



Wards 2 and 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

Thursday October 10, 2019, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Old North End Community Center, 20 Allen Street

wards2and3npa.weebly.com

Community Dinner at 5:30pm (by donation)

<http://onecommunitydinner.weebly.com>

NPA Announcements – 10 minutes

- Financial Report – Suggestion Box for NPA budget
- Introduction of Steering Committee Members
- In an effort to allow more people to participate in discussions, we ask that both questions and answers be kept as short as possible and concise (our recommendation is 1 minute questions and 2 minute answers)
- These meetings are both live streamed and available for later viewing on YouTube. The meeting videos can be found by searching in YouTube for “Burlington Wards 2 & 3 NPA” or can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hLh5ACqL6c&list=PLjLFn4BZd2N95y-kUzewx0ZN0Tf8rLo_

Public Forum– 15 minutes

- Announcements / Comments / Issues / Suggestions (one minute per speaker)

Citywide reappraisal – 10 minutes

John Vickery, City Assessor

- City-wide Reappraisal project

Burlington Electric – Net Zero Energy roadmap - – 15 minutes

Darren Springer - General Manager

Jennifer Green - Director of Sustainability and Workforce Vitality

Pine Street Coalition – 10 minutes

Tony Redington

- Advocacy for a safer, cheaper, cleaner roadway with separate bike and pedestrian paths

City Council Update Q & A – 15 minutes

Perri Freeman, Brian Pine and Max Tracy

- Climate Emergency Resolution

State Housing Priorities and Q & A – 10 minutes

Brian Cina and Selene Colburn, Chittenden 6-4

Jill Krowinski and Curt McCormack, Chittenden 6-3

Jean O'Sullivan, Chittenden 6-2

Door Prize: \$25 City Market gift certificate

Adjourn

A section of Burlington City Council resolution first adopted in 1982 establishing provisions for a Neighborhood Planning Assembly in each City ward.

...Neighborhood Planning Assemblies shall... help provide citizens with information concerning city programs and activities; help obtain citizen views of city needs; help provide citizens with the opportunity to participate in making recommendations with respect to governmental decisions including the allocation of revenues.

...Assemblies shall also be encouraged to provide advice to the appropriate commission or this council with respect to community development, housing programs, this City's Comprehensive Plan and its waterfront planning activities, and the city's budget among other issues....

Current NPA 2/3 Steering Committee:

Andrew Champagne	Ward 2	802-540-0717
Patrick Johnson	Ward 2	superdogirie@gmail.com
Emma Schoenberg	Ward 2	em.schoenberg@gmail.com
Tony Redington	Ward 2	TonyRVT99@gmail.com
Francesca Enzler	Ward 2	enzlerf@gmail.com
Alex Lavin	Ward 2	alexanderlavin@yahoo.com
Infinite Culcleasure	Ward 3	infinite.culcleasure@gmail.com
Amanda Hannaford	Ward 3	amanda.hannaford.vt@gmail.com
Perri Freeman	Ward 3	freeman.perri@gmail.com
Charlie Giannoni	Ward 3	charliecpg@gmail.com
Barbara McGrew	Ward 3	bmcgrew@aol.com
Kevin Deutermann	Ward 3	kdootz@gmail.com

Burlington City Elected Officials Wards 2 and 3

Mayor Miro Weinberger	Democrat	802-865-7272	mayor@BurlingtonVT.gov
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City Councilors:

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Perri Freeman	Progressive	203-623-9490	pfreeman@burlingtonvt.gov
Ward 2	Max Tracy	Progressive	802-373-1968	mtracy@burlingtonvt.gov
Ward 3	Brian Pine	Progressive		bpine@burlingtonvt.gov

School Board Members:

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Jean Waltz		355-7856	jwaltz@bsdvt.org
Ward 2	Stephen Carey			scarey@bsdvt.org
Ward 3	Liz Curry		578-5793	lcurry@bsdvt.org

Vermont State House Representatives

Chittenden-6-3	Jill Krowinski	Democrat	802.363.3907	jkrowinski@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-3	Curt McCormack	Democrat	802.318.2585	cmccormack@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-4	Brian Cina	Progressive/ Democrat	802.448.2178	bcina@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-4	Selene Colburn	Progressive/ Democrat	802.540.0546	scolburn@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-2	Jean O'Sullivan	Democrat	802.658.0492	josullivan@leg.state.vt.us

Vermont State Senators (Chittenden County)

Tim Ashe	Progressive/Democrat	802.318.0903	tashe@leg.state.vt.us
Philip Baruth	Progressive/Democrat	802.503.5266	pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us
Debbie Ingram	Democrat	802.879.0054	dingram@leg.state.vt.us
Ginny Lyons	Democrat	802.863.6129	vlyons@leg.state.vt.us
Chris Pearson	Progressive/Democrat	802.860.3933	cpearson@leg.state.vt.us

Michael Sirotkin

Democrat

802.999.4360

msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes



NPA:
(choose one)

Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : __10__ / __10__ / __19__

Start Time: (Commence): 6:34 _____

Location: _____ Miller Center _____

Finish Time: (Adjourn): _____ 8:26 _____

Note taker: _____ Kelt Wilska _____

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Tony Redington, Andrew Champagne, Patrick Johnson, Perri Freeman, Emma Schoenberg, Infinite Culcleasure, Barbara McGrew, Amanda Hannaford, James Lockridge, Kevin Deuterman

Discussion Topics

- NPA Announcements
- Public Forum
- City-wide Reappraisal
- Burlington Electric- Net Zero Energy Roadmap
- Pine Street Coalition
- City Council Update Q+A
- State Housing Priorities and Q+A

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

- N/A

Agenda Items and Actions:

Public Forum

- Looking for suggestions as to how to spend our new budget. Suggestion box under construction
- Representing Justice For All. Wanted to make you aware of a couple things. JFA birthday party on 10/19 @6PM-9PM at 294 North Winooski Ave Studio A. On 10/13 film viewing of *Fruitvale Station*. 38 South Winooski @3PM 1st Congregational Church. Every fourth Sunday is board game night same location. Systemic racism talk 10/16 same location 6:30PM. Use of Force Forum 10/24 6:30PM same location
- Burlington Tenants Union. Newly formed. Contact via Facebook and Burlingtontenantsunion.com, BTVrenters on Instagram. Help tenants write letters, informational pickets on the worst landlords in the city. On Halloween 3:30-5PM picket at Handy Court.
- Vermont Workers Center having an event next week at the Allen Center @6PM about universal healthcare
- Hiring Economic Development Coordinator for volunteer leadership team at ONE. ONE challenge, two people haven't picked up their prizes.
- 10/29 Event about how to make our water rates more income-sensitive. 6-8PM Conquest Auditorium. Trying to address issue for low-income and low-volume water users
- Nonprofit Hands. Next event is a Christmas delivery, delivering 700 hot meals and gift bags. Handsvt.org.
- Burlington Tenants Union. Promoting awareness. Burlington Tenants Summit on 11/3 @Fletcher Free Library, Fletcher Room 12:30PM. Food Not Bombs providing food. Childcare provided.
- F35s being severely criticized. Why is our political leadership collaborating with the Trump administration? Just the first 2. 18 more are coming.
- Tony Redington. Going to be an educational event next Wednesday @6PM-8PM at AALIV offices. Topics: stealing of Burlington Telecom, Coalition for Livable Cities.
- Janet won community service award at City Market for community dinners. These volunteers not only devote their own time but also sometimes their own money

-Construction finishing the Allen Center in early to mid November. Windows replaced. Got rid of a dirt pile in front of St. Joseph's. Let us know if anyone is interested in doing events here.

Citywide Reappraisal

-In the beginning of citywide reevaluation, last one was 2005

-Adjusting the current values to market. Right now approximately 75% upmarket. Evaluation will be concluded in 2021. Hired Tyler Technologies. Certified appraisers, wearing identification. They may or may not inspect your house

-Mailed letters to all residential property owners with information about their particular property. Please bring/mail forms back.

-How will this impact your property value? Market has performed very well, properties are overall undervalued. Different properties are appreciated at different rates. When values are changed, will have a grand list that will be ~4 billion 800 million. Not a windfall of additional tax revenue. Bringing everyone back to a level playing field. Expecting tax rate will drop to 68 cents

Q: What does a typical inspection look like?

A: Inspector will introduce themselves and ask to take a look outside and then inside. Walking from basement up to the attic, general sense, not every nook and cranny. Quality of workmanship evaluated. They should show where they have made corrections to property data.

Q: How will this affect property rents?

A: Rent is typically driven by market forces. There will be a change in the expenses on a landlord. Should see a relatively uniform type of change. Tax burden on property owner will be about the same as it was.

Q: Should we still send form back if nothing has changed?

A: Yes but we won't hunt you down.

Q: Assessment 2 years ago the same?

A: Likely due to permitting reasons. Likely won't be another inspection.

Q: What percentage of the city is going to be physically inspected?

A: 10-15%

Q: Are any properties going to be assessed on an income-generating basis?

A: Using income approach as final value, but condition a factor

Q: Any plan to reassess commercial?

A: All properties will be reassessed

Q: Will F35 noise be incorporated into property value?

A: We will recognize effects through sales in that area. Adjustment made based on sales. Legally bound to adjust properties for what they'll sell for.

Q: What would a property owner do if they feel the assessment is not correct?

A: We'd like the public to be involved now. Letters were sent out for that reason. Preliminary values will be put out for public to see. July 2021 taxpayers can come visit the evaluators for a further check/hearing.

Q: How is low-income/retirement status taken into consideration?

A: Following law based on market value. State has law for eligible people to qualify for homestead reduction. Lower tax rate if you live at your property. Also an income sensitivity

Q: For those who are part of Champlain Housing Trust? What if we're getting ready to do a renovation?

A: We value just the property owner's portion of the property. When we conduct reevaluation, we'll be using the same factors. If there are renovations before 4/1, they will be included in assessment

Q: 10-15% of properties?

A: All properties, but only visiting 10-15%. A lot of techniques for finding valuation. Can get close to fair market value without entering home. But hope to visit properties that have been sold recently or been renovated recently or those that have had some errors. Likely not those that have been visited in the last few years.

Q: Some properties could be overassessed?

A: Yes.

-Tax rate goes down proportionally with the increase in valuations.

Q: If inspectors see code violations, will they pass that on?

A: Staff will mention it to property owner to give them an opportunity to correct that problem.

Climate Emergency Resolution

-Shifting from climate change to climate emergency. Council endorsed this. Councilor Freeman attempted to put in a clause that added livable wage jobs for city workers. It was a challenge to get City Council to agree on that connection. What would the impact be if even seasonal workers made a livable wage? That resolution passed.

-City Place: administration sent a letter to Brookfield saying that they're behind in payments and need to pay by a certain date. Have failed to restore public right of way. Need to inform public and Council about new plan. Have agreed to meeting these requirements.

-Noncitizen voting. Horrendous coverage on this. Have not voted on this. Time to reconsider, have a public education campaign and let the public vote.

Q: Restoring Right of way?

A: Sidewalks, not Pine St.

Q: Housing package passed. Removal of parking requirement for developers. Status of that package?

A: Big question on Monday night. A concept and a proposal right now, details not ironed out. Concept is in resolution. Council has stated that nothing will be given until something is gotten for the community (alternative transit). Still a lot of time to debate this.

Q: Is it a good time to repeal zoning ordinance about 14 stories-high building?

A: It may be a good time to discuss it, always a possibility.

Q: Non-citizen voting. Important for getting people engaged and involved in the community.

A: It hurts to meet people who would love to vote but can't

Q: It's really important to have non-citizen voting

A: If we're a democracy, no one should be left out.

Q: Governor is totally against it, calls it a slippery slope. Can you touch on that?

A: Hopefully Governor Scott will remember that Republicans say that local control is important.

Q: Should be called "all-resident voting" instead.

Q: Has Brookfield given the city free public parking over the holidays? Could it be public transit funding?

A: Unsure, can be looked into

Q: Zero-energy plan. Is it appropriate to continue running the McNeil Plant?

A: A topic that has to be discussed. A district energy connection can be discussed.

Burlington Electric

-Net-zero roadmap

-BED background

- Really good moment to release roadmap given climate strike and emergency declaration
- Goal of net zero city by 2030
- Heating and transportation are two biggest emission sectors
- Public power utility since 1905. Run the McNeil and Winooski hydropower plants and numerous solar projects
- 11th year without raising electric rates
- 3rd largest utility in the state
- Energy efficiency utility
- Encourage everyone to go to burlingtonelectric.com for contact info and roadmap info.
- Using roughly 6% less energy than in 1989.
- 238 coal plants worth of energy reduced per year if the entire country had this rate
- Portfolio of renewable sources. Growing slice of power from solar. Burlington is #1 per capita solar production in New England, #4 in country

-Net Zero Goals and Road Map

- Privileged in Burlington to own the Electric utility as a city

- Ready to transition to net zero in thermal and ground transportation sectors
- Selected Synapse Energy Informatics from Cambridge
- Presented roadmap in September
- People driving into Burlington take up a large piece of the pie. Transportation is the largest piece of the puzzle, followed by commercial buildings and then residential buildings. Decided to focus on the building sector.
- If we keep going at the rate we are, we'll be far off from our goal. 2040 is not as steep a reduction. Greenhouse gases will be lowered by 69% if net zero by 2030. 57% if by 2040.
- 60% of the pie will be efficient building electrification. Moving away from fossil fuels. Need a transition to electric vehicles (20%). Alternative transportation will play an important role as well.
- Ready to get going

New programs and incentives

- Burlingtonelectric.com for all incentive programs
- If you spend a dollar at a gas station, 80 cents leave the state. If you charge an EV or bike, 50 cents or more stay in the state
- Building incentives, EVs, Ebike rebates, electric buses being added to GMT fleet. EV for carshare. 18 more charging stations being installed, with emphasis on multi-family housing locations.
- Electric lawnmowers, lawn equipment, forklifts rebates

Q: Not the climate action plan. Will there be an update?

A: Meghan Tuttle has that on her to do list. Will show us where we need to be on emissions and waste.

Q: Why wasn't public transit considered? Private car ownership was instead

A: It was considered, transit supply. Offering incentives to GMT and prepared to offer more

Q: Airport wasn't included, as Mayor Weinberger said there wasn't anything we could do. Will trains or airport be addressed?

A: In terms of air travel, we didn't incorporate that. Aviation was 1% of state total emissions. There is some innovation happening there. Advocates for rail as well. Focus was on heating and ground transportation. Two biggest emissions sectors, biggest impact. Other areas that could be addressed in the climate action plan. A company was testing out electric planes at the airport.

Q: Thank you BED. Allowed bike conversion against rules. Is the source of the charging station not fossil fuel based?

A: Correct

Q: Concerned about pollution caused by cars coming into the city. Why is there not public transit around the city? And why are we not finding a way to prevent people from bringing their cars into our city?

A: A big source of emissions. We are a regulated utility. Can't offer same incentive to out of city customers. Plan has more transit around us. Not something we can do on our own but in partnership.

Q: Thank you. Heard whispers that BED will be privatized. Is that true?

A: No.

Q: Read the plan, really like it. EV program has a lot of great incentives. Most of the people can't afford the downpayment for an EV. Could BED take on a lease program? Dealers largely offer finance scams. Why is it unfeasible? Bond?

A: Partnered with a company that offers leases. Price per month went up and they wanted more money instead of putting forward more money themselves. Plan fell through. Was talking today about this issue. Dealers would much rather sell a gas vehicle. Not many companies marketing EVs. Hoping to share lease plans with a new company.

Q: Autodealers are the ones are fighting against this.

Q: Are you thinking about electric snowblower rebates? Would be much more willing to ride a bus if there were bus stops protected against the elements.

A: Electric mowers are one of the most popular plans. Hoping to do snowblowers, too. Exploring it with the state. Hopefully will have an incentive plan for other machines within a year. Important to put leverage on GMT for bus stops.

Q: Is the city advocating also?

A: To be a GMT member, the city pays and thus has leverage power.

Q: The reason a lot of people don't walk or bike is because they don't feel safe. Could BED use their efficiency funds to help DPW? District heating: is that still in the pipe dream phase? Could residents ever tap into it? Or just huge developments?

A: As a regulated utility, the funds we're given need to stay within efficiency. But doesn't mean we can't partner with DPW. District energy would begin with waste steam from McNeil going up to medical center. Single biggest step we could take. Key is to get it started.

Pine Street Coalition

-Environmental justice. The connector was designed to take traffic out of all neighborhoods. About 10 years ago the federal government decided that the road would go through King and Maple. City tried to fight. Environmental justice was not considered. Times have changed since that decision. Road project is not going anywhere. Why? Environmental justice: when the government engages in a project, it does not disproportionately affect low income and minority residences. Laws have changed to reflect this. Pine Street Coalition filed some papers. DOJ looked at them and agrees with PSC papers. Talk to your councilors, it is not a done deal.

State Housing Priorities/Curt McCormack

-Of all the people who are employed in Burlington, 73% do not live in Burlington.

-We go with California re: carbon emissions

-Car dealers have to sell a certain number of EVs. Working on bus stops

-Going to try to pass minimum wage. Have the votes to override a veto.

-Democratic majority on the transportation committee. Transportation is #1 source of emissions in whole state.

-Been meeting with advocates about this. Join us, contact me to voice concerns and ideas. Vermont really can be a leader here. States and countries need to see that these things can happen. Environmental community wants to electrify everything. Concerned that we are blowing a golden opportunity if all we do is electrify.

-EV owners drive more, cheap to operate. Transit, biking and walking are so important. Looking to put forward a statewide policy where all transit is free.

Q: How do you feel about regional transit plan?

A: Private railroad is the biggest problem there. Not dead yet, working on it. Ethan Allen express is definitely coming.

Q: Act 250 changes has been disastrous. Making developments easier is not legislators' jobs.

A: Wasn't there when Act 250 changed. They were trying to steer development into downtown. Act 250 is seen as detrimental to developers. Shouldn't be seen that way.

Q: Should be more difficult for developers. There should be health and environmental factors incorporated.

Q: what is the feasibility of electrified light rail?

A: Place to do it is foot of Main Street and up the hill. Very expensive but a dream we should take seriously. Ethan Allen Express is taking so long because Middlebury tunnel construction. Has to be a while.

Q: Has anyone thought about gondolas from railroad to UVM?