

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Wednesday, November 12, 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

Minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IVimXXLFnE>

6:15 - Welcome and Food (Namaste Kitchen Express)

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

Rob Gutman

Carol Livingston

Angie Chapple-Sokol

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

Mark Demers

Allie Schachter

Carter Neubieser

Katherine Verman

Peter Lackowski

Kathy Olwell

Troy Hendrick

Gretchen Platt

Coleen Clark

Breck Bowden

Diana Arnell

Sarah Morris

Erhard Mahnke

Sophie Quest

Cindy Cook

Sam Doherty

Julie Springer

Richard Hilliard

Erick Barbic

Lisa Lax

Sharon Bushor

Tom Derenthal

Chris Haessly

Catherine Bock

Gary Golden

Eric Timlin

Sharyl Green

Evan Horne

Matt Price

Karen Long

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

Carol Livingston: announcement Selena Colburn had to step down and acknowledge that it is no small thing for each of you to come to a community gathering especially in the current climate; thank you all for coming and sharing your energy.

Speak out:

Richard Hillyard: Caryn Long sends her regrets she can't be here, but she wanted to share her concerns for traffic safety, especially bikers not stopping at stop signs.

Sharon Bushor: tomorrow night Planning Commission meeting 2 public hearings 1-open space, we never got to hear and were only ward not to hear, missing an opportunity, have Schmanska park and open spaces with the institutions, zoning amendment are fast paced and she's concerned about that; and 2- minor amendments—affordable housing has been postponed but encouraging us to read up.

Chris Haesley: from Ward 3, issues of the Green Mountain transit, recent cuts to buses, in particular the #11 and this has impacted downtown and college students, want services restored to Medical Center, Tilley Drive and airport. Allie Schachter added that she's heard concern too about the #11 busline and there is a place to voice this on the GMT website.

General GMT email info@ridegmt.com.

Carol brought up students on bikes at a meeting at UVM, UVM used to provide reflective gear to students.

Kathy Olwell: on campus why don't they give out rules and reflective gear at Davis Center, Omar spoke to this and there are free bike locks and perhaps helmets, reflectors is a great idea too. And Gail also said they do give out reflectors, Local Motion rules, helmets too. She is working with sustainability about having a table in the Davis Center.

Rob Gutman: Local Motion published a rule that people on bikes, when the pedestrian crossing light is in their favor, can go through a red light.

Sharon: in the past she had this written in UVM so can look for it

Evan: as a graduate student he saw UVM doing a lot toward this, but can only do so much

Sharyl: commending students using the crosswalks well

Jonathan: Bikers may need to be taught more about bike safety, education needed for bikers

Breck: confusing with the new law Rob referenced because are bikers following the pedestrian rules or car rules?

Troy: other states have used other rules about bikes, referenced Rob's rule, Idaho stop

7:00 - Steering Committee - organization for 2025-2026

- NPA meeting vote on 2025-2026 proposed budget - Jonathan Chapple-Sokol \$3,000/year budget from City Councilors for each NPA. Our spending: space \$750/year, \$1500 on food; is this budget approved? Breck asked if there are other administrative costs? Yes some with signs, Front Porch Forum, etc. Katherine praised the planting at the flag pole and its community building within the NPA. Sharon wondered what we can do with the budget, picnic or

help those in need. Did have a BBQ at Schmanska in the past using these funds is a possibility again. Vote to approve budget passed.

- Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board. We need a Ward 1 representative - Rob Gutman: Need a volunteer, meetings will be February and March, this past year helped with grants to STEPS, Champlain Housing Trust, and ONE Community Center in the past. It's a great group of people doing good work. 100K to give out in grants.

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/251/Current-Applications>

- Status of NPA Resolution - Jonathan Chapple-Sokol: Resolution passed City Council to get clarity for what NPA's do and have mutual trust between NPA's and the city. Key points: 1- if need another support person, an NPA representative would be on the hiring committee, every NPA will present 3 issues to the city that we strongly encourage the city to vet in front of the NPA's. ie Development MOU with UVM.

7:20 - City Council update - Carter Neubieser & Allie Schachter:

Carter: 1- thinking about his first term, asking CEDO ways to generate money to housing trust fund without raising taxes, one of those is tax on short term rentals (62 in the city now) 9% of the gross revenue goes to the city, 7% to the housing trust fund and 2% to general fund but starting FY 2027 the full 9% will go to the housing fund. Carter is running for reelection, running on specifically affordability, what are strategies that we can use now without increasing taxes or strain on general fund. Again it is short term rental (generated 8.6 million in 2025) suggesting we double the tax to 18%.

2. UVM housing conditions in the dorms; students shared stories during council meeting, are not good. UVM is not kept to same standard as other landlords and can self certify that they are meeting housing codes. UVM's response (with the previous president) was city doesn't have the authority to govern their dorms and enforce housing codes.

Allie: advocate for getting full 9% but was hard to move the 2% from the general fund for this coming year, city's credit rating was bumped up and this means we can take out debt at a lower rate, especially for bonds and infrastructure. Exciting! Charter change will help allow for bigger debt limit to 5 million and then 10. And reduce tax burden on lower value homes in our community through homestead tax reduction.

And a new director of parks, moving from CA and focus on recreation, unanimous appointment of him.

Lastly, recycling conversation, do we continue to have the city operate it or have an outside hauler. Using an outside hauler would be expensive to get started, will be reviewing in December. Allie would like to integrate trash, compost and recycling.

Kathy: hope you are considering having the city do all 3.

7:40 - UVM Office of Student and Community Relations (OSCR) - Gail Shamphois, Omar Talhouk

OSCR's staff and Student Government Association work with Burlington community

Omar's Presentation: <https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8581/files/attachment/11688>
Community clean up, first one this year on Halloween weekend, also working on a winter parents weekend (collaborate with local businesses with this weekend), and working on a donation closet, especially for international students to share and donate things like power strips, hangers, pots and pans for reuse from year to year rather than throwing away and buying new. And welcome issues like bike safety from the NPA. Sharon commended these new fresh ideas.

Gail's Presentation: <https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8581/files/attachment/11689>
Healthy safe neighborhoods. Isham street pilot program was very successful. Moving on to other streets too including Fletcher Place.

8:00 - State School Redistricting Task Force work

- Update on State Committee's work - Matt Price, Gary Golden, Martine Gulick
Matt: positive updates, reaching contracts with teachers union and Tom as continuing to be BSD superintendent. Also budget coming up so let us know if you have things you want included.
Martine: The task force met Monday and decided/voted on what to put forth, decided between one of 2 proposals, 1 with CTE's (placement isn't equitable across the state and have different focuses that also aren't equitable, and Chittenden county has 2 and others have none; also would make districts of huge size differences) and 2nd with; had LOTS of feedback over the past few months and NO ONE liked the CTE map, a great group of people working in the task force, some spent hundreds of hours gathering data and doing research but as process unfolded they realized they can't just draw lines on a map. So they decided to move forward with a vote on Monday with a proposal including 3 key components 1-cooperative education service association (5 in state)-a consortium to share resources, many states do this successfully; 2-voluntary strategic mergers around the state; 3- state would incentivize regional high schools with construction funding where possible. Robust discussion followed.

Attached are 2 documents being submitted by the Task Force:

Press release from the School Redistricting Task Force:

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8581/files/attachment/11693>

Summary of Redistricting proposal:

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8581/files/attachment/11694>

- Discussion of potential resolution from Ward 1 NPA about Burlington's options - Jonathan Chapple-Sokol and Carol Livingston
This was postponed until we have more information when the legislature is back in session.

8:30 – Adjourn

AT OUR NEXT MEETING - IN DECEMBER - WE'LL HOST OUR STATE LEGISLATORS.

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee
Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,
Selene Colburn selene.colburn@gmail.com,
Sam Doherty samcharlesdoherty@gmail.com

Gretchen Platt gshuman7005@yahoo.com
Rob Gutman rgutman@gmail.com

Participation Guidelines:

The Ward 1 NPA is sustained by community involvement and encourages engagement at our monthly meetings per the following guidelines:

1. We are collectively responsible for following the NPA Meeting Agenda as closely as possible regarding both presentation/discussion topics and time.
2. Participants at the NPA will act in a positive, courteous manner that respects all of those present (both participants and presenters/guests) and their differing opinions, experiences and perspectives.
3. Any attendee requesting to speak who has not yet spoken at a meeting will be called on before others who have already had a chance to speak. Priority is given to Ward 1 residents.
4. Whenever speaking, please be sure to project your voice and use the provided microphone if provided.
5. If the facilitator feels the need to redirect activity in the room based on these guidelines, the facilitator will do so per point number 1 above.