

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

MINUTES

Facilitator: Carol Livingston Recorder: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

Sam Doherty	Ian Keene
Troy Headrick	Rob Gutman
Serrill Flash	Evan Thibault
Linda Bowden	MJ Patchett
Breck Bowden	Daniel Goldstein (Zoom)
Richard Hillyard	Katherine Verman
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol	Mark Demers
Carol Livingston	Michael Long
Gary Golden	Caryn Long
Matt Price	Allie Schachter
Julie Springer	Amy Malinowski
Erin Malone	Paul Fleckenstein
Josie	Sarah Montgomery
Tom Derenthal	Charlie Giannoni
Sharon Bushor	3 other unnamed participants
Angie Chapple-Sokol	
Kathy Olwell	
Catherine Bock	
Peter Lackowski	
Chuck Arnold	

Welcome and Food (Namaste Kitchen Express)

Announcements – Rob Gutman reviewed [All Wards Meeting](#)

Speakout

Sharon– Ward 1 NPAs not structured as others. Consider reducing number of agenda items;
Build more flexibility into agenda

Richard – Welcome to Ward 1 Erin and Josie

Erin – Shout Out to CEDO for reaching out about an AMEX Grant opportunity

Peter - Glory to the crows!

Chuck – Sidewalk safety; speed limit? No motor vehicles? One side of street parking in winter months

Tom – Perhaps councilors can limit their presentations to one or two big things

City Councilors (Carter absent)

Allie – PRW Director started November; Most city positions now filled

Recent Council work – Dorm living condition resolution; Unlawful vehicle entry; Updated contract

Survey deadlines 12/15/2025

Finalized Legislative Priorities:

Supported housing

Financial support for critical water infrastructure

Use of license plate readers

5 City Charter changes waiting for approval

Gun possession at places serving alcohol

Tenants protection – Just cause eviction, rent stabilization Earlier notification of rent hikes

Police oversight panel

City district boundary adjustment without State approval

March Ballot Items

Add REIB Department

Per State:

Breck – Clean Water Fund? Troy – We have gotten funds

Richard – explained some history on redistricting

Julie – How could some of these be sitting since 2021???

Angie – Thanks for your work

Jonathan – Advocacy Opportunities?

Rob – There should be a time limit after which these are automatically approved

Per items State feels there should be statewide policy – Breck: That makes no sense

Lack of County Government makes coordination difficult

Per Cameras

Kathering V – Traffic Cameras work where they are.

Tom – ON privacy. Everyone now knows where we park – why be concerned about traffic violators when Park Mobile was implemented without Privacy conversation?

Breck- Worth giving up that bit of privacy for road safety

Allie – there is also a revenue generating component to ticketing traffic violators

Caryn – need ‘CSO’ types to pull scofflaws over

Schools

Gary – most likely not running again; 12% hike projected for school costs. But it is too early to take the figure without a grain of salt. Ed fund has been whittled away. Commission about to meet with BSD to examine– Tom thinks the figure will be more like 9-10%. Focus on Central Office cuts rather than building level. HS under budget means lower debt service.

Matt – 3rd Grade Reading, Math, show significant issues, likely caused by curriculum decisions 3 years ago.

Statewide – everyone is in favor of merges, everyone has own idea of what it means. Act 73 does not provide data to point in a particular direction (Ed quality? Cost?)

Breck – Opportunity for CESAs (BOCES model)? Maybe in addition to consolidations.

Legislators

Brian – Ibogaine and visionary architecture

Troy – We are at stage 1 of budgeting and education planning. we are still in control

Prisons are getting worse. Incredibly overcrowded. Site not approved for women’s prison. Justice-involved youth suffering for system. Commoditization of incarceration

1640 Incarcerated

173 women; 77 detainees without due process

1317 men; 466 without due process

Brian – (stated without evidence) unhoused folks are being arrested for being homeless.

Troy – We have robust community that supports ICE detainees so it is beneficial to maintain justice to keep folks here

Apartheid-Free Community (Malinowski/Fleckenstein, VT Coalition for Palestinian Liberation)

Quick review of [presentation](#)

Response from Allie, others on concerns, complications, support, distinction between antizionism and antisemitism.

Generally civil dialogue.

Adjourned around 9PM

Peter – Cash Bail?

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,

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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.