



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:

Ward
5

Date of Assembly : 3/19/26 Start Time: (*Commence*): 7:02 pm

Location: 645 Pine Street Finish Time: (*Adjourn*): 8:23pm

Note taker: Jak Tiano

Please forward these official minutes to: BT

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Jason Van Dreische, Jak Tiano, FaRied Munarsyah, Lena Greenberg, Prim VanWolvelear

Discussion Topics

- Join the Steering Committee
- ~~Overdose prevention center~~ (Postponed)
- How to Burn Fewer Fossil Fuels

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

- None

Agenda Items and Actions:

- Commence: 7:02pm
 - Steering committee introduces themselves
 - Jason opens the meeting and lays the ground rules for the NPA
- Public forum
 - Gar: brings awareness to the growing threat of ICE in Burlington and Vermont
 - Bram: VT leg has done a few things: the “No Secret Police” bill in the statehouse forbids law enforcement from wearing masks and wear uniforms that identify officers; another law prohibits civilian arrests in more places (schools, hospitals, government facilities, etc); a bill passed out of the house that allows Vermonters to sue federal law enforcement that break constitutional rights.
 - Andy: Two of the people detained in the ICE raid last week have been released, and a third (Camila) has a hearing at the courthouse in Burlington tomorrow. Tomorrow morning in St Albans there is a check in for Steven Tendo, carpools up there tomorrow leaving around 8:30am. Also asks for signatures to get Proposition Zero on the ballot in November.
 - Scott: Leadership has the ability to write executive orders limiting ICE in their operations, e.g. Sarah George has the ability to prosecute violations of rights of any members of the community. ICE agents that violate these rights need to be held accountable at the time of the offense. Agents aren’t allowed to wear masks except for in hazardous conditions, but what if they create hazards using tear gas, etc?
 - Bram: Legislation was focused on preventing people wearing masks in unmarked clothes throwing people in unmarked vans.
 - Lena: Circulating QR codes for joining a group chat to help people who are now sheltering at home out of fear. If you need assistance with Signal, please talk to me after the meeting. I’m happy to see our leaders speak out against this action,

but disappointed to see that there wasn't a lot of willingness to admit fault. Is very disappointed, and waiting for people with access to institutional power to take the moment. Wants to see more collective unwillingness to accept the active rise of facism.

- David: Attended the National Low Income Housing Forum in Washington DC. There's broad consensus that what's happening isn't right.
- Joanna: Is running for State Senate in Chittenden Southeast! Resonates with the conversation, agrees that she wants to see more aggressive movement on protecting our neighbors. The rights that we've established are great, but they're no good if nobody can afford to live here to access those rights. Excited to use the seat as county govt proxy.
- Jak: Become a small scale developer and help build up your neighborhood!
<https://www.incrementaldevelopment.org/events/homesforallvtworkshop-middlebury>
- Join the Steering Committee
 - Jason gives an overview of what the steering committee is like.
 - Prim: Was really great to see how friendly and welcoming the NPA was and wanted to get involved in the neighborhood.
 - Faried: It's a good way to meet neighbors and stay connected with what is happening in the neighborhood, and also see what's happening in other parts of the city. NPA is Burlington's way to do local democracy.
 - Jak: nice
 - Lena: I've learned so much about how the city works through the NPA. There's something valuable in being able to say you're associated with a neighborhood body, and ask for leaders/staff time to explain important things. We also have this gift of being able to have a space to experiment in new ways to organize our neighbors.
 - Charlie: This is also a great way to build your skills, like how to speak in public and organize meetings. This is an opportunity to take the next step in "how do I get involved"?
 - Jason: Being on the steering committee has "stretched my brain", and what I mean by that is that it would be really easy for me as someone later in my career to get stuck in a routine, and being part of the NPA has been a part of my mental flexibility program. The combination of working on the steering committee and coming to the NPA, and learning how to work with people you don't get to pick, has been really great.
 - Questions?
 - Kelly: How do the topics of our conversations make its way up to higher levels of city government?
 - Jason: We often have elected officials at our meeting, and a set of priorities we give the city council.
 - Lena: There have been recent changes in our relationship to the city, but one of the items is establishing that information doesn't flow only from the city to the npa, but the other way as well.
- How to Burn Fewer Fossil Fuels (Jacob)
 - Fossil fuels are big ticket items that last a long time

- We need a plan to replace appliances before they break, because when they break we're in an emergency mode
- Dryer, Stove, Hot water heater, and furnace
- The key is “heat pumps”, which are an extremely efficient way to move heat with electricity
- BED has lots of incentives
- Dryer
 - Electric dryers require 240V and an electrician
 - Clotheslines instead
 - Heat pump dryer, basically a dehumidifier for clothes (BED has rebates)
- Stove
 - Again need an electrician and 240V outlet
 - If you want high-end cooking, get an induction stove (small BED rebate)
 - Induction hot plate for renters, go into a 120V outlet (no incentives)
 - Jason adds that they had one at home for boiling water
 - You can also use other things: microwaves, electric kettles, toaster/ovens, air fryers, etc
- Hot water heaters
 - Resistive
 - Uses a lot of electricity (needs 240V)
 - Heat pump
 - More expensive to buy, cheap to operate
 - Hybrid
 - Benefits of both (but expensive)
 - On bill financing!
 - VGS will take out your gas hot water heater, and replace it with a heat pump hot water heater
 - Also can use VHFA WRAP program
- Furnace/boiler
 - Resistive/hybrid/heat pump - same as hot water heaters
 - Electric resistance baseboard heaters, space heaters
 - Heat pumps, including cold-climate heat pumps
 - Integrate electric resistance backup for the coldest days
 - Window unit heat pumps (still need cold climate)
 - Mini split, compressor outside, wall/ceiling mount inside
 - Best used for more open floor plans
 - Lots of rebates
 - Central ducted furnace replacement
 - Swap gas furnace for heat pump heat exchanger
 - Boiler replacement for baseboard/radiant floor
 - Hydronic systems, more complicated and harder to find in the US
- Sign the pledge: <https://www.fossilfuelfreeequipmentpledge.org/>
- Question:

- Kelly: Is there a good priority? A: Really the best way is to be prepared for what fails next, but if you want to be productive, then air/water heating is the best place to start.
- Jason: The electrical inspector is overly conservative on electrical load capacity, and you can push them to get an alternate assessment. A: yeah, you really don't need more than 100 amps.
- Adjourn: 8:23pm