

Meeting Agenda

Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

Jan. 8th, 2026 | 6:30-8:30pm | All are welcome



Join in person:

ONE Community Center, 20 Allen Street

Join remotely:

<https://zoom.us/j/93179389982>

O.N.E. Community Dinner

5:30-6:30pm | Free | Donations welcome

Menu: Middle Eastern-themed meal with Kofte-inspired Savory Strata, Armenian Green Beans, Lebanese Slaw, and Apricot Perok Cake

Music: Grace Palmer

Facilitator: Lauren Ebersol

Notetaker: Kason Hudman

6:30 pm Introduction

5 min - Minutes from previous meeting are approved.

6:35 pm Public Forum (2 minutes max per person)

- 10 min
- Lauren Ebersol, Ward 2 resident, asks folks to stay after if they can to help mop and sweep the floors for an event taking place in this space tomorrow.
 - Ward 3 resident, mentions that their daughter is running for city council in Ward 3 and asks folks to help sign the petition to ensure that she can run.
 - Lauren Ebersol, mentions that Town Meeting Day voting will take place at IAA again in Ward 2, reminding folks to not go to the ONE Community Center and instead go to IAA
 - Polly, Ward 2 school commissioner, mentions that she is running for re-election and is asking for signatures.
 - Charlie, Ward 2 resident, asks folks to sign-up to be election workers on Town Meeting Day, particularly in Wards 2 and 3
 - Ward 2 resident reminds everybody that we are not in traffic, we are traffic

6:45 pm Traffic Calming Project

20 min *Parsa Pezeshknejad, Transportation Engineer with Burlington DPW*

- Parsa mentions that there are two traffic calming projects coming up in the ONE, one on Elmwood Avenue and one on Intervale Avenue. On Elmwood Avenue, they are switching parking to alternate and adding a crosswalk near Cedar St. On Intervale Ave, they are adding speed tables and a green belt. They are finalizing the design in January-February, on March 18th they have a commission meeting on March 18th, and construction is expected to begin in the summer.
- Ward 2 resident, mentions that they like most of the design, but are concerned about the proposed speed tables on Intervale. In particular, he doesn't want a speed table in front of his house. Parsa answers that other traffic calming measures likely wouldn't work on Intervale Ave
- Ward 2 resident, wants to know about the parking near Dewey Park and if this plan will result in any parking loss near Dewey Park. Parsa mentions that the Elmwood Avenue project will not result in any parking loss near Dewey Park, and will in fact add a parking spot. All the parking loss will be on the bottom of the street nearer to Pearl St. The same Ward 2 resident asks about "resident

only” parking, wanting to know why some streets in Burlington have that while other streets do not. Parsa and his colleague both answer, mentioning that “resident only” parking usually does not solve problems in neighborhoods like the ONE, since the bulk of the people parking are also the people who live there. But Parsa’s colleague does concede that there are a few streets that have “resident only” parking that do not need it.

- Austin, Ward 2 resident, mentions that he is excited for the speed tables since he lives on Intervale Ave and sees folks speeding on that street. He wants to know if the speed tables will be painted. Parsa mentions that they should be.
- Andrew, Ward 2 resident, also mentions that he lives on Intervale Ave and is excited for the speed tables, and mentions that he regularly sees people speeding on Intervale Ave.
- Ward 2 resident also mentions that she is very supportive of the speed tables due to the excessive speeding that she sees in the neighborhood. She also mentions that she would be supportive of doing something about parking near Dewey Park and IAA, since it is often difficult to find parking in that area.
- Ward 2 resident also voices support for the speed tables, mentions that she lives on Spring St and often hears and sees people racing on those streets.
- Charlie, Ward 2 resident, mentions that the speed bumps on Archibald got replaced with speed tables because of comments made at an NPA Meeting. So come to your NPA Meeting!
- Ward 2 resident who lives on Intervale Ave, also wants to voice his strong support for the speed tables, and mentions that hearing that they are adding speed tables is one of his favorite things about 2026 so far.
- Ward 2 resident, wants to know how the Parking Chicanes being added on Elmwood Avenue will not result in any loss of parking. Parsa explains that all parking spots lost will be replaced with parking on other parts of the street.

7:05 pm Burlington School District

60 min *Jeannie Waltz, Polly Vanderputten, Tom Flanagan*

- The school commission chair mentions that, due to the rise in the cost of health insurance primarily, the school budget is projected to increase by 5-6%. Polly Vanderputten adds that health insurance costs are not something school commissioners have any control over and those are settled at the state level. The school commission chair mentions that there is a 3.2% projected reduction in enrollment, which is not due to kids moving to private school enrollment, but is more attributable to the mass drawdown of refugee resettlement in Burlington and affordability issues. She further mentions that they are saving where they can, including through things like reductions, rent savings, and bonds. The school commission chair details the different scenarios for tax increases and savings, including the projection that they will be reducing staff by at least 4 full-time employees.
- Jeannie Waltz mentions some of the good news, including the near completion of the new Burlington High School and the completion of the renovation on the Integrated Arts Academy. There is some discussion between Jeannie Waltz and the commission chair about the benefits of the geothermal HVAC system, and all the beauty of the brand new high school. Another highlight is the new Burlington Tech Center addition at the Burlington airport, which is a great way to engage students in technical learning.

- Polly Vanderputten, returns to the slide with the different cost and tax scenarios, and explains that the acronym FTE means “full-time equivalent”, and the acronym RIF returns to “reduction in force.”
- Steven, Ward 2 resident, mentions that he is proud that Burlington almost always passes school budgets. He then goes on to say that Act 127, which distributed funds based on need, should be maintained in Act 73, at least according to Governor Scott, and if that is not maintained, alarm bells should go off. Jeannie Waltz mentions that it is very upsetting that much of the work done on Act 127 has been disregarded after the passage of Act 73, and she mentions that people should stay on high alert because it is not guaranteed that the more equitable funding mechanism will transfer after the implementation of Act 73.
- Ward 2 resident, Bill Church, mentions that he is very concerned due to the funding cuts coming down from the federal government, and he wants to know how the school commissioners see the fight for public education as an act of resistance against federal authoritarianism. Polly mentions that a focus on poor students and ensuring that public education acts as a tool of empowerment for them is essential to the way she views her role. Jeannie mentions the power of the restorative practices they integrate in the Burlington School District and how empowering learning those skills should be for children and adults, creating civically engaged and kind people.
- Ward 2 resident mentions that it is a particularly challenging year for property taxes, and wants the school commission to keep that in mind. Polly mentions that she appreciates the comment, and she mentions that one of the most essential jobs of the school commission is to balance all of these financial stresses for the taxpayers of Burlington, especially as so much federal funding has been lost.
- Melo Grant, Ward 2 city councilor, has a suggestion for the school district regarding the health insurance reimbursement provider for the district, suggesting that it's possible that the district could save money by switching providers and doing a price comparison with other providers. Melo then mentions that serving on the school commission is an inherently political position, with decisions on equity and budget issues are political. Polly, Jeannie, and the commission chair mention that the role of education must be open to all different perspectives and free of political bias in order to properly educate and ensure all students feel welcome and open to learning and accepting new ideas.
- Charlie mentions that Jonathan, who was mentioned as now the chief financial officer of the Burlington School District, used to serve on the Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee. Charlie then encourages all the school commissioners to mention something that they love about the Burlington School District. Polly mentions that there are so many things that they love about Burlington School District, and Jeannie mentions the success of the Eagle Bay alternative program with someone she knows. The school board chair mentions all the excitement over the new high school and all the social programs the district provides in addition to the schools, and the gratitude from the students is also something she highlights.

8:05 pm Updates from City Councilors

20 min *Melo Grant, Central District City Councilor*

Gene Bergman, Ward 2 City Councilor

- Gene Bergman mentions that there will be a lot of budget proposals before the city council over the next six months due to the upcoming large budget gap. Gene mentions that there is a proposed small tax increase proposed to fund the police and fire department, which should reduce

the budget gap by about \$2M, but \$10M remain. Gene mentions a few other proposed changes, including a tax fairness proposal that would have to be passed as a charter change and move through the state legislature as well.

- Melo mentions that if a property tax fairness proposal went through and the landlords increased rent, it would disproportionately affect Wards 2 and 3 since those are the wards with the highest proportion of renters. Melo also encourages everybody to regularly email our state legislators in order to stay engaged and make sure our state legislators know that we are engaged. Melo then talks about the apartheid free community pledge and encourages people to go watch Ben Traverse at the Ward 5 NPA Meeting talk about why he would deny it from being on the ballot. Melo then talks about how this issue relates to the fight for democracy in general and it is very important that people stand up for international law.

8:25 pm Door prize drawing + Adjourn!

Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 12!

Scan the QR code ([or click here](#)) to: [Email us](#) • Go to [our website](#) • Watch meeting recordings on [CCTV's website](#) • Connect with us on [Instagram](#) • Request a time slot with the [request form](#) • Get to all links related to this meeting



Appendix to the Agenda

Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee

To contact the entire Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee, email ward2npa@googlegroups.com

Name	Email	Joined	Term expiration
Lauren Ebersol	lebersol27@gmail.com	2023	2027
Kason Hudson	kasonhudman@gmail.com	2024	2028
Charlie Giannoni	charliecpg@gmail.com	2024	2028
Marc Stannard	Marc.Stannard@outlook.com	2024	2028
Nora Aronds	noraaronds@yahoo.com	2025	2029
Grace Sherwood	Gsherwood703@gmail.com	2025	2029

NPA Guiding Principles

- Operate through democratic principles and democratic procedures.

- Provide a safe and welcoming forum where residents can actively share their voices about issues that matter to them, and where they can learn from the voices of others.
- Cultivate involvement by a diverse spectrum of community members through active outreach and through eliminating barriers to participation.
- Operate in a manner that models respectful, inclusive, culturally, and economically aware practices.
- Be a fun, creative, and vital organization that provides value and benefit through the multitude of perspectives shared by those who participate.

Ward 2 NPA Ground Rules

- Meetings should have **clearly defined agenda and roles**.
- **Honor time limits:** A best effort must be made to start on time, follow the agenda, and finish on time.
- **Listen to others:** Make efforts to be an open-minded member of the group.
- **Respect the agenda and the process:** Try to remain focused on the issue at hand.
- **Share your opinion respectfully:** Speak out, but not over, others' comments.
- **Treat people how you would like to be treated:** Be respectful of everyone, including guests.

Elected officials representing Ward 2

Mayor

Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak	Progressive	mayor@BurlingtonVT.gov
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City Councilors

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Melo Grant	Progressive	megrant@burlingtonvt.gov	802-310-0962
Ward 2	Gene Bergman	Progressive	gbergman@burlingtonvt.gov	802-598-3602

School Board Members

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Jean Waltz	jwaltz@bsdvt.org	802-355-7856
Ward 2	Polly Vanderputten	pvanderputten@bsdvt.org	802-578-8653

Vermont State House Representatives

Chittenden-15	Troy Headrick	Independent	theadrick@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-15	Brian Cina	Progressive/Democrat	bcina@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-16	Kate Logan	Progressive/Democrat	klogan@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-16	Jill Krowinski	Democrat	jkrowinski@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-17	Abigail Duke	Democrat	aduke@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228

Vermont State Senators

Chittenden-Central	Tanya Vyhovsky	Progressive/Democrat	tvyhovsky@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-Central	Martine Gulick	Democrat	mgulick@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-Central	Philip Baruth	Democrat/Progressive	pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 503-5266

Happy New Year 2026!

COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date: 1/8/26

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD	Community Dinner	NPA	Add to email list?
Julia	DIPietro		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACEX	INABACIA		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MIKE	JETER	mjeter716@gmail.com	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ROSS	DORA		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUSANNE	FENNIGAR		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann	Jones		1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gaitha	Abingimbi		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genia	Zabier		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roger	Leontz		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aimee	McClure		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rachel	Hawes		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mazhar	Guraisi		1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Samia	Debra		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jan	Antonio		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faris	Alamir		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
habiballa	Deen		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yishui	Deen		3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mollie	Flanigan		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDIE	BRAYNES	ediebraynes@gmail.com	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CAL	CAMPBELL		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maggie	Atkins		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOBY	WALKER		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isabel	MEARA		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kylee	ZIGLER		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOTT	ZIGLER		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Polly	WINDHAM		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chad	Almsh		2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sabrina	Koetter	llozander@gmail.com	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miranda	Post	sbrown1234@gmail.com	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monroe	Orons	monroeorons@gmail.com	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

