

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025  
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 Doherty

Recorder: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

6:15 - Welcome and Food

6:30 - Formal Start - review agenda

Introductions: name, street

Sam Doherty

Rob Gutman

Gretchen Platt

Dave Cawley

Carter Neubieser

Katherine Verman

Angie Chapple-Sokol

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

Carol Livingston

Caryn Long

Mark Demers

Gary Golden

Matt Price

Kathy Olwell

Mark Leopold

Peter Lackowski

Sharyl Green

Shawny Corey

Charlie Gianonni

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

- CJ Knudsen of Lake Monsters: summer 2025 schedule. Lake Monsters are in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League (FCBL). More information here:

<https://vermontlakemonsters.com/>

playoffs) First game 5/31 :Last regular season game 8/9 (plus a week if team makes the

35 Home Games

3 Fireworks nights: 6/21; 7/18; 8/2

Kids eat free every Wednesday!

Fletcher Free Library has free passes to games! <https://fletcherfree.org/>

15 Lake Monsters games on TV!!! <https://vermontlakemonsters.com/wyci/>

Free parking at Trinity and Gut (with free shuttle, too!)

Lake monsters have given \$270K back to the community!

### **Announcements**

Jonathan moves and Caryn seconded spending any NPA remaining funds on FPF, TMT, and sound system - Unanimous

Straw Poll questions about the new merged FPF neighborhood (Old North End). Small number of voters, but consensus was that folks preferred the old neighborhood (ONE East), would rather be connected with Centennial and/or Downtown, and feel ONE forum is too large:

1 person supported the current ONE configuration

9 people prefer the old configuration

9 people are unhappy with the current configuration

6:45 - **Speakout** - an opportunity to raise concerns & appreciations about Ward 1 community  
Speakout got blended into remaining discourse.

7:05 - **School Commission update** - Gary Golden and Matt Price

Senate passed a version of Education bill slanted towards privatization. Weighting changes will be detrimental to Burlington, but extra money is included for smaller districts; lunch funding, after school activities will be affected.

Medicaid decisions will impact schools

Will go to Conference Committee to reconcile large differences between versions

7:20 - **City Council update** - Carter Neubieser

Health Care costs, UVMMC and Pharma, are the biggest drivers of tax increases

Very difficult times. Spending philosophy over the past several years did not consider operational efficiencies or program effectiveness. Tax increases have been used to cover gaps

37 of 100 new positions at City were funded with one-time moneys

Need to inventory and evaluate what we do

All cut are painful; Some cuts are more straightforward – high cost for small benefit

Consolidation of departments (CEDO/BWD) and internal services (IT) are opportunities

Tax Fairness group working on potential charter changes to create a more progressive tax structure.

RIFs are rare for the City; We do not have robust processes for some things. Some RIFs were not well handled by management.

Estimate \$1M reduction in gross receipts due to less tourism from Canada

Carter's update led into a discussion of the budget, Reductions in Force, city employees and service to the community

Comments:

With PRW/BCA cuts, how will the City serve kids this summer?

Cuts are hard, but can't give everyone everything

Understand cuts, but unhappy with how the cuts were made – ill will

Progressive taxing is OK, but what about growing the Grand List?

RIF'd staff close to retirement?

Little things at the neighborhood level can help

Invest EAP?

What can we as an NPA do to "make things right"?

Letter of appreciation to those who lost their jobs? To all employees?

NPA agreed that Steering Committee will broadcast a request for stories or expressions of appreciation to collect and send to folks who lost their jobs and publicly acknowledge our support for all employees. No employee's name will be publicly disclosed.

~~7:40 – City/NPA relationship: clarification in Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization (CDNR) draft document – Carter Neubieser and Jonathan Chapple-Sokol~~

~~8:15 – Facilitator led discussion soliciting ideas for future NPA meeting topics, plus suggestions of ways to get involved in the neighborhoods over the summer~~

8:30 - Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

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