



### Draft Agenda

Ward 5 NPA October 18, 2019 City Market Community Room 207 Flynn Ave  
6:30pm-8:30pm

#### **Draft Agenda:**

6:30-6:45 – Open Forum (political candidates are welcome to use this extended open forum for self-introductions)

6:45 – 7:15 - DPW on wastewater bond measure (Chapin Spencer and/or Megan Moir, and Mayor Weinberger)

7:15 – 7:40 – Q & A with Mayor Weinberger

7:40 – 8:30 - School Board on BHS bond measure (Mike Fisher and Jeff Wick)

- Bill Keogh, [bkeoghsr@yahoo.com](mailto:bkeoghsr@yahoo.com)
- Alec Bauer, [awbauer@gmail.com](mailto:awbauer@gmail.com)
- Ben Traverse, [bentraverse@gmail.com](mailto:bentraverse@gmail.com)
- Joanna Grossman, [joeyinvermont@gmail.com](mailto:joeyinvermont@gmail.com)
- Joe Dery, [joedery@gmail.com](mailto:joedery@gmail.com)
- Andy Simon, [earthadventure@gmail.com](mailto:earthadventure@gmail.com)

For more information about Wards 5 NPA visit their CEDO webpage

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Neighborhood-Services/NPAs/Ward-5-NPA>



**Keep Current on their Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/Ward5NPA>

In collaboration with Channel 17 cctv.org, we will also now be live streaming our meetings on YouTube, which will permit the submission of online comments during Q&A portions of the meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/channel17townmeetingtv>

## **Notes on 10/18/18 Ward 5 Neighborhood Planning Assembly**

### **Draft Minutes**

Ward 5 NPA October 18, 2019 City Market Community Room 207 Flynn Ave

The meeting convened late (at 6:45 PM) due to problems with the livestreaming port.

Ben Traverse, moderator  
Alec Bauer, camera operator  
Andy Simon, notetaker

### Open Forum

Thirteen candidates for local offices accepted our invitation to introduce themselves to NPA participants: Louis Meyers (Senate), Suzanne Brown (Ass't Judge), Connie Ramsay (Ass't Judge), Greg Glennon (Probate Judge), Mary Sullivan (State Rep), Alex Farrell (Senate), Debbie Ingram (Senate), Ginny Lyons (Senate), Phil Baruth (Senate), Michael Sirotkin (Senate), Chris Pearson (Senate), Tim Ashe (Senate), Paul Dame (Senate).

Zachary York (Ass't Judge) also attended but had to leave before introductions.

Lisa Torchiano and Kahlil Zaloom, Linden Terrace residents, came to talk about problems of dangerous driving in the Birchcliff neighborhood.

Ben announced that there was a vacancy on the Ward 5 NPA Steering Committee and a vote would be held at the November 15 meeting.

### Clean Water Resiliency Bond

Megan Moir (DPW), Chapin Spencer (DPW), Miro Weinberger (Mayor) came to discuss the upcoming ballot item. Miro stressed that these plans had been "in the works" for years but had been accelerated by last summer's failures at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said that the bond for borrowing "up to" \$30 million dollars would be handled in a way to make the impact "as affordable as possible" for ratepayers. He urged voters not to "go backward" in terms of water quality.

Megan answered questions from participants.

Q: What about industries like breweries, cider manufacturers, chocolate companies that contribute sizable amount of organic material to the city's waste stream?

A: There is a surcharge for large amounts of organic waste and an ordinance that compels industries to make their own capital improvements to reduce their contribution to the wastewater problems.

She emphasized that most of the money in the bond is to maintain and update the existing system. “Stuff broke” at the WTP this summer, she said, and that the bond would allow her department to keep that from happening. “97%” of the discharge into the lake during large storm events is storm water, not sewage. Release to the lake is necessary to prevent sewage and storm water from backing up into homes and streets.

Miro emphasized that the approach of “making developers pay” for wastewater improvements was misguided. According to him, due to ordinances governing new developments, the storm water situation is improved by new buildings, creating less impervious surface overall.

Q: Why isn’t there a more unified approach to these major bond issues?

A: (Miro) The city does have a comprehensive plan for “responsibly stewarding our assets”, the 2016 Sustainable Infrastructure Plan. There is also a new debt policy that limits the debt ratio to 1.75% of the Grand List. Both bond issues together will be under this ceiling. Over ten years, both bonds will mean about a \$550/year increase in taxes (\$250K home at full value). Voters will have to decide whether the projected benefits are worth this increase. The “good news” is that, down the road, as the debt is retired, payments will be less.

Q: What is the \$13 million for WTP improvements actually for?

A: (Megan) For fixing existing equipment and for more efficient components.

Q: Why is Blanchard Beach closed so often for water quality problems?

A: (Megan/Chapin) Blanchard is the closest to the discharge point in the Lake. Also lots of storm water flows down Englesby Brook and other outfalls near Blanchard. DPW is “working on it” to improve this situation.

Q: Impact of state policies on services in city schools?

A: (Miro) The city is trying to compile a “compelling argument” to the Legislature to make policy adjustments to lessen the negative impact on Burlington school services.

Q: Aren’t the changes to bike infrastructure “too far, too fast”? What happens in winter to the temporary changes?

A: (Miro) The changes are “quick builds”, to assess the impact of new configurations. Safety figures have improved on North Avenue since the changes. The aim is to make Burlington as bike friendly as Montreal (for example). The city is assessing how to modify the quick build structures for winter.

Q: What about the giant hole in the downtown core? What are you doing about this?

A: (Miro) The city has “concerns” about the lack of movement in the CityPlace development and is “exploring options”. Miro and other city officials went to NYC to talk to Sinex and partners. It’s “too early to conclude that the plan is not going forward,” however a “Plan B” is being developed. The downtown site is “highly developable” and could be sold to another company but the city is “hoping it doesn’t come to that.”

Q: What’s happening with Burlington Telecom?

A: (Miro) The sale is going through the regulatory process and is now at the Public Utilities Commission. It’s a long process but the city is optimistic that there will be approval by early 2019. From Miro’s viewpoint, the sale to Schurz is a positive outcome to the BT “crisis” that was caused by the misappropriation of funds. The agreement “ensures competition” to the Comcast monopoly and blocks any sale that would create a monopoly. The city gets \$5-6 million dollars in cash or ownership. The citizens trying to block the sale at the PUC are, according to Miro, mistaken and could put the whole deal into jeopardy.

Q: Why do you support the \$70 high school bond?

A: (Miro) The bond amount meets the ceiling of the new debt policy. Improvements are needed at the high school now. Miro’s two daughters will be going to the school and he feels good about the renovation’s impact on their education. Many questions were answered at the Sept. 11 meeting and the documents from that meeting can be accessed on Boarddocs. The School District has agreed conditions through a MOU that would, for example, require a Project Manager to oversee the renovation and keep it on track. There will also be a Citizen Oversight Committee with a rep from the city. Further approvals are needed down the line as the project gets under way.

#### Note

School Commissioners Wick and Fisher who were on the agenda to discuss the School Bond did not appear.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.



## Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees



|                     |                |                |                |           |           |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| NPA<br>(choose one) | Wards<br>1 & 8 | Wards<br>2 & 3 | Wards<br>4 & 7 | Ward<br>5 | Ward<br>6 |
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Date of Assembly : 10-18-18 Location: City Market So

Please return to your convenor, Phet Keomanyvanh  
or email to cedofd@burlingtonvt.gov

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| 1  | CONNIE RAMSEY    | 20 |
| 2  | Marcia Gustafson | 21 |
| 3  | Debbie Ingram    | 22 |
| 4  | Phil Baruth      | 23 |
| 5  | Michael Sirotkin | 24 |
| 6  | JACK RAMSEY      | 25 |
| 7  | Greg Glennon     | 26 |
| 8  | Kahlil Zaloom    | 27 |
| 9  | LISA Torchiano   | 28 |
| 10 | Paul Dame        | 29 |
| 11 | Phil Keogh       | 30 |
| 12 | Mary Sullivan    | 31 |
| 13 | Kevin Ryan       | 32 |
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