

4/7 NPA Community Meeting

June 24, 2020

7:00 PM

Online Zoom Format:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88569221627?pwd=U0htMTBrQzF4T3k5ME9Nb2pNa mo2dz09>

6:45 PM - 7:00 - Online Sign In and Participant Recognition Screening

7:00-7:10 - Ground Rules, Security Instructions, Introductions and Announcements

7:10-7:50 - Elected Officials

City Council - School Board - Legislature

7:50-8:10 - Cambrian Rise Update - Eric Farrell, Project Manager & Principal Developer

8:10-8:40 - Burlington Police Commission Report and Community Input Conversation - Commissioners Jabulani Gamache & Shireen Hart

8:40-9:00 - Temporary Bike Infrastructure Proposal for the NNE - Jonathon Weber, Local Motion Liveable Streets Program

9:00 - Adjourn

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Steering Committee Members Present:

Jeff Clark

Linda Deliduka

Erik Monsen

Matt Colburn

Jeff Comstock

Jim Holway

7:10-7:50 - Elected Officials

School Board

Martine Gulick: Thanks community for an excellent BHS graduation ceremony. Discusses gowns, graduation ceremonies, procession, and Safety and Health Guidelines.

Kendra Sowers: Welcomed new Superintendent and discussed summer meals and summer school and programming. Thanks former Superintendent.

Monika Ivancic: Discusses Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and SROs.

Spoke to SRO presence in school and the school has a memorandum of understanding since 2015 signed by the Superintendent and the Chief of Police. Talking about police presence and school and had 15 speakers at Board Meeting discussing concerns about police presence. We want to hear from the community and welcome public comment at board meeting.

City Councilors:

Franklin Paulino: Discusses the budget, public forum, police department budget, and receiving communications about a resolution to explore a question for the

voters about taxing. Not in favor of any 30% cut unless showing significant safety measures.

Sarah Carpenter: We have spending the last 3 weeks trying to get public input on the budget and have been receiving hundreds of email and phone calls. Looking at Tenant Protections and Water Quality Planning.

Ali Dieng: Discusses about the budget, Racial Justice Alliance, and thanks New North Enders about public comment and feedback. Please join us tomorrow at 6:30 to provide feedback via Zoom Meeting.

Carol Ode: Discusses relief funds, passed first quarter budget, and Social Equity Caucus. Quotes Peter Welch from meeting about racism, George Floyd, and systemic racism. Talks about SROs, local level law enforcement and funding.

Bob Hooper: Focuses on Unemployment Benefits, Government Operations Committee, and bills concerning reparations. We also are discussing elections and more.

Jean O'Sullivan: Discusses on supporting businesses through minority owned and female owned business support in bill. We also talked about investing \$5 million dollars to restaurants and farms to provide food for folks and get it back through FEMA reimbursement. Discusses grants tied to tax account and ensuring that your account is set up.

Questions:

Keenan – Shares *Evaluating Police Uses of Force* book as a good basis to understanding Policing and Use of Force Policies.

Jeff – Asks question about MOU survey and asks question about distinction between advocacy and public opinion. Concern about charter changes and proposed schedule.

Ali – Answers Jeff's concern and discusses how he appreciates feedback from community members and doesn't know if it will change his perception of this issue. Listened for over 25 hours and now it is time to make a decision. About 7 were from the New North End, which is why we want to hear from New North Enders tomorrow.

Sarah – I appreciate hearing from the public and looking deep within to make changes. I did not mind listening to people and now we have to sort out what our next steps are.

7:50-8:10 - Cambrian Rise Update - Eric Farrell, Project Manager & Principal Developer

Discusses Liberty House, Old Classroom Building, Cambrian Rise, Renovations, and shows images of development.

Questions:

Kate – Had question about landscaping, specifically featuring native plants.

Eric – Yes, will feature native plants and have that mandate.

Ali – It would be good to clarify North Avenue Extension and Bike Lanes. Why wasn't the outside design part of what you brought to City Council?

Eric – Protected lanes but spent months with BPRW to come up with a plan. Not part of our permitting and will be part of BPRW. Not our responsibility for permitting, but rather BPRW.

Bob – What is your construction schedule for the two north buildings?

Eric – Late this year or Spring of 2021.

Matt – Thank you for your work.

Nancy – Buildings are beautiful, but question about parking on North Avenue. We had to remove parking to calm traffic already.

Eric – There never was parking in that area and we do want to widen North Avenue to create parking and calm traffic. Parking on the street does calm traffic.

8:10-8:40 - Burlington Police Commission Report and Community Input Conversation - Commissioners Jabulani Gamache & Shireen Hart

Shireen: Gives background about the police commission, who the commissioners are, how long they serve, qualifications, reappointment, authority, and recommendations from the police commission.

Jabulani: Wants to hear feedback from community.

Keenan: What policy changes do you have envisioned about constitutionality and community expectations of policing?

Jabulani: So, before there wasn't a way to intervene when you see an excessive use of force and if another police officer sees an excessive use of force they have to intervene.

Shireen: Revisions to use of force policy, we can go above and beyond what was put in the policy before.

Franklin: Can Police Commission hold a meeting or make a statement about how they feel about cutting the police?

Jabulani: Would be happy to write a statement or publish one, but my personal opinion is in favor of the cuts they are implementing including money allocated to social workers and mental health services. I do not believe they will happen overnight, but we have to see the best path forward. No one has really asked how the Police Department feels moving forward.

Jeff: What are areas of concern?

Jabulani: How to improve downtown policing is my expertise and knowledge. I am looking for ways to work on this issue.

Bob: I would like to sit down with you to help inform our policies and get feedback.

Jabulani: Yes, I would like to do that.

Ali: Thank you and I wanted to know the elements to discipline officers who have used force with youth of color.

Shireen: We can't use specific details about the cases, but prior to a week ago, that policy was very limiting. I can say that a review of a case now and a year ago, would look very differently.

Leanne: What resources are available to help us understand what the current status is with policies and the relationship between the BPD and the Howard Center?

Jabulani: I don't know of current resources and will look into it.

Shireen: What I would recommend is to read the special report from the committee presented to the city council. If you are looking particular to Burlington, I would. Please email us if you'd like more, but start there.

Martine: I would like to see what your opinion of SROs.

Jabulani: I agree with Racial Justice Alliance and should take SROs of school. Henry Sparks is in favor of having them in there but would like feedback from students and community members.

Shireen: I feel the same way. Our youngest child just graduated from high school and I am aware of students that having SROs in school didn't work. I agree with Jabu.

8:40-9:00 - Temporary Bike Infrastructure Proposal for the NNE – Elizabeth Gohringer, DPW and Jonathon Weber, Local Motion Liveable Streets Program

Ali: Thanks Jonathan and gives background about Temporary Bike Infrastructure Proposal for the NNE. This proposal doesn't cost any money from taxpayers, but is also temporary. Paulino and Carpenter were also moved by the presentation and the people who showed up to ask questions.

Sarah: Good way to get people safely using the avenue and getting outside. There needs to be a lot of thought about North Avenue in the future, but this is not that. This is really for this year and temporary, and going into next year, we hope to have another forum about what we look more permanently to.

Franklin: I think that we want to see this as an opportunity to get people rallying behind this new initiative. Might bring more people here and help people commute easier.

Ali: If there is any issue, contact the City Councilors, not DPW.

Chapin: Looking at drainage issue to include design in repavement plan. North Avenue will be paved this year from Cambrian Rise.

Sarah Carpenter: Will we be able to have a larger conversation in the future about this?

Chapin: Happy to meet over the winter, let's do it.

Elizabeth: Shares presentation and discusses project in more detail: length of project, response to COVID 19, price, safety, timeline and sharing feedback.

Jim: When is the forum?

Elizabeth: June 2nd

Carol: I heard from folks a desire not to hurt bicyclists and the rules for bicyclists. Concern about safety, would like to see or have signs or other information.

Chapin: Thank you and we do need help from partners in these ventures. We need to improve traffic, but there is more work to do on this.

Jonathan: We have adult workshops and are looking into new ways to educate the public about the new lanes.

Matt: Thank you and wanted to echo Carol's questions. I do not see rules followed by bikers and what are your plans?

Jeff: Discussed potholes and bikes.

9:00 - Adjourn