



June 1, 2017 at 7:00 Morgan Room, Aiken Hall, Champlain College
Facilitator: Michelle Mraz; Minutes: Charles Simpson, Snacks Clare Wool
Videographer: Phet Keomanyvanh

6:45 Social time

7:00 Agenda overview and approval of May 4th minutes

7:05 Public Forum. (This is a time when residents of Ward 6 can raise issues of public concern).

7:15 Nomination and vote to fill vacant Steering Committee seat.

7:20 Old Business:

James Lockridge will ask for support for 242 Main in any restoration of Memorial Auditorium as a public civic space: "We ask that as you resolve the structural issues with Memorial Auditorium by repairing or redeveloping the building, please keep 242 Main in its current location, operating as a teen-led program that can continue its legacy of serving Burlington's youth in its uniquely powerful and historic way, providing an outlet for their creative and social vision. Please make this 'community benefit' a priority within the redevelopment process."

Charles Simpson, on behalf of All NPA, will ask for support of All NPA leading a public discussion of the future of Memorial Auditorium as a civic space.

New Business:

7:45 School Board members Stephanie Seguino and Jeff Wick will bring us up to date on board activities

8:00 Noelle MacKay, Director of CEDO, will discuss current planning involving New Moran and Memorial Auditorium as civic spaces.

8:15 Michelle Mraz will read a statement from Councilor Karen Paul on city issues. Michelle will also read a statement from Sandy Yuson on behalf of Champlain College.

8:25 State Representative Mary Sullivan will give us an overview of the spring legislative session in Montpelier.

8:50 Announcements:

1. Mark Sousa GMT General Manager, was unable to meet with us today but will be on the agenda for the Sept. 7th NPA 6 to answer questions about Green Mountain Transits' plans to introduce electric buses in the region.
2. Other announcements?

9:00 Adjourn

Ward 6 Steering Committee:

Clare Wool, (clarewool@me.com)

Illir Hasa (ihasa@burlingtonvt.gov)

Michelle Mraz (michelle.mraz@gmail.com)

Charles Simpson (simpsocr@plattsburgh.edu)

City Councilors:

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Joan Shannon, jshannon@burlingtonvt.gov

Board of School Commissioners:

Stephanie Seguino, sseguino@bsdvt.org

Jeff Wick, jeffrey.wick@gmail.com

State Representatives Chittenden District 6-3

Curt McCormack (D) 318-2585

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Chittenden District 6-6:

For information on accessibility, alternate forms of the agenda, including something on the agenda, etc., of the Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly, contact any of the Steering Committee members listed above. The Ward 6 NPA strives for flexibility in planning before and during the meeting. Accordingly, the specifics of the agenda and the allocated times may change.

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NPA 6, Minutes

June 1, 2017, Aiken Hall, Champlain College

Facilitator: Michelle Mraz; Minutes: Charles Simpson; Videographer: Phet Keomanyvahn; Technical Support: Dylan B.

1. Minutes from the May 4, 2017 meeting were presented and approved.
2. Public Forum:
 - a. Lisa Kingsbury on behalf of UVM gave an update on construction projects. The STEM project is partly done, new housing will open for the Fall semester; Cook is coming down, and Slade Hall will be renovated this summer.
3. Stephanie Seguino on behalf of the School Board gave a report. One BHS senior, Anders Ode, has been selected as a White House Scholar, representing Vermont, one of 161 in the U.S. The capital planning for BHS is underway. This is separate from the expenditure of the \$19 million approved by voters in March for other system maintenance. Needs at BHS include handicapped access. There are several possible plans. One is for \$95 million; less extensive renovation plans call for expending \$58 million. A planning group organized by the Superintendent is in place.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) funds were found by the courts to be ineligible for support of school system programs. They amount to about \$1 million in Burlington and the City and the School Board are discussion ways to use this in other ways to benefit students or future students, as for example, by funding school-readiness day care and/or New American adjustment. The results of this discussion haven't been determined.

Mediation between the Board and the teachers' union, BEA, were not successful so have been moved to a Fact Finder. The Board offer was 1.75% in year one; 2% in year two. The BEA is asking for 5.3% at the start of the contract. The Fact Finder will report 7/7. We hope for a resolution prior to the beginning of the Fall school year.

Rumors have circulated about teacher unhappiness and that 40% of BHS teachers have resigned. That is false. Of 392 teachers there, 12 will be leaving for other jobs or other reasons and 19 will be retiring. That is a normal attrition percentage. The Board members have a lot of expertise. When you hear a rumor, please check with the Board members before you take it as true and recirculate it.

On the state-wide health care proposal: We are involved in strategic or multi-year planning, which is best for cost containment. As a policy issue, it is not useful to have proposals that address the current rather than the future fiscal year.
4. James Lockridge presented a proposal that Ward 6 NPA endorse the following: "We ask that as you resolve the structural issues with Memorial Auditorium by repairing or redeveloping the building, please keep 242 Main in its current location, operating as a teen-led program that can continue its legacy of serving Burlington's youth in its uniquely powerful and historic way, providing an outlet for their creative and social vision. Please make the 'community benefit' a priority within the redevelopment process." Motion seconded and approved.
5. Charles Simpson, representing All NPA, asked that Ward 6 NPA approve a motion to support the effort of All NPA to organize public outreach and participation in any plans

for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of Memorial Auditorium as a civic space. Motion seconded and approved.

6. Noelle MacKay, Director of CEDO discussed progress on New Moran. Public proposals for developing the building were called for in 2013 and New Moran, Inc. was selected. The MOU with them was ended in February 2016 and a new RFP issued, which elicited only one bid, again from New Moran, Inc, with a shift of participating partners. Negotiations continue as does efforts by New Moran to obtain needed private funding. TIF funds are available, Higher Ground, operating as Moran Plant Productions, has given a letter of intent as event manager, and plans are for Farmers' Market to occupy the space year-round. A restaurant tenant is also planned. There are 2-3 months of negotiations still ahead. CEDO has also created demolition plans. The venue holds 600-700 people and could include an outdoor ice skating rink. It won't replace Higher Ground's other facility.

Continuing, Mackay said that Memorial Auditorium has been studied three times to assess needed repairs. A bond request in past years failed to obtain voter approval. It will take between \$6 and \$10 million to secure the facility. An RFP issued last fall resulted in negotiations with UVM for a sports facility but UVM and the City failed to come to an agreement. It was for the entire block. Council approved this overture to UVM. While Moran is on contaminated soil, that's not a problem with Memorial (MA) and so MA is more developable. But the site is still complex in its ownership. CEDO has had other pressing priorities and hasn't pushed ahead on MA. They did meet with Rights & Democracy about having them handle the public input but nothing has been done so far. they are looking at the fall for a public process. The fire station could be part of the project, perhaps reused for other purposes. Question/Comment: The bond you mentioned seems to be the one that failed in 1994 and was for several improvement projects, not just Memorial, and while it gained a majority of votes, didn't make the 60% threshold needed for a general revenue bond. Answer: we also need to hear from other groups working with teens, such as the Fletcher Library staff. Q. Does this mean that CEDO is willing to work with the All NPA on organizing public participation in any rehabilitation or redesign process? A. It depends on the timing. We could use NPAs as a public forum. The future of Memorial isn't tied to Moran in any way. There is no tradeoff. The two are in different TIF districts.

7. Michelle Mraz read a statement from Sandy Yusen, representing Champlain College (CC). To summarize, work at Eagles Landing is progressing quickly and on-schedule. Weekly updates are on the college website. Joyce Leaning Center is being renovated; 56 Summit Street is getting a new roof; they are expanding other offices and redesigning our IDX Dining Hall. Fire alarm testing will take place in June and may cause some noise. CC will utilize Lakeside parking where possible for summer events. Updates will be posted on Front Porch Forum. Her contact is: syusen@champlain.edu.

8. Michelle Mraz also read a statement from Councilor Karen Paul. June 1 is the deadline for Burlington Telecom (BT) purchase or partnership proposals, after which BT Advisory Board (BTAB) and Council will review them in the light of published criteria. The community will have the chance to be a part of the process. Joan Shannon and Karen Paul are both on the BTAB. Council will also be reviewing the New Moran proposal, expected in mid-June. Board of Finance will review and

possibly vote on the Mayor's budget. Burlington Town Center redevelopment continues with ground breaking in the "not-too-distant future." Bike path repair continues with most of the work on the entire path to the Winooski bridge expected to be done this year. Her newsletter to residents will come out next week. Karen apologized for having to miss the NPA; Joan is at a Form Based Code meeting and sent her regrets.

9. Legislators Mary Sullivan and Johannah Leddy Donovan gave an update on the legislative session in Montpelier. The Governor's proposal to treating teachers' health contracts as a state-wide issue should have been submitted to the committee process. Both legislators are opposed. Timing was a problem as was the governor inserting himself in what should be a local negotiations process. We find ourselves on the edge of a budget veto and will return to Montpelier 6/21. Both voted for the marijuana bill that legalized small numbers of plants in personal possession as many surrounding states are or have legalized. We had a process moving from this bill to address commercial sales and tax revenue but that is now derailed. "The veto was a tragedy." We will look at Act 250 in the coming session to ready it for the next 50 years. The existing act doesn't address forest fragmentation or water contamination effectively; nor toxic substances that can be handled by children. Agency fees are being examined in a systematic way on a three-year cycle. Fees are not intended to generate revenue but to cover the costs of an agency's services. We had unpaid family leave beginning in 1995. Now the House, but not the Senate, has passed paid family leave, funded by a payroll tax. We need to fund the effort to clean up Lake Champlain beyond the \$45 million bond issue available. Additional money could come from a property parcel tax, but the governor's "no new taxes" declaration ties the hands of the legislature. We need to look at tax expenditures as well, including tax exemption for non-profits. Q. Effects of federal budget reductions? A. We'll know in mid-Oct. but he [Trump] may flounder with his budget. Vermont is very dependent on federal dollars. Q. Can Vermont respond to the USA getting out of the Climate Change Agreement? A. We have strong state renewable energy plans but these need to be written into law, such as the 2050 goals. Q. Progress toward a livable wage? A. We need a \$15 minimum wage. To some extent we were distracted with the health care legislation. We will continue to push for this. Q. Doesn't the Governor have valid safety issues with marijuana? A. His requests for changes came very late, after the bill was out of committee. The bill would have made access to marijuana by youth actually more difficult. Vetoing the budget is actually a very unique move by any governor. Q. Didn't the AG oppose the marijuana bill? A. He said not act in haste. Q. Aren't taxes on property regressive? A. Yes. We are looking at a very small tax in the interest of water cleanup.
10. Announcement. Mark Sousa of Green Mountain Transit will discuss GMT's plans for electric buses at our September 7 meeting.
11. Nominations for Steering Committee members were called for. Matt Grady volunteered. His nomination was moved, seconded, and approved.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Simpson



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees

NPA (choose one)	☐	Wards 1 & 8	☐	Wards 2 & 3	☐	Wards 4 & 7	☐	Ward 5	☒	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : 6 / 1 / 17 Location: Champlain College

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

1	Charles Simpson	21
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3	JAMES LOCKHART	23
4	Gail Rafferty	24
5	DAVID BELKETT	25
6	Lil HASA	26
7	Peter Keating	27
8	Matt Grady	28
9	Mary Gade	29
10	Neddy Mackay	30
11	Jeff Nick	31
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