

Wards 4&7 NPA Meeting
November 20 2024
Miller Center

6:30: Intros

6:40: Open Forum

- Linday Looney: North End Food Pantry with an update: this Sunday is a winter clothing drive from 9-11am. There's a need for warm clothing. Food drives this month; M&T Bank on North Ave is collecting until Dec 22. Troop 650 Boy Scouts will be collecting food, on the 7th and 14th at their Christmas tree sale. As far as picking up food: non-perishables as well as fresh stuff will all be inside on Saturday and Sunday morning will now
- Sarah with BPD announces Community Academy in the new year: a way for community to learn about the department. 6pm-9pm on Wednesdays. Dec 13 is deadline for applications. Runs Jan 8-late February. BPD is open to hearing from each ward on how the department can better engage with each neighborhood. Reach out to Sarah directly or through the NPA Steering Committee.
- Sarah Morgan with Office of City Planning: PlanBTV New North End: the first scale plan for this neighborhood. Goal of the plan is to create a long-term vision for NNE, to guide future growth and infrastructure investments. Topics: Identity of NNE, transportation and mobility options, balancing green and built space, and others. Dec 17, from 6-7:30, there will be a neighborhood visioning workshop. A chance to talk with neighbors and share ideas foHoping to update at a future NPA meeting. The official launch of planBTV North End will come down the road. Website: burlingtonvt.gov/planBTV/nne
- Heineberg Community Center has community calendar and made over \$3,000 at holiday bazaar last weekend
- Holiday Market here at the Miller Center on December 14, from 11-3: come do your holiday shopping here!
- A question for School Board member Monika Ivancik: when is next school budget meeting or forum? Monika answers: next meeting is Tues Dec 3 at Hunt Middle School. A lot about the budget will be presented there. Starts at 6pm.
- Next NPA meeting is on the 3rd Wednesday of Dec: Dec 18, due to Christmas holiday. This will be posted on FPF as well.

Owen Milne: Community Sailing Center with a presentation about upcoming plans

- Provides overview of Sailing Center mission, as well as some of the opportunities and programs that they provide
- Used to provide a storage area for people's kayaks/canoes/paddleboards, right on the waterfront all summer. But this went away when the Moran plan went away. People were mad about that service going away.
- Now they are hoping to bring this service back, but in a new location: just north of their building, in an area that's part of the Urban Reserve
- Currently, they are seeking questions or concerns that people have about bringing this back, as well as ideas about storage that they haven't thought about yet

7:07: Skip to invitation to vote on new nominations for Steering Committee, since presenter for Public Works hasn't arrived yet and meeting is running ahead of schedule. Steering Committee members provide summary and description of work; no new nominations.

7:12: Invitation for Ideas/Presentations for future NPA Meetings:

- Someone suggests a member of the school board come and present the budget
- Councilor Carpenter notes that there will likely be four new charter changes on the ballot on March, and that she hopes to come and present on these. She also seconds the idea for presentation of school budget ahead of the March Town Meeting Day vote.
- Someone requests an update from BPD, including update of hiring officers of BPD
- Councilor Carpenter suggests a tutorial on how to use City website, including the website that focuses on police reports and data
- Someone suggests that the BPD representative who is currently here present on these topics now; facilitator notes that there is no space on the agenda for this tonight

7:17: Burlington Water Resources: Presenter Megan Moir from Public Works

- Work completed with previous bonds voted on in 2016 and 2018: new pipes and wastewater and stormwater replacement pipes
- Fixed things that broke in 2018
- Based on report card from past years, 21.3million dollars was invested and now there are more things in the A category, but others remain in grade levels of C, D and F
- New infrastructure coming ahead: more housing to address affordability and lack of housing means more toilets, which means more water coming into the system
- Main goals
 - Provide reliable and sustainable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services to current and future BTW
 - Protect the lake by meeting/exceeding water quality improvement requirements
- Water priorities: they are asking for money just to address needs that will not last more than 3 or 4 years
- Numbers may exceed costs of what the new high school costs: a drinking water bond of 21m, and a clean water bond (Lake Bond) of 190m
- City Council has decided to put wastewater into another funding basket
- Why now? Likelihood of failure for certain critical assets has become too high, Also, new permit requires implementation of additional phosphorous reduction by early 2030. And, new housing projects on the horizon, as soon as 2025 and 2028
- Main Plant: historically, plants were updated every 20 years. The plant on Riverside Dr has not been updated in 30 years
- More than 50% of systems are at a C- grade, with some at a D grade
- The costs of these improvements are in line with comparable projects in other cities and towns around the state
- Updates to the reservoir and pump station: these are critical drinking water infrastructure, as well as critical to getting water to higher-elevations places like the

hospital. When there is a review of the pump house building, 65% of systems are at C or worse, and 42% are at grade D. Current estimate: \$9.75m

- Water rates: typical user pays about \$60/month for drinking water, sewer and storm. There will be 107% rate increase over 5 years. Megan acknowledges the size of this. Things have been done to mitigate this. They also haven't factored in yet the very likely increase in usage that would help bear the load of the increase. They also haven't included the impact fee that they would apply for, which would help rate payers.
- Megan assumed that our rates are higher than nearby communities, but she found that communities that have combined sewer systems are more than ours: our bill is less than the median for similar VT communities.
- Some additional options to mitigate the cost of this, which Public Works is looking into, including affordable programs to reduce cost for lowest-income folks, including elders. But these don't often make it to renters, because programs go straight to landlords who can factor it into the rent. But Seattle has a program that somehow lets public works give money to the electric department, who gives a credit to the household occupant. BTV hopes to look into something like this so that savings go straight to the renter rather than the landlord.
- Lots of outreach happening now and in the future. In January, they will present the plan to the City Council to get approval to get the bond question onto the Town Meeting Day ballot.
- If it passes that TMD vote, then it goes back to Council again for more on-ramp in order to get the loan.
- There's a way to schedule a tour of the wastewater treatment plants, and can reach out to Megan for details

8:00: Adjourn