

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
AGENDA
Wednesday, November 9, 2022 7:00 - 9:00 PM
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

YouTube:

YouTube Livestream: NPA Wards 1&8 Playlist, click on upcoming/next meeting:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLljLFn4BZd2Pa3H8l30gy_gZ3NL6orXcN Note:
This is for live streaming purposes only. Ward residents should intend to participate
via Zoom or in-person if they wish to speak or vote.

Facilitator: Tom Derenthal

Recorder: Carol Livingston

6:30 Food – (from Kismayo Kitchen) and Welcome

7:00 Formal Start - Announcement & Introductions - name, street, ward

7:10 Speakout - including introduction of City Council candidate Maea Brandt

7:30 School Commission Update - Kathy Olwell and Aquilas Lokosou

7:40 City Council Update - Zoraya Hightower (Redistricting, Public Safety)

8:10 Public Safety Overview, role of Police Commission - Melo Grant, Police
Commissioner

8:40 Burlington Electric Department - Jen Green, Darren Springer
Garnering community feedback about electrification policy recommendations
for new construction, major renovation, city buildings, large existing commercial
buildings

9:00 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee
Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,
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7:00 Formal Start - Announcement & Introductions - name, street, ward

- Update from Rob Goulding about DPW project on North Prospect Ave.
- Candidate Forum next Wednesday, 11/16, at Friends Meeting House

7:10 Speakout - including introduction of City Council candidate Maea Brandt

Erhard M: concern about redistricting decisions. (See discussion later in mtg)
The map that appears to be what City Council will approve: “ Ward 8 to North Hill - Version 1 & 2.” This map greatly changes existing Ward 1 that includes a balance of institutions, students, homeowners and renters. Proposed map leaves Ward 1 with many students on campus, as well as students in off-campus housing. It destroys ward 1’s assets and neighborhoods. City Council voting 12/2. Email City Council by next Wednesday expressing your concerns. Erhard plans to offer a resolution to be voted on by the Ward 1 NPA to reject this map.

Richard H: positive news about new sales of current houses to young families.

Sharon B: attended City Council mtg Monday. Criteria CC has set: have to keep separate New and Old North End; on-campus students distributed; Ward 1 gained students across Main, losing population elsewhere. All Brooks, all Loomis, Henry, North, Colonial Square are all shifting out of Ward 1 - where most of our commissioners and many elected officials come from. Remaining pieces of Ward 1 will have the same issues as the current ward 8 - not a good balance of diverse population. Many city councilors are living in wards mostly unchanged. Unfortunately ward 1 & 8 had no representation (problems with meeting time). Email your concerns to Laurie Alberg at City Clerk’s office, Karen Paul - chair of City Council.

Peter L - redistricting: many of residents that will be shifted have been residents who have been activists and actively involved in city issues and activities.

Carter N - agree with Erhard. Concern about how we characterize impact of students: city makes a lot of money off students. Downtown district, ward 6, ward 8 - all shifting. Preferred previous maps.

Zoraya H - missed CC meeting because of travel. She recommends: formal statement from ward 1 would be very helpful. After the October NPA, Zoraya pushed hard to have previous maps to be reconsidered. City Councilors were not supportive. Back now to 8-ward map. South End councilors are fighting against having students added to their districts. Hard to represent us because fewer reps right now. Helpful to look at maps with compromise in mind. Off campus student population is not really being factored in. Splitting up into lots of different wards isn't good either. Z urged us to identify key aspects we can't live with.

Kathy - why can't go back to 7 wards, 14 reps? Making wards huge and not getting enough representation. This will apply to School Bd - too much to do and spread across several NPA's. This is a time for more representation and democracy, not less. Zoraya is the only councilor who supports 7 wards idea

Robert B-J - served on redistricting committee last year, has worked on maps. Any 7-ward map will require expanding Wards 4&7 Map which is unpopular.

Erhard - more equitable # of students is not meant to be critical of students. They bring a lot to the city.

7:30 School Commission Update - Kathy Olwell

Warm thanks to everyone for all you did, wrote letters, waved, door to door. 75% voters voted in support. Hard work to continue to fund raise. \$66,000 raised by personal donations already. Looking to raise more from private donors. Writing grants fed and state. Passing the bond was key to getting the grants. She will be back to send letters to state officials, esp to get funds for PCB work. State needs to return to 30% construction support .

Zoraya H: Thank you to Kathy for all your work over the years. Lawsuit?

K: not sure of timing and process.

Angie: thanks to Kathy for many years of working for education of our children.

7:40 City Council Update - Zoraya Hightower (Redistricting)

*** See maps in link

City council maps: central hill 1 & 2 accommodates growth of ward 1, closest to what we have right now. Mostly cuts out univ. section and downtown 2: keeps more of map, south district wants ward 1 to take more of student campus North Hill. Ward 8 has been pushing & vocal. Fairly strongly removes most of single family homes from ward 1, so strongly student.

Not looking at numbers of students in off-campus housing. Concern about lower voter turnout and fewer active residents.

Ward 8 downtown - Z doesn't accept, doesn't preserve Old East End

Map 9 with UVM and South Champlain - Z sees as most gerrymandered, lots of disparate segments -

Sharon (attended CC mtg) - desire to have a downtown district, but several maps carve that up. Factor considered by CC. Unsure of rationale for current offerings - seems pretty gerrymandered.

Z: won't be feasible politically to bring back 7-ward map - no support. Suggestion: 8 ward map. CC wants 8 wards and 4 districts.

Sandy W: how CC vote is counted. Any consideration of addition of students to Trinity? Outrageous not considering off-campus students.

Z: vote by majority of CC carries the decision;

Sharon: because Trinity not developed yet, can't count - must count only current.

Troy - Central Hill version 1 looks closest to current. CC: looks too similar; doesn't do enough of downtown. Ward 6 still takes on on-campus student pop. Z ok with both Central Hill versions.

Robert: new maps he's created. Ward 1 has to downsize in some way, we're 1/7 of city, not 1/8. Central hill maps rejected because looks like old ward 8. Ways to preserve shape of ward 1. Can't repeat mistakes of ward 8. Trying to convey to CC: if they don't want to repeat ward 8, give it an identity - downtown.

Erhard - urge NPA to express general favorability with particular maps that may need some adjustment.

Richard - During last year's redistricting committee meetings, Ward 1 was the most active in discussions.

Erhard Mahnke's motion:

Motion approved unanimously by the Ward 1 NPA, 11/9/22:

The Ward 1 NPA supports redistricting maps that maintain Ward 1's historic boundaries and neighborhood integrity to the maximum extent possible. We specifically reject the following maps being considered by the City Council:

- "Ward 8 to Downtown"
- "Ward 8 to North Hill V1 and V2"
- "Ward 8 with UVM Main Campus and Some Champlain"

Though they require additional work, to meet its goal of maintaining historic boundaries, the Ward 1 NPA favors the maps entitled "Ward 8 to Central Hill V1 and V2," as well as Robert Bristow-Johnson's map entitled "Burlington 8 Wards v20."

Suggestion: have NPA representative read the motion at the 11/21 City Council meeting and then also have many Ward 1 neighbors attend. 2-minute limit to speak. **How can others reference this motion: put on agenda on website and put link.** Also send emails to give your opinions. Z: very important to send emails NOW.
City Council meeting - Monday, 11/21 - 7:30 public comment.

8:10 Public Safety Overview, role of Police Commission - Melo Grant, Police Commissioner

From Acting Chief Murad's monthly report (**in slides in link****)

Slide entitled "Revised Priority Response Plan"

Looks at incidents and assigns them priorities 1, 2, 3 which determines whether sworn officers or CSO's (Community Service Officer) are deployed to an incident or if Online reporting is recommended.

Deployment plan = how resources deployed on a given shift.

Slide entitled "Tiers of Response"

Patrol officer numbers need to increase - hiring process underway

****Tammy Bouda presentation at Police Commission in October - very helpful to hear her explanation of work of Howard Center Outreach Teams**

Currently on staff: 7 Community Service Officers (CSOs) , 3 Community Service Liaisons (CSLs) - budget has been increased. So now there are 12 CSOs and 6 CSLs.

Concerns about how to protect selves living in city

Lock our doors; lock windows - even momentarily

More officers would help but not solve thefts

Eg. FedEx & UPS - make arrangements for package deliveries

Report to online portal and to carriers - need signature

Better locks - anything with serial number should be photographed, logged

Eg bikes, computers (Bike Index)

Know your neighbors, share your travel plans - radios on, lights on

Will send document about role of B P. commission - work on complaints, directing policies, developing role of oversight

8:40 Burlington Electric Department - Jen Green, Darren Springer

Garnering community feedback about electrification policy recommendations for new construction, major renovation, city buildings, large existing commercial buildings

Jen - Director of sustainability. Next goal: transition away from fossil fuels in transportation. Being asked to craft recommendations and get feedback from community to City Council.

Darren - 2021 popular approval vote for charter change gave Burlington authority

to regulate emissions in buildings, also dedicate resources to marginalized people in city. Looking at new construction, renovations. Report available on BED website.

Making recommendations to City Council.

New construction: everything in bldg has to be renewable (powered by electricity, but other ways as well) If not able to achieve - perhaps a fee imposed.

Existing bldgs - 50,000 sq ft or bigger - commercial, industrial - 200 bldgs - UVM, med ctr, Champlain College, B. school district - if asking for new permit, must be renewable or will have to pay some kind of impact fee.

Burl policies are impacting other towns and cities - eg. so. Burl.

Input from NPA attendees - is hydro considered renewable truly?

Leverage that Burl can use to increase solar and geothermal

Burl is 100% renewable in generation and credits. Every energy source has carbon impact. McNeil Plant is renewable - need diverse sources. So

No fee proposed on existing homes, small businesses below 50,000 sq ft.

Sharon B - concern about impact fees for existing bldgs - how avoid giving bldgs a "pass?" Perhaps require a prolonged payback and still have them comply to renewable expectations.

Darren: Fee: looking at the life of a heating system and its carbon impact - renewable solution vs carbon impact fee - hoping this will encourage people to go with renewable as economic decision.

Kathy - more Copd among young people in ONE. Emissions = cause?

Darren - emissions from McNeil = mostly water vapor; filters bring emissions well below permitted level. State study report indicated McN is not source of health impact.

Some emissions from McN - but more from cars, mowers, vehicles

Darren - BED looking researching project for steam from McN go to hospital, UVM - to displace natural gas use in the city

City is 100% renewable with our electricity. Net zero goal is different - in bldgs, vehicles - use renewable supply to help replace.

Report to City Council on 12/5, can return to NPA.

9:00 Adjourn

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