

MINUTES: Ward 2 NPA
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 6:30pm
ONE Community Center, 20 Allen St

Steering Committee members present: Grace Sherwood, Marc Stannard, Lauren Ebersol, Charlie Giannoni

Steering Committee members absent: Kason Hudman, Nora Aronds

1. Public Forum:

- Megan Humphrey: Pay what you can for dinner. Thank you to Jess (card presentation)
- Andrea Todd: Come to city market member meeting and thank you to those who have been showing up: next meeting is 6PM this upcoming Monday! Meetings are mostly zoom
- Kevin Bloom: running for Sheriff, running on eviction reform—Anti ICE
- Melo Grant: ONE Clean up clean out May 30 10-2:30
- Jeffrey Peterson: Running for Vermont rep (intro) Needs ballot signatures
- Yohannes: (from Ward 3) trying to move houses... his house is on North Champlain
- Lauren- City board listings up, applications due soon
- Alice - Trout parade May 29
- Lauren: Candidate forum coming up! TBD - Ward 3 States atty forum next week, Ward 1 will do State Senate in June

2. Top 5:

- Mayor budget aligned
- Weather good next week
- Front porch forum good

3. Vote: \$100 for comic

Yea: 23

Nay: 0

4. Elaine Haney: Candidate for Aug primary-

From Essex J, Mom of 3, believes in working for good over time— just finished 12th year as elected official in Essex J, part of team that made new Essex and solved decades long conflict, is retired roller derby skater—learned when you get hit you go down and stay down or get upright and keep moving

Not a trump supporter, must protect VTers from fed over reach

Supports legislation that protects Vters from arrests in sensitive places, also supports legislation that allows law enforcement to be sued if they disobey constitution

Door to door hearing a lot of love for VT but affordability problem that is 3 pronged - education reform (not consolidation) need alternatives for cost, need regional approach (2) VTers need to be able to afford healthcare, supports universal primary care, (3) housing; feeling optimistic (CHIP), need to get rid of duplicative and unnecessary permit processes

5. 350.org Mary Andrews, Kim:
- Burning wood for electricity is a bad idea: wood is not renewable
 - BED owns 50% of McNiel plant
 - McNiel is largest stationary source of green house gasses in VT - its 42 years old (most places like this only last 30)
 - Also emits toxins
 - BED claims McNiel is carbon neutral because it is carbon neutral- this is a myth that has been disproven by many scientists - regrowing trees in current situation is also not certain
 - Burning wood is NOT good for forest
 - Bioenergy produces most emissions
 - Eco harm; BED claims to burn mostly waste wood but that is not all - they are burning a lot of whole trees
 - The BURNING is the issue
 - Large old trees and forests that contain them sequester most carbon
 - Human health; Particulate matter is emitted and released in ONE and Winooski– creates high risk for asthma (anyone in CHI county)
 - McNiel is expensive (lost 35 million in last 10 years)
 - Age and efficiency of plant; 26% efficient– BED has not considered other options
 - Flawed policies; BED has been driving policy; focussed on reducing fossil fuels rather than CO2
 - To meaningfully reduce green house gasses we need to use power from low carbon sources
 - Vision: wind, solar and geothermal energy, safe transit and driving, locally oriented future, power sources that are equity focussed
 - Questions:
 - 25 acres of clear cutting, is that per day per year? A; don't know time frame but they say they are not clear cutting and they are
 - What percent if you solarize all buildings, landfills, how much can we offset? A; needs to be researched -
 - 1 Pipe going to UVM? A; ordinance passed that said if you build a new building and it uses fossil fuels it will be taxed, but wood is considered renewable to new medical center is pushed to use wood instead 2 Would electric go down if new stuff? A; since McNiel is losing money, we're not sure how electric bills are low – BED rates have been historically low, they have a lot of low cost hydro power, they are a publicly owned utility so they don't have to put shareholders into rates, they sell things from wind solar and biopowers that they buy out of state for cheap and they make a lot of money by doing this – it's not the McNiel plant – McNiel releases PM2.5 (this is very tiny soot that leads to a myriad of problems from physical to mental)
 - What is the ask? What should we do moving forward? Need to come up with an alternative. A; sign up for more info, contact city counselors, any study needs to be independent from BED
 - Can't turn off power until we have a substitute–what do we do? A; we have state support to go greener but we need a plan and right now there is no plan. BTV shut down the Moran plant, we can do it again.

6. DPW: Robert Goulding on 2026 construction plan
 - 2 big projects downtown are expected to wrap up on time and on budget (late June/July) - Main street and Champlain parkway
 - Champlain parkway; a few things left on Pine st and Champlain parkway side, signals are on on pine and maple
 - Main st; sidewalks, signals, tree plantings, paving, public art is left to do
 - Cherry st/reconnecting bank and Cherry; Cherry is on hold right now, may resume in 2027
 - Ward 2 Work A decade of Progress: Sidewalks; began on Manhattan dr with \$1.6 million contract,
 - Side walks last about 40 years with upkeep every 3 years
 - 5-7 yeards 130 miles of sidewalk is accessed in Burlington, sidewalks used more and in most dire state score higher
 - Top Streets for sidewalk repair:
 - N. Willard from Archibald to North
 - Wilwood Dr
 - Woodlawn rd
 - N Willard St from North to Henry
 - Holly Ln East side
 - St Paul St; Crosswalk enhancement
 - Etc
 - Paving:
 - \$1.7 million and about 3.5 miles planned for year
 - This years paving is largely funded by TMD 2025 bonds
 - Workplan similar to sidewalks – cold winters enhance issues, this winter was very cold
 - Colchester ave
 - Cumberland rd
 - Green st
 - Park St
 - Saratoga Ave
 - Rivermount Terr
 - Bennington Ct
 - Scarff Ave
 - Depot St
 - Water project
 - Wastewater bond approved on TMD,
 - This will help with a lot of things including bacteria in lake
 - Sign up for stormwater assessment
 - Reach out by going to see click fix (best way to let DPW know about routine maintenance), emergency line for emergencies (new urgent alert feature, VT alert for texts from city)

7. History of ONE Part 2 with Megan Humphrey

- VT central rail road - only tunnel in CHI county, build through the sand on North ave - its narrow and horseshoe shaped - in 1853 tracks still went downtown
- 1869 ONE map; some houses North of North - Elmwood ave was Locust st – Union was called Maiden st – Battery st was Water St – Manhattan was North Bend - Bright Street was Cow Alley - Riverside was Lower rd – many triangles in ONE because they kept accidentally building them
- Corner of North st and union - was Dep store owned by Cognis, also was a grocery store and was Burlington College and is now a COTS shelter - they say the shopping cart was invented at this grocery store
- 78 North st - shoe repair, a grocery store, a luquer store, a beer garden, a barbar shop and an ice cream shop
- 106-108 north st - NY fashion, AMP company (OG building burned in 70's)
- 144-146 - was IGA grocery store (now JR's)
- 194 North st - Maisals dep. Store - building built 1904 -
- 86 Pitkin st - was Harold Misters grocers
- 139 - 143 North Champlain - was barber shop, private school, first national grocery store
- 10 N Winooski (now radio bean) -
- 160 N Winooski - was Jellanos pastry shop
- 294 N Winooski ave - was Facets bakery
- 69 Mansfield Ave - John Roberts home - JR born in essex, built more than 50 homes in BTV in queen annes style
- 79 Hyde st and King - more JR homes (Many homes burned in the fire)
- 1869 ONE Map - no st. Louis st,

Burlington does not have a historical society!