

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)  
Wednesday, February 11, 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

Linda Bowden	Sam Doherty
Angie Chapple-Sokol	Caryn Long
Kevin Bloom	Erhard Mahnke
Julie Springer	FaRied Munarsyah
Lisa Lax	Allie Schachter
Katherine Verman	Rob Gutman
Richard Hillyard	Kelli Perkins
Mark Demers	Katherine Schad
Nikhil Goyal	Gary Golden
Matt Price	Charlene Williams
Sharon Bushor	Tom Derenthal
Roberto Fitzgerald	Julia Pencek
Melo Grant	Kathy Olwell
Sarah Morris	Sarah Morris
Evan Horne	Sophie Quest
Didi Macnow	

### ***The Ward 1 NPA did not vote on any issues at this meeting***

6:30 - Formal Start - Introductions and Announcements: name, street

Surveys handed out for Ward 1 residents to suggest issues we want brought to the NPA before decisions are made at the city/city council. We will vote on them at our March meeting

Nikhil Goyal candidate for State Senate

FaRied passed around Proposition Zero petition

Carol - Winterlude was postponed until 2/20-21. It's not too late to get in on the fun!!!

6:40 – Speakout

Caryn, Erhard - Disappointment expressed at not being given the chance to vote on AFC, Tax Fairness advisory questions

Erhard - Planning Commission working over next 6 months on comprehensive plan - 8 year window but 20 year vision Commission meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Inclusionary zoning to be a part of the conversation (Sharon added that there is more opportunity for a resident to influence planning at the Commission than at City Council). Commission may joint meet with

Ordinance Committee to speed up process

Breck - suggested NPA agenda item - Property Assessment and Equity

Melo - urged attendance at Public Safety Committee meeting

6:55: City Council Updates - Allie Schachter

Appreciation for Crossing Guards

\$10-12M Budget gap Admin is working on

Ballot Items:

5 Cent Tax for Public Safety will raise \$3M of the gap

REIB Charter

\$2000 stipend for school board members

ICE operations status can be found on City website:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/1168/Status-of-ICE-Operations>

There will likely be a discussion at the 2/17 Council meeting on city response to ICE

Tax Fairness Initiative advisory ballot item - Democrats voted against it because they felt it was not fully vetted - not enough public engagement, clarity, and while it provided support for owners of lower end appraised properties, as proposed it added burden to renters and to even small commercial properties. The lack of an advisory ballot item does not stop Council from working on refinement and implementation, with a goal of a charter change vote in August or November. By contrast, a No vote on the advisory question would have strongly discouraged Council from pursuing this Tax Fairness opportunity.

7:10 – School Commission Update – Matt Price & Gary Golden

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8760/files/attachment/12797>

~4.7% increase in School tax for Burlington residents. This value has little or no correlation to actual changes in the school budget

Little or no Ed/Ed funding discussion going on in Montpelier at this point.

BTC essentially rent-free next year; and there is just a little more to pay on Macy's

7:25 – Town Meeting Day Ballot Items and more

General Budget, and Public Safety Tax Increase –Katherine Schad, Chief Administrative Officer

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8760/files/attachment/12739>

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8760/files/attachment/12738>

Clarification of confusion between a deficit and a gap

Anticipate tax increase max to be lower than the 9.4% in the charts because retirement income is higher than projected. More like 6.5% now.

Splinter taxes consolidation into general fund? No - not possible, though there is discussion of simplifying tax structure in general

Why not stop all discretionary spending right now, and realize these savings in FY27 budget

What is the role of the Board of Finance?

Suggestions -

- Revive Business Personal Property tax -

- Increase 20% surcharge on Commercial assessments

- Increase Gross Receipts tax (again). Note: Mayor assumes temporary half cent increase in Gross Receipts will be made permanent for FY27 budgeting purposes

- General support in the room for tax increase

REIB Charter Change - Kelli Perkins, REIB Director; Christian Berry, Communications and Community Engagement Manager; Vicky Luciano, Administrative and Financial Coordinator

Diversity - Systems and Outcomes, not Individuals

Equity - Access

Inclusion - Feeling welcome

Prioritizing city government for the people

CCRPC has convened a county wide municipal equity council SB, EJ, BTV, Winooski, Hinesburg, ¿Milton?

General support in the room for the Charter Change

8:05 – Overdose Prevention Center Listening Session – Theresa Vezina, Special

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8760/files/attachment/12798>

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8760/files/attachment/12737>

There were more questions posed than opinions posited from the NPA, making this more informational than one would expect from a listening session

Where is the real estate available? Maybe more germane a question than where it should be

Interest in mobile center

Concern - a visible problem will be made less visible

Need good communication on what is happening, how people feel, quantitative goals and performance to metrics

Need to decide on a location soon - zoning changes have a long lead time

We need to compare what we do with what other communities are doing, learn from successes and failures, explain why what we are doing is the right thing

Where is drug usage now?

8:30 - Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Carol Livingston [carol.livingston1951@gmail.com](mailto:carol.livingston1951@gmail.com),

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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.