

Troy Headrick - major concern that BPD leadership designed a program, approved it, implemented it without knowledge and skill in curriculum and working with students.

7:50 - Burlington Police Dept - Community engagement - Shannon Trammell, Executive Manager of BPD

Shannon had a calendar conflict so will present in the fall.

8:05 - State legislation update - Martine Gulick, Senator, and Troy Headrick, Representative

** See recording for legislation update.

Troy - concerned about uncontested race for representatives again; and available for questions and comments; supportive of Martine and Tanya as senators for our District. Troyheadrick.com - Troy's blog about legislation upcoming.

Major concerns about how Governor Scott governs. Burlington mayor, chief of police, and fire chief wrote Gov asking him to tour the city to see the issues around public safety and overdose reduction before he vetoed the bill to fund an overdose prevention center. The governor didn't respond.

Yield bill is the way the legislators are supposed to pay for the school budgets. In VT the payback is property tax.

Martine discussed our complex education spending, and the money disbursed to private schools is an issue.

Erhard: H829 passed in House, not yet in Senate - money to build more affordable housing. M not aware of what happened - urged E to contact Senator Kesha Ram whose Senate committee work includes housing.

9:00 - Adjourn

OUR NEXT NPA MEETING IS SEPT. 11, 2024 AT THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

We are not meeting in July or August - have a great summer!

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

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