

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Wednesday, December 10, 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: Carol Livingston

Recorder: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

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

6:30 - Formal Start - project & review agenda

Introductions: name, street

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

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

7:00 - City Council update - Allie Schachter & Carter Neubieser

7:30 - Burlington School Commission update - Matt Price & Gary Golden

7:40 - Plans for the 2026 State Legislative session -State legislators Troy Headrick & Brian Cina

8:05 - Presentation by Vermont Coalition for Palestinian Liberation

8:30 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee
Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@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.

Burlington's Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Association is writing in support of the Vermont School Redistricting Task Force's *Map for the Future: The Vermont Regional Education Model*. We feel the Task Force has objectively reviewed the data and Vermont's educational landscape and have created a process by which change can be made that will reduce costs while improving educational opportunity as well as maintaining Vermont's treasured local character.

They reiterate the well-understood and evidenced-based fact that district consolidation in and of itself does not save money, nor does it improve access to quality education. Rather, the Task Force identifies savings in BOCES-type structures that create the opportunity for districts to work together in the financial sphere as well as leave open paths to share student opportunities. Further, without a complete and complex overhaul of the whole States' school administrative structure, this creates a collaborative environment that can grow. And by being strategic and voluntary in consolidation, residents of Vermont's communities retain control over their destinies and only merge districts where true advantages are identified. Finally, a plan to create more regional high schools brings communities together and revitalizes our old and costly-to-maintain. It would also result in regional standardization of educational opportunity, to the great benefit of our children.

Please heed the product of the Task Force and recognize it as the work of a group of folks who are deeply committed to improving the educational landscape in Vermont.