

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
April 9, 2025
MINUTES

In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street
And Zoom online: Webinar ID: 962 4593 9050
Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID = 962 4593 9050
Search for Ward 1 NPA Recordings at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@townmeetingtv/search?query=ward%201%20npa>

Facilitator: Selene Colburn

Recorder: Carol Livingston

6:15 - Welcome and Food

6:30 - Formal Start - review agenda
Introductions: name, street

All Attendees names listed here:

Sam Doherty, Allie Schacter, Richard Hillyard, Troy Headrick, Rob Gutman, Sharon Bushor, Marian Price, Gail Rosenberg, Peter Lackowski, Sharyl Green, Catherine Bock, Jeanne Keller, Caryn Long, Lisa Lax, Carol Livingston, Mark Demers, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Angie Chapple-Sokol, Tom Derenthal, Dave Cawley, Kathryn Vermann, Lyn Severance, Carter Neubieser, Brian Cina, Evan Litwin, Erhardt Mahnke, Shawny Corey, Charlie Giannoni, Gretchen Platt
Online: Sophie Quest,, Serrill Flash

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

List announcements with meeting details, links, etc.

Brian: House Health Care Committee

Summary of **House Education Bill**:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2026/H.454>

Full bill language:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/House%20Appropriations/Bills/H.454/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.454~Julia%20Richter~Fiscal%20Note~4-8-2025.pdf>

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

- Free Speech resolution being introduced to City Council Monday, 4/28.
- DOGE/Federal cuts: people losing jobs, and dying due to careless decisions
- Friendly reminder - lock your cars
- Jeanne Keller & Martha Lang filed appeal about UVMMC parking project, given amicus status, access to all material and can ask questions through

Green Mountain Care Board; unclear whether reconstruction needed.
Email Jeanne for updates: jeannekeller2007@gmail.com

7:00 City Council update - Carter Neubieser, Allie Schacter

Carter:

- Fire chief LaChance is retiring in June- confident in continuity of transition
- Chief Shawn Burke started his work as BPD chief week
- Carter doing lit drop of what his work has been this year
- Free Speech Resn upcoming CC meeting: concern about detentions of foreign students at universities across the US.
- Upcoming info about which committees Carter & Allie will be on - do know Carter elected to Board of Finance.
- Carter grateful for discussions with Allie and working together
- Allie - committed to being a team member, collaboration, working well with Carter
- Mark Barlowe leading Democratic caucus; Gene Bergman leading Progressives

Open questions/answers:

- Concern about news about texting during City Council meetings;
- Any way to give municipal tax aid to people struggling with tax bills who are on fixed income? State level has this component, but municipal does not.
Erhard - education funding may change - under \$47,000 there is break for both education tax at state & municipal levels.
- Recycling concern - increasing residential costs
Allie - don't want to continue to burden residential taxes;
Carter - do need to cut costs, but concerned this is not the place; in long term look at municipal trash & recycling
- Need for City Councilors to understand fully the issue of impact fees & how adjusting these fees helps save money
Impact fees discussed at Planning Commission - important to look at impact fees creatively - especially parks
Importance of strong inclusionary zoning requirements
- City administration & councilors looking at ways to save money: combining departments to avoid duplication but need to invest in housing, solid waste
Health care costs increase city burden
- 2 highest categories of city costs = retirement and interest on money borrowed.
- Strengthen, clarify parking fines enforcement (only enforce if debt is \$2500)
- UVM MOU - impact on housing - important issue for Ward 1
Allie - top priority is UVM MOU - hopeful that can talk in fall

7:30 School Commissioner update - Gary Golden, Matt Price

Gary:

- New-principal search at SA and Edmunds Elementary
- Concern about governor's education funding plan; Chitt. Co. too big to consolidate
- State House legislators voting Thursday, 4/10, on proposed ED bill (see links above)

Matt:

- letter sent by VT Dept of Ed to all districts to certify Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- BSD has done a good job of managing funds, have some reserve funds; if we lose federal money, there will be major staff cuts

7:40 Proposed Burlington History & Culture Ctr - Gail Rosenberg

History and Culture Center: <https://burlingtonhistoryandculturecenter.org/>

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHCMsurvey>

Fundraiser: April 17th, 6pm @ Burlington Beer Company -

- Organization generated from community, not top down
- Center is working with current historical & culture centers
- Connections to people in Ward 1: Ohavi Zedek & lost mural; Sisters of Mercy; George Walter Williams = first Vter of color graduate from UVM med. school
- Don't have physical space at this point - can do virtual tours, online tours

8:00 Transportation Demand Management action plan (TDM) - Charles Dillard, City Planner

*** Charles' Slide show

- TDM = non- infrastructural ways for people to move around BTV - programs & services
- TDM action plan = result of study by city, requested by City Council - esp with parking changes arising from development
- "Neighborhood TDM plans" - have hub in neighborhood with bike library, stroller library, place to deliver packages. BTV looking at possibilities for our neighborhoods. Sharon: look at how to augment pedestrian use.
- Winooski and So Burl working on own TDM plans.
- How can we de-incentivise students having cars on campus?
- Concern about Residential Parking Program component in TDM = city "renting" empty neighborhood parking spaces. Residents very concerned; TEUC (Transportation, Energy, Utilities committee) of City Council decided this is not a priority right now;
- City Planning Dept (& Charles) would like to work on a neighborhood plan for our area once the UVMMC 18-month plan is completed
- City Housing target - middle target = 7,120 new homes in next 25 years (2050). Have built 77 homes/yr for last 3 yrs - \$500,000 median cost. Target requires 285/yr South end project - 1500 homes; Neighborhood code housing - 100'smore; Cambrian Rise & City Place scheduled for 100 more units each
- Look at regional planning land use map: May 19 - close of public comment on the map

CCRPC Housing Plan: This has housing target and land use:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-regional-plan/ecos-engagement/>

8:30 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

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