

Meeting NOTES

Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

October 10, 2024 | 6:30-8:30pm | All are welcome



Join in person:

ONE Community Center, 20 Allen Street

Join remotely:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85860854764>

O.N.E. Community Dinner

5:30-6:30pm | Free | Donations encouraged

Facilitator: Erika Faulkner **Notetaker:** Kason Hudman **Attendees:** See last page

Community events and resources mentioned in this meeting		Who shared info
Community Paint Day at 1 Intervale Ave	Oct. 19th 9am-2pm	Gene Bergman - contact Helen Reid to get involved: hsreid@hotmail.com
Newsies, Lyric Theatre Production	Nov. 14-17th	Attendee of NPA

6:30 pm Introductions & Announcements

- Agenda was approved by unanimous consent
- Lauren, Erika, and Kason were introduced as the current steering committee
- Announcement: You should have gotten your ballot if you are registered voter in Burlington. If you have not gotten your ballot, please visit a city clerk
- Announcement: Upcoming lyric theater show, November 14-17

6:40 pm Public Forum (2 minutes max per person)

- Megan Humphrey (she/her), St. Louis Street: Brought welcome flyers about ONE Mutual Aid to the meeting. ONE Mutual Aid is looking for volunteers and fundraisers. She also brought a Downtown Safety guide that includes information about who to call if you see an incident in Burlington, includes information other than the police department
- Brian Pine with CEDO: If you are interested in the South End Coordinated Redevelopment, community forum at Hula on the 24th of October at 5:30. May go for 3 hours, more information is on the city's website.
- Lauren (she/her): The CCRPC, as well as Burlington Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront, are undergoing a Route 127 bike path feasibility study, they are holding 4 meetings over the course of the next year, if you are interested in attending those meetings, speak to

Lauren. As another announcement, the Burlington REIC is seeking applicants for its empowerment grants. If you want more information, speak to Lauren.

- Patrick Johnson: Ward 2 & 3 split, we should try to reunify in a positive fashion that benefits both wards.
- Amy Crenowich (She/Her), Ward 3 Steering Committee: Ward 2 & 3 split, there are people in Ward 3 felt that there are issues in their ward that are not being addressed. That was the main reason that they split into two groups. The ward boundaries are different now. Two-thirds of the current ward boundaries never come to the meetings because they do not live in the Old North End. These are all major reasons that we talked about splitting the groups. If we talked for several months, maybe we could integrate the Ward 2/Ward 3 meetings again. Amy is not averse to joining them together again.
- Joe King, City Councilor for Ward 3: Ward 2 & 3 split, there was a meeting where an item was added to the agenda to split the Ward 2 & Ward 3 meetings. Joe has received nothing but complaints from residents about the split. Joe thinks that by next month, the Ward 2 & Ward 3 meetings will be combined again. Joe thinks that the steering committee acted in a breach of public trust. There will be outreach to ensure that this joint NPA meeting will be inclusive.
- Charlie G: We have a problem that people all over the world would like to have, which is neighborhood political engagement. He welcomes the fact that so many people are politically engaged and he believes that the Ward 2 and Ward 3 NPA steering committees will work it out.

6:50 pm Vote: New NPA SC members

- Erika nominates Charlie G. No other nominations on the floor
- Charlie comments that he believes that the NPAs have been an incredible resource for Burlington in making it such a progressive city. Charlie is more than happy to rejoin the NPA
- Vote for Charlie: **Charlie joins the NPA Steering Committee by unanimous consent**

6:55 pm Ballot Initiative on Burlington Electric Department

- Darren Springer is talking about question number one on our November Ballot. This initiative was approved by the City Council and by the Burlington Electric Department.
- Darren's colleague Emily explains what a revenue bond is. The Electric Department is seeking up to 20M of revenue bonds. Revenue bonds are backed by revenues by the electric department, they are not backed by the city, they do not affect the property tax and they are repayable. BED has used this form of financing many times in the past. We are asking for a Revenue Bond to fund the Net Zero Capital tranche.
- Darren mentions that the voters of Burlington approved the first in the country bond to transition to Net Zero renewable energy. They issued that bond at the end of 2022, and they will spend through that bond by the end of 2025. Our electrical peak is in the summertime, this bond will provide the infrastructure to support the increase in electricity usage as people move over to heat pumps, electric buses, expanding the EV charging network, etc. Will match the federal funds to have 200 new EV charging

stations in Burlington. Darren says that the BED wants to make Burlington one of the easiest places to drive an electric vehicle.

- Emily explains how the funds will be spent. Over 80% will go to the grid, 9% will go to the mobile generation plants, 4% for fleet EVs, and just a small amount to flex load management. This is expanding the usage of the electric distribution system. If we were to try to fund our capital plan and maintain the amount of cash that we need, we would need a 13% rate increase, whereas with the bond, there is only a 2% rate pressure. We are carefully watching the interest rate environment. More rate cuts are projected. If the bond is approved this November, they will work with financial advisors to know when to actually issue the bond.
- Dawn Ellis, question: Dawn is asking about if the electric grid is able to provide our basic needs as heat and things transfer to electric. How are we doing with access and inclusion, what are the barriers to it? Especially in the city. There are barriers to buying electric vehicles, are we helping people who don't itemize their taxes buy electric vehicles? What about cyclists? Are we reducing the barriers to using the charging stations? Batteries don't last as well in the winter, radius of travel goes down. Are we working in partnership with other electric departments? Montpelier? Middlebury? Are there parts of this plan that are reducing the barriers?
- Darren answers, BED has their own rebates for new and pre-owned electric vehicles, and used electric vehicles are often affordable. The federal credit is sometimes available at the point of sale, and dealerships will sometimes put them in the lease. Burlington Electric specifically offers rebates at the point of sale, and income-qualified customers get a bigger rebate. You can get almost half off a new vehicle. It is cheaper per mile to drive an electric vehicle, but Darren agrees that we need to reduce barriers to get into the vehicle. BED is looking to get charging stations every 50 miles in Vermont. BED is looking at building various kinds of chargers, including chargers for on-street parking. There are a lot of apps that are helpful if you are driving an electric vehicle and can direct you to a particular charger. It's a learning process for anybody who is taking it on as a driver. EVs handle well in the snow. BED is trying to address a lot of these barriers.
- Jacob Flanigan, question: BED is talking about expanding the capacity, is there any talk of getting more generation in the city?
- Darren answers, this particular bond is more about updating the infrastructure, but there is talk of eventually expanding the generation through solar and other renewable sources. We have the most solar per capita east of the Mississippi. There is more we can do with battery storage. We are in the market for more renewable energy, mainly for hydropower and wind. We are constantly looking to buy more renewable energy for BED customers.
- Charlie G, question: How is BED helping other communities in Vermont, is BED helping other communities?
- Darren answers, Yes, Burlington helps through mutual aid when there are outages in other parts of the state. Burlington has few outages, BED sends line crews out to other communities when they have longer outages. BED works with Efficiency Vermont to

help other communities when they can, they are somewhat limited by the fact that BED is funded by Burlington rate payers, but they do help and exchange ideas.

- Trav Fryer, question, is there any work being done on consolidating lines?
- Darren answers, yes, about half of our infrastructure is underground, but when the city is doing a big streets project, they try to move a lot of it underground. It's really good to underground to make the system more resilient to storms and outages, even if it is more challenging in some ways. But yes, they look at what projects are happening in the city and move underground when those happen.
- Dawn Ellis question, in the ballot initiative, there are no new pieces that are going to address individual access? Is that correct?
- Darren answers, yes, this is mainly about infrastructure, however, by doing the bond, we are creating more opportunities to provide incentives because we don't have to spend as much on the infrastructure.
- Dawn Ellis, follow-up, since there are different entities approaching it differently, are you looking at other approaches, like the Green Mountain Power energy wall initiative? Bristol and others are building free energy charging stations, is BED looking at that?
- Darren answers, BED is regulated by the state, there are different models, with different service territories. Green Mountain Power will provide incentives to put in a power wall, but this may be due to outages, BED hasn't had a lot of interest in that program because BED doesn't have as many outages. But if someone was interested in putting in a power wall, BED would work with them. BED has one of the lowest rates in the state, but they are not allowed to give it away for free, due to the public utility commission. BED has to charge a rate, but it is one of the lowest in the state. Home chargers get a much lower rate if you have a home charger, and the on-street parking sites they are building with chargers is something BED is looking at providing at a cheaper rate
- Albi, Ph.D in electrical engineering, question, most people don't have EVs, what other initiatives does this bond help with for people who don't have EVs?
- Darren answers, BED is also helping customers with heat pumps to lower their usage during peak hours to lower rates. They are also working on load control with these grants. Anything that can reduce usage can reduce rates, they are working on providing that for BED users. Switch & Save program, helps affordable homes switch out old water heaters at low or no cost. If you want to move to heat pump or induction heating, BED will help lower the cost.

7:25 pm Ballot Initiative on Police Oversight Committee

- Gene Bergman digitally describes parts of the ballot initiative, which will be question 2 on the November ballot. Gene mentions that this issue of police oversight has been with the City Council for a while, including a vote in 2023 that was defeated. More people in Ward 2 supported it than in any other ward. However, during the course of that, there was a push to make sure that the initiative would not drop if it was defeated. Councilor Ben Traverse & Gene Bergman worked together to work on a new initiative, with the Police Commission. Gene, Councilor Sarah Carpenter, and Councilor Tim Doherty then

used the comments of the Police Commission to produce the current proposal which is on the November ballot. We as a community have been debating this issue for three or four years, this is the result of that community collaboration. Gene is very supportive of the ballot initiative.

- Councilor Melo Grant says that everybody should vote for this, though she wishes that it did more. Opposition to oversight and accountability continues to be very strong. She has been pushing against the city councilor culture. Councilor Grant continues to be discouraged by the police chief and the police union, and how they feel about this process. The reputation about working in Burlington is not due to politics or protest, but because of the culture in the Police Department. Councilor Grant thinks that we need oversight and accountability and a police department culture change. The central district in the past has been overpoliced and underserved. We have to encourage the police department to think differently.
- Jacob Flanigan, question, what is it exactly we are being asked on?
- Melo Grant, answers, essentially it would move forward this idea of creating an independent panel for police accountability, if there is a disagreement between the police chief and the police commission. This would create a body to adjudicate disputes between the police chief and the police commission.
- Gene answers, what you are voting on, is that you are going to put in the charter that the city must represent the diversity of the community. You are embedding for the first time the authority of the police commission to monitor and manage the police department. They will have the right to audit and monitor the police department. It makes it so the police commission can initiate investigation changes. It sets up the framework though which things can happen. But most importantly, it embeds in our charter that the police commission has the right to get information. Gene thinks they did a very good job of listening to all voices that were advising the councilors, including the police unions. What you are voting for in essence is that the police commission has authority to oversee the police department.
- Charlie G, question, if there is a disagreement between the police commission and police chief about a disciplinary action, it goes to a special committee?
- Gene Bergman, answers, only if there is a $\frac{2}{3}$ disagreement on the police commission, which is a safeguard.
- Charlie G, follow-up, I think a lot of people are suggesting that the final special committee should be decided on ahead of time.
- Gene Bergman, answers, we are having meetings about what the qualifications for what that would look like, this law isn't likely to enter into effect until July 1st if it is passed, so there is time to figure out what that special committee would look like. Gene is confident that this work will happen if it passes, and it will happen after it passes but before it goes into effect.
- Melo Grant, answers, what we are doing is not unique. There are oversight and accountability bodies all throughout this country. They take different forms, but people all across the country are taking action to make things better. The police department shouldn't be saying that everyone needs to respect them without taking responsibility for themselves. When the police department says that it is a partnership between the community and the department, but they never say how the community can work in partnership with the department, and the department denies the protests, that is a

problem.

- Andre, question, what is the process for deciding who would sit on this oversight board?
- Gene Bergman answers, there would be a selection by the mayor and the City Council president. However, people being nominated by the public would be very important. The lived experience of people is not being valued. Part of the issue is trying to get voices that call on us to open up the process. Gene would love someone to send an email to the council to open up the process on the panel selection.
- Melo mentions that there are still push backs for including more voices on selections like this. Elections matter. We had a movement but a lot of people got burned out. We need to reenergize to put this over the line.

7:55 pm City Councilors and School Commissioners Updates | 15 min+

- School commissioner update, these updates are much more cheerful. Mostly construction updates. One of the things that happened last week was the placement of the last big beam of the high school. IAA construction updates, the students are in the two new locations while construction is going on, they are adding geothermal wells, they are making the building ADA compliant. Pre-K is now at every elementary school in Burlington. Eagle Bay Academy at rock point, construction updates, some problems with a bridge but otherwise productive updates. There is a new technical program for students at the Burlington Airport, should be done by the end of the 2025-26 school year. It is almost school budget season. They received notice from the governor that they have to act very prudently. Burlington School District is hiring. There is probably about 20 vacancies right now.
- Lauren Ebersol, question, is the high school on schedule?
- Commissioner answer, no, it is on its new schedule, it has been delayed a semester. But it is still going well.
- Gene Bergman announcement, community paint day at 1 Intervale Ave, they received a City Council grant to paint the building. Helen Reid on Spring St was instrumental in putting this together, contact her to get involved.
- Melo Grant introduces the new Burlington city website, including the new press releases and updates section. Melo also introduces the agenda button that takes you directly to Civic Clerk and the various city meetings and agendas. Melo also talks about the next Public Safety Committee meeting, which will be held on October 24th. She hopes that the next meeting is as informative as these meetings tend to be. There will be a presentation from the Burlington Fire Department and the Burlington Police Department.
- Melo also gives updates on her votes on the resolutions brought before the City Council. She explains that many resolutions do not get followed up on. She explains that the vote on the police officer cap was mostly symbolic, as the cap is not being met as it is anyway.

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8:28 pm Raffle drawing + Adjourn!

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 10, which will focus on the November elections.

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COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date: 10/10/24

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD 2 or WARD 3	Community Dinner	NPA	Add to email list?
LISA	CANNON	lcannon2012@gmail.com	2	☒	☒	☐
Brian	Pertin		2	☒	☐	☐
ANNA	KREMER		3	☒	☐	☐
Joe	Lambert	lambertkj@gmail.com		☒	☐	☒
Emily	Tompkins			☒	☐	☐
Praddy	Reagan			☒	☐	☐
Nate	Del Prete		2	☒	☒	☐
Hayden	Bosha		2	☒	☐	☐
Veronica	Magner		2	☒	☐	☐
Kid	Francis		2	☒	☐	☐
Iris	Johnson		3	☒	☐	☐
Theo	Krawczyk		2	☒	☐	☐
Rachel	Hapkins		2	☒	☐	☐
Dicky	Rabin		2	☒	☐	☐
Beckie	Taylor		2	☒	☐	☐
Alden	Archanbean		2	☒	☐	☐
Binti				☒	☐	☐
MOM				☒	☐	☐
Helen	Asawa			☒	☐	☐
Charcellie	Ndayishimiye			☐	☐	☐
CHRIS	STARR		3	☒	☒	☐
Charlie	Grannem		2	☒	☒	☐
Hayley	Shinn		2	☒	☐	☐
Alby	Peener		3	☒	☒	☐
Wale	Mark			☐	☒	☐
Janet	Picks		1	☒	☒	☐
Jean	Waltz		2	☐	☒	☐
				☐	☐	☐
				☐	☐	☐
				☐	☐	☐

COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date: 10/10/24

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD 2 or WARD 3	Community Dinner	NPA	Add to email list?
Maya	Flanigan		2	☐	☐	☐
Jared	Flanigan		2	☒	☒	☐
Enika	Flanigan		2	☒	☒	☐
Melie	Flanigan		2	☒	☒	☐
Nick	Brown		3	☒	☐	☐
Ross	Dotter		3	☒	☒	☐
JUSTINE	KANNI VICK		3	☒	☒	☐
Pat	Martinez	mimdamcadenis47@gmail.com	3	☒	☐	☒
Sharon	Webster		2	☒	☐	☐
Dan	Carr		2	☒	☐	☐
Dan	MERZER		2	☒	☐	☐
Karen & Son	Zahn		2	☒	☐	☐
Jessie	McCarthy	jessie.mccarthy000@gmail.com	3	☒	☒	☒
Danielle	Flanigan	dani.flanigan07@gmail.com	3	☒	☒	☒
Wesley	Khos		3	☐	☐	☐
Noah	Patullo	Noah Patullo@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☒
Maya	Balassa			☒	☐	☐
Sam	Kilfield			☒	☐	☐
Schuyler	Kaufman		3	☒	☐	☐
Catherine	Wessel		2	☒	☐	☐
Will	Durkin		2	☒	☐	☐
Megan	Quinn		2	☒	☒	☐
Vishni	Libson		2	☒	☒	☐
MIKE	TODD			☒	☐	☐
Karen	Kroeger			☒	☐	☐
Max	Licker		2	☒	☐	☒
Karen	Lambert	k.lambert11@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☐
Anahey	Law		2	☒	☒	☐
ASHA	King		3	☒	☐	☐
ASHA	Yous	ASHA 2023		☒	☐	☐

COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date:

10/10/27

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD 2 or WARD 3	Community Dinner	NPA	Add to email list?
Melly	Bock	mellybock@gmail.com		☒	☐	☒
Amu	Prenowitz	aprenowitz@gmail.com	3	☒	☒	☒
Oliver	Scotch	oscotch57@gmail.com		☒	☒	☒
Hilary	Martin	hilarymartinvt@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☐
Harriet	Sundue			☐	☐	☐
Carol	Wooster	Carolannwooster@gmail.com	2	☒	☒	☐
Greg	Humphrey		2	☒	☒	☐
Edna	Kwib		3	☒	☐	☐
Mark			6	☒	☐	☐
Mark	Buttinger			☒	☐	☐
Ma	Stiles	meilistokes@gmail.com	2	☒	☒	☒
Dal	noiza		3	☒	☐	☐
Giselle	Glaspie		2	☒	☐	☐
Dan	Mayer	dannem629@gmail.com	3	☒	☒	☐
Maren	Parker-Burns	maren.parkerburns@gmail.com	3	☒	☒	☐
Emily	Semaya	emilysemaya1@gmail.com	2	☒	☒	☐
Sail	Ylger	jl	2	☒	☒	☐
ELIZA	ARCHINCELO		2	☒	☐	☐
Chertel	Shindovaly		2	☒	☐	☐
Fern	Barrionto	loefacarrionto@gmail.com		☒	☒	☒
Chris	Mai	Chasmai.92@gmail.com	3	☒	☐	☐
Gillian	Hasen			☒	☐	☐
Nguyen	Quarachi			☒	☐	☐
Joanne	Ramirez		3	☒	☐	☐
Steph	Holdridge		3	☐	☐	☐
Artson	KEECH		3	☒	☐	☐
Jessica	Morris		2	☒	☐	☐
Daniel	Collins		3	☒	☐	☐
Gerry	Glover		3	☒	☐	☐
Dawn	Thurman		2	☒	☒	☐