

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
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
[Burlington Ward 1 NPA - 1/14/26](#)

6:00 - Welcome and Food (Namaste Kitchen Express)

6:05 – Gary Golden gave a quick update on the BSD budget, looked at 4 scenarios, already have to adjust teacher positions based on declining population, because of tax buy down. Need to do some cuts now to avoid so many next year. 9.5 % increase, down from 10.5. Voting tonight at school board meeting. May be as low as 8.5 depending on tonight's vote.

6:10 - Formal Start –review agenda
Introductions: name, street

*Rob Gutman
Carol Livingston
Angie Chapple-Sokol
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Mark Demers
Allie Schachter
Carter Neubieser
Katherine Vermann
Peter Lackowski
Kathy Olwell
Troy Headrick
Gretchen Platt
Paul Fleckenstein
Mary Pierce
Linda Gutman
Marek Broderick
Duncan Kreps
Melo Grant
Linda Bowden
Doug Craft
Jean Hopkins
Erhard Mahnke
Jason Stuffle*

*Sophie Quest
Susan Lipski
Sam Doherty
Jane Stromberg
Richard Hillyard
Erin and Josie Malone
Lisa Lax
Sharon Bushor
Tom Derenthal
Kevin Bloom
Catherine Bock
Gary Golden
Tom Derenthal
Charyl Green
Evan Horne
Serrill Flash
Amy Malnowski
Breck Bowden
Greg Needle
Melanie Needle
Nancy Kirby
Syd Partin*

6:10 - Vote on Resolutions: 1) Resolution for support of Redistricting Task Force – Discussion *Jonathan motion to send letter of support to State and Local educational leaders about the educational task force. In favor: all in attendance with the exception of those who abstained Abstain: 2*

Vote Resolution to place Apartheid-Free Community Pledge advisory question on 2026 ballot Project resolution - Read "Be it resolved" section Discussion and vote

Carol read the resolution about adding a vote to the ballot. Kathy Olwell put forth motion and seconded by Lisa Lax. Discussion: Peter: bottom line is there are 2 points of view, some have been horrified for years and been afraid to speak out, now emboldened to speak about how our government is supporting this atrocity, this is an opportunity to let our voices be heard if not on the ballot then it's an example of suppressing ideas. Jonathan is basically supportive of this but there is NO civil dialogue on this. Commit this group to meaningful, open conversation with the city to find pathways for civil, respectful conversations. Kevin: artist, and Jewish; and this is genocide, this resolution feels like a way we can speak out about this. Melo Grant: position is I don't support genocide or apartheid in any way. Spoke up about support for innocent women and children. Was attacked as a woman of color on a whole other scale, know Judaism doesn't cause genocide. Political violence has happened to Melo (as she said that Ben Traverse talked about hate mail sent to his house, she has received plenty herself). And council president refuses to put this on the city council agenda. Susan, we need to speak out against apartheid and be able to speak out. Paul, absolutely we would want open conversations, made presentations, day long conference, many door to door conversions, met with dozens of groups throughout the community talking about this issue. Urge others to do the same. Catherine, as a Quaker, all religions nonbinding, affirming justice for all. Talking about putting limits on a government not the right for Israel to exist. Meet together with Quaker style to come together. Carter, this is democracy so should have the right to vote. Mayor is trying to work on bringing the sides together. Allie yes it has been toxic; harassment, and our community has not handled this well. Much of it is agreement but we have failed in the part we don't agree on. How do we come together. Civil discourse, no one has reached out to me as a council member, dialogue is the answer. Maybe efforts to discuss are not reaching everyone. Want to name that; we have to find ways to come together as we work through this. John, questions what does nonbinding mean? Paul: it's advisory and the next step would be boycott, or divestment, or take steps to end anti-Palestinian racism. Paul and his group are talking to many people to dialogue, with Jewish Voice for Peace and many other people and groups. Allisa: have so many struggles locally and federally this can't be ignored too, ICE enforcement is linked to what's happening in Palestine.

Vote results: 22 voted yes, 11 opposed, 4 abstained.

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

Announcements: Tom Derenthal, lots of changes in tax law government wants to use direct deposit, Tom can help with tax preparation and it's free. Erhard Mahnke: Old East End Coalition is hosting its annual Winterlude Event Friday, February 6 and 7th. Troy: TwoTrans bills, create mechanisms so kids could still use Medicaid dollars (if on Medicaid) for care. Second trans people housed as how they identify. Peter spoke out about Venezuela.

Speak out: Kevin Bloom: The eviction rate in our community has gone up extremely, sheriff department costs have gone up and straight into the sheriff's pockets. Running for sheriff to help change things, my first NPA meeting it's inspiring, happy to talk.

7:06 - City Council update - Carter Neubieser & Allie Schachter: *Allie spoke to the budget gap, how to generate more revenue, departments are all doing work already, last year the same budget gap. Health care costs for*

employees, inflation is slowing and feeling that a lot. Need to be as efficient as we can be. Stay tuned. Still thinking about recycling, keep in the city or use Casella, it will continue to be picked up by the city, and challenges with running our own recycling program, working towards short term recycling and build towards a consolidated waste system. Consolidation is a huge undertaking and it would take 7 years (like the contract with Casella would last). Coming back to council in the next month. Passed a resolution Monday around housing, called the BUILD resolution with adoption of new neighborhood code, trying to understand why not seeing more housing such as ADL's etc. what are the barriers so we can tackle them.

Carter: Everything Allie said and 2 things, correction because a chart he showed at a previous meeting was incorrect, showed how to raise taxes on short term rentals some numbers were wrong. AND agree and appreciate all of what Allie said, grand list only a small percent and doesn't keep up with health care costs, last year of federal funds that have been used up. How do we start the budget process earlier, including city staff more, etc. Mayor's Tax advisory group; 30K exemption (already one for veterans 40% statewide), Most homeowners would see tax bill go down, tries to give some relief to middle and lower income families. Not asked to establish as income tax tomorrow. Encourage people to come to council meeting to speak about it being on the ballot. And Carter needs signatures because running for office again. Will put on front porch forum, he is starting a series to get out there and talk to folks, about affordability (at Cohousing).

Allie: add on the tax question on the ballot, what would go on the March ballot would be an advisory, yes we want to the city to pursue this further. November earliest to see on the ballot for charter change. Not binding on March vote.

Richard Hillyard: DPW only one method of trash collection and recycling has been considered, did DPW make a decision on own. And what is the budget going to look like in June because stop spending money this year to stop next year. Carter, recycling is a conversation, nothing decided. Not much wiggle room in this year's budget, each department is creating what a 5 and 10 percent cut would look like going forward.

Tom: the school budget: we get to vote on but the city budget is divided into different chunks, right? Will it be that way again this year? Allie: yes same, but some go to voters as splinter taxes. Some are automatically adjusted. Dept service stays.

Cheryl: thank you Allie, Carter, Marek and Troy for all you are doing. Encouraging that mayor is directing departments to look at their spending.

Melo: new courtroom for specific individuals, cleared 509 cases and 58 persons, 22 defendants on warrant (some in prison out of state).

7:40 - UVM President Dr. Tromp -gave a presentation about student numbers, research, graduate students in cutting edge fields, workforce needs in VT, VT has more older people and fewer younger and this impacts our state, do we have teachers, health care providers, service providers, etc,

Robust conversation followed. Housing: working on a variety of ways to accomplish this issue. Safety: right away when she arrived she put together a table top exercise to deal with crisis and work to have constantly updating and reevaluating safety protocols, all the way throughout the leadership. Living in polarizing times, UVM strategic plan includes strengthening communication and she had strong program for this in Idaho. UVM housing and impact on city budget as far as rental agreements. Meeting with the mayor coming up to discuss this, need to be working together and UVM impact on the city/community. Very hopeful with Dr. Tromp's willingness to partner. As for community input in the past would like to see that again, desire for shared vision, residents and not just city council. Dr. Tromp truly believes in partnership, that's why she came to our NPA and is a Quaker so she strongly believes in communication and input.

8:30 – Adjourn

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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.