

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Wednesday, March 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

Facilitator: Carol Livingston

Recorder: Gretchen Platt

[Meeting recording \[YouTube\]](#)

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

6:30 - Formal Start - project & review agenda & participation guidelines

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

Rob Gutman
Carol Livingston
Angie Chapple-Sokol
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Mark Demers
Carter Neubieser
Katherine Vermann
Gretchen Platt
Matt Price
Sarah Morris
Serrill Flash

Sophie Quest
Gary Golden
Sam Doherty
Jean Hopkins
Richard Hillyard
Julie Springer
Sharon Bushor
Gary Golden
Marion Price
Evan Horne

Announcement from Jonathan C-S about voting for CEDO awards and Sharon B. announcement agreed Celebrate Burlington was a big deal prior to COVID as a way to acknowledge people who were doing wonderful things for our community. And announcement from planning meeting Plan BTV 2050, planning commission is going to finally deal with housing through zoning.

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

Katherine Vermann- FPF speaking about the trash around now that snow has melted. Greenup Day not until May so long time to wait. NPA trash pickup time? How about Saturday in the morning. Or on FPF we could put a request that neighbors try to go out 8-10 next few Saturdays. Carter will be talking more about this, and has some already, with Gene Bergman. Julie will put on FPF. Gretchen announced Edmunds Elementary School musical, Peter Pan, Friday at 6:30 and Saturday at 2:00.

6:55 - NPA business

Introduce slate of Steering Committee members to be voted on at April's meeting and solicit interest in new SC members - *Gary Golden introduced who our current Steering Committee members are. They have all agreed to come back. Anyone else interested? Sharon highly recommends being on SC as a way into learning more about the city and issues.*

Annual priorities for City Council consulting with NPA –

Jonathan introduced the issues that ward neighbors brought including:

- 1. Development agreements and MOU's with UVM and UVMMC - 16 votes*
- 2. Traffic management that affects pedestrians and cyclists - 12*
- 3. Tax burden redistribution - 6*
- 4. Advisory Group/Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations -1*
- 5. Use of parks and development of open spaces - 7*
- 6. Municipal development plan - 0*
- 7. Activity impacting Ward 1 infrastructure - 10*
- 8. Waste/recycling - 0*
- 9. City Budget - 2*
- 10. Others: engagement on significant development in our ward, public transportation – 3*

Sharon: there should be a lot of engagement with neighbors, especially #1 and #8 we should not be left out of the loop on.

Richard: item #1 are we still using the idea that all new development is brought before the NPA before city? Jonathan: Preferred that developers bring plans to NPA's, now it is required to have a public meeting but not enforced to be brought to NPA specifically. What about commercial development, non public development, significant development be brought to NPA? Julie: can #7 be clarified? Jonathan: yes, examples would be traffic roundabouts added to streets, plumbing changes, etc. Serrill: #2 feels very critical as to what we have discussed many times in our NPA meetings. Jean: improving bus lines to reduce traffic, upset about cancellation of the free shuttle on College Street, coordinate with UVM buses going around too. Evan: add cyclists to #2. Angie: housing crisis and many students want to live off campus because cheaper and more fun, UVM should be made to step up and provide their students with more housing. Nudge them in a very big way and how it affects residents.

SO winners are: 1, 2, 7, 5 and 3

NPA budget - ideas for spending the remaining balance (\$1000) by May 31, 2026– *Carol: money is used for rental of space, food, signage. Have a bit more left over from this year that could be used.*

City says money must be used for:

- 1) Promoting the NPA*
- 2) Providing residents with information about City programs/activities*
- 3) Gaining input from residents about City needs*

1.Outreach – distribute flyers, tabling at events

2. Welcome sign to neighborhood
3. Beautification project
4. Community garden
5. Schmanska Park amenity
6. Community event
7. Little Free Libraires
8. Bus stops – benches
9. Workshops teaching a skill: gardening, pickleball, nature walk, Centennial Woods
10. Update of Zine publication (less than \$100)

Sophie: Also the barn at Schmanska park is empty a lot of the time and can be used for many of these.

Sarah M: UVM botany department often has extra free plants mid-May that could be used for community gardens, Laura Hill heads the department

Jonathan: we should be thoughtful about this because can go back to the city which needs money

7:35 - City Council update - Carter Neubieser

Most recent vote on recycling: Casella will do the next 7 years. Carter didn't vote for this because skeptical and nervous about realistically are we going to have the city run it again? This is a vital utility that should be run by city. A committee was put together to study 3 models: 1) subscription model with paying privately for trash and compost currently, 2) consolidated private company to do it all, this greatly reduced emission because on one truck, less on our infrastructure as far as streets, noise, etc., 3) consolidated model but owned publicly. But would be more like Burlington Electric or water, which have a separate budget from city budget but still kept public.

Tax fairness not on ballot, will be a committee to find something that can be agreed on.

Another committee with councilors, and city staff and "plan 2050," having public input coming up with gathering and mailing. "Pop up" engagement ideas.

City budget: informational session this Friday and for councilors to get an update and see scenarios for cutting in each department where they can.

7:55 - Burlington School Commission update - Matt Price & Gary Golden

Gary: Thank you for participating in the election and voting for Carter and myself. Congrats Carter for your reelection and thank you for approving the school budget and reimbursement for school board members. Annual audit received high marks by auditors, so no questions on how the money is being spent. VT test scores and BSD is no exception in lower marks, 3rd grade scores down. So new committee including Gary and Matt to look at curriculum to get at this. We have about 2 million \$ needed for capital improvements within district and prioritizing. State Senator Martine Gulick: no urgency currently for bills out there which is concerning, will know more in a month or so.

Richard: what about declining enrollment? Sooner or later a school will need to be closed.

Matt: a couple of weeks ago our superintendent did mention the possibility of closing a school because of our enrollment numbers and we could serve the children in the district with one fewer school and keep the teachers. Seven Days article, yes we need to build more housing. Many families are leaving because they can't afford to live here.

Gary: we have been highly reliant on refugees and we leveled out compared to other districts in state while rest of state declined.

Katherine V: long time educator, humanism, and has noticed that VT has shifted to a quantitative vs. qualitative system.

Matt: the numbers say nothing about the child as a human being but if they can't read or do math then we aren't helping them. They aren't getting the fundamentals but are getting good social emotional support.

[8:05 - Reducing fossil fuel use at home - Jacob Flanigan](#)

How to stop burning fossil fuels in your home.

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
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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.