



Draft Agenda

Ward 5 NPA May 17, 2018 City Market Community Room 207 Flynn Ave

6:30pm-8:30pm

Schedule:

6:30: Open Forum

6:40: Meeting venue and time survey

6:45: Schools Capital Plan recap / community discussion (Ward 5 SC)

7:05: Community Development Block Grant report (Sam Beall)

7:2: City Council update (Joan Shannon, Chip Mason)

7:40: State Legislative wrap-up (Tim Ashe)

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 5 are:

- Bill Keogh, bkeoghsr@yahoo.com
- Alec Bauer, awbauer@gmail.com
- Nate Orshan, natosongs@gmail.com
- Ben Traverse, bentraverse@gmail.com
- Joanna Grossman, joeyinvermont@gmail.com
- Joe Dery, joedery@gmail.com
- Andy Simon, 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>

By popular demand we will be livestreaming this meeting so stay tuned at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjLFn4BZd2NYcXIqxCwR5szwTULx9pNC>

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees



NPA (choose one)		Wards 1 & 8		Wards 2 & 3		Wards 4 & 7		Ward 5		W
---------------------	--	----------------	--	----------------	--	----------------	--	-----------	--	---

Date of Assembly: 5-17-18 Location: City Market 20

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

1 Nate Orshan

20

2 Spencer Smith

21

3 Karlie Gunderson

22

4 Gretchen Bailey

23

5 Marcia Gustafson

24

6 Martina Lang

25

7 Ben Truise

26

8 ANDY SIMON

27

9 JOE DERY

28

10 Alec Brewer

29

11 SAM BEALL

30

12 Andrew Guenther

31

13

32

14

33

15

34

16

35

17

36

18

37

19

38

20

40



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes – Full Notes

Date of Assembly: 5/17/2018

Start Time:(Commence): 6:30 PM

Finish Time:(Adjourn):8:30 PM

Location: City Market South End, Flynn Ave.

Notetaker: Nate Orshan

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer

Joe Dery

Joanna Grossman

Nate Orshan

Andy Simon

Ben Traverse - Moderator

Note from the notetaker: These minutes should not be construed as a verbatim transcript. I made a good-faith effort to transcribe as best I could and get points recorded as faithfully as possible, but in the process I necessarily had to omit or elide some verbiage. The full video for the meeting is available online at <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-ward-5-npa-meeting-35>.

(1) Open Forum

Summary:

Alec Bauer advised that the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is performing a randomized tree study. Andy Simon shared information about the Friends of Englesby Brook group and a future presentation. An attendee said they noticed work on reclaiming wetlands at Oakledge Park.

Alec Bauer: I got a call today from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. They're doing studies around the state, focusing on Burlington in the summer. They're picking plots at random to do a tree study, an inventory of trees. They're selecting at random, but it's not per property boundaries, i.e., they overlap more than one property.

Q: Are they planning on planting trees in the new building on Flynn & Pine?

A (from attendee): They are and have.

Andy Simon: Ruby Perry and I have been organizing a group Friends of Englesby Brook and would like to get people engaged in thinking about the watershed, engage people in protecting and converting this failed waterway (due to storm surge and

phosphorus from neighboring business lawns), thinking about what we can do together to tell the story of the brook, its history and what we can do. We'll do a presentation here in the fall.

Attendee: Looks like legislature's not doing anything about the lake. I also saw at Oakledge a series of posts where they're trying to grow trees. It's very involved. I asked somebody, and they said it's something about the birds. Looks like they're trying to make it back into a wetlands.

Joanna Grossman: That whole thing started at a Department of Public Works (DPW) presentation at our NPA, where Jesse Bridges said he'd look into it per a comment!

(2) Meeting Venue and Time - Discussion

- Ben Traverse, Meeting Moderator

Summary:

Solicited feedback from attendees re whether the City Market community room is working as an official meeting space. Consensus among attendees was to keep meeting there for the time being and reassess after September.

Ben: In June we'll try to put together our annual social, then take a break in July and August. Tonight is our third meeting at City Market. We'd historically held the meetings at the Department of Public Works (DPW) building. Thought we'd open up a forum. The meeting time's been switched. Are there any strong feelings about it one way or another? Is there another venue we could use?

A couple of folks have had trouble finding the room, but we're addressing it. We're also thinking about spending a little of our budget on additional signage. One thing: Some folks who were close to the DPW and couldn't drive emailed me and said they wanted it back at the DPW.

(Comments from attendees)

I think I'm hearing that we should keep it going in September and then reassess.

Andy: Last meeting there were a lot of people with young kids, so there were kids playing out in the hall. Something we should think about: if we want people with kids to attend, we should discuss with City Market whether we can have a childcare space.

Attendee: The Café's probably available.

Alec: I liked that our meetings were held in a public building in DPW, and it had a little better overflow space. But I'd support staying here.

Ben: Perhaps a topic to revisit.

(3) Burlington School District Capital Plan Recap - Discussion - Ben Traverse, Meeting Moderator

Summary:

Attendees expressed a significant number of outstanding questions about the proposed South End Early Ed Center, a new building and road next to Champlain Elementary, especially whether the School District had sufficiently considered other options, whether a previously proposed addition to Champlain School had been scrapped in favor of the Early Ed Center project, and exactly how much public and regulatory review the District had to engage. More than one attendee appeared to have a degree of skepticism re District's intentions and sincerity. Ben Traverse said the NPA Steering Committee will discuss in its next meeting whether to add a follow-up section about this in its June meeting.

Ben: We had a nice discussion last meeting (about the proposed South End Early Ed Center, a new building and road next to Champlain Elementary), had our two School Board members with Clare Wool, then Nathan Lavery and the architect. But a lot of questions were left hanging. I know Chip and Joan have spoken with the City Attorney about the bond that was passed and the justification for it.

Attendee: I live next to the Ira Allen building. There are a lot of options the school isn't considering. For example, the admin building on Colchester Ave, next to it is a big building that currently belongs to UVM. I'm saying, Let's consider buying that back from UVM. There are a lot of options that the School District isn't following.

They sold Taft School, which used to be the go-to administrative area. But consider options! There's a huge building across the street from India House. How about renting that? I call this "Telecom 2": the same lawyer for the School District who advised on Telecom... If I had an interested party status in this neighborhood, I'd join.

I went to the Development Review Board (DRB) on Monday/Tuesday about the Edmunds project. They're putting a cafeteria in a basement, but the building has drainage issues. They're making a green space next to the dumpsters.

And worse than that, I spent Sunday morning going to the Edmunds site. Nobody in the DRB had even done a site visit. I was the only one touring the admin office on Sunday. This young man doesn't have a clue in the world, the man who gave the tour. If there's a 9-room school building behind the admin office and the man doing the tour doesn't know...You've GOT to consider other options!

Joanna: I'm a parent and have a daughter at Champlain and have been working with a lot of concerned parents and community members. One option was to make an addition off of Champlain. Right now the gym and cafeteria are one room, leading to chaotic scheduling (they put a curtain up, it's not ideal).

So the district had outlined a plan to make an addition off of Champlain. **That** plan's been scrapped in favor of building the new buildings. They want to use Ira Allen for

swing space while the repairs are being done. Building new buildings are a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

Andy: I have questions about where we are in the process re the plan that was presented last month.

Joanna: The School Board has these plans. They've been designed and RFPed, bids coming in in July. I've heard there's talk they might split off the new construction and vote as early as the end of May, so if you're concerned, talk to your school board members now!

The School District's been to the Conservation Board once. They have to go back again and then go to the DRB...

Attendee: I suspect they're not that far along with the design based on what I've seen. Anybody have more info?

Joanna: I agree. The architect chosen wasn't chosen as part of a competitive bidding process, and I've heard criticism. In the conservation board, they say the parking lot cuts across a wetland.

Attendee #1: That seems hard to comprehend, that they actually built a wetlands to improve water quality going to the beach, and I can't imagine further impairing that wetland area.

Attendee #2: My understanding is that the water off the new lot won't go directly into the brook. Whether the plan is good is questionable.

Attendee #1: You've got a piece of forest with a wetland running through it, there's a lot of wildlife. That's something we'll lose. You can't replant forest once you've paved it over.

Alec: Given the concerns around, for example, the site plan, drop-off and pick-up, the lack of public process, do we know where our South District and Ward 5 Commissioners are on this?

Joanna: I shouldn't speak for them, but my impressions is they'd vote against it. If they go ahead and split off that other piece and do an up-or-down vote, I think they'll vote with us, but I think nobody wants a big showdown.

Ben: There are clearly a lot of outstanding questions. To their credit, the School District reached out to us. They told us they were exempt from going through a public review. They underestimated the way the community would be engaging on this project. My question to this group here: Does the NPA still have a role in this process? They've gone before the DRB, Conservation Board...

Joanna: I heard from Marty that they're NOT entirely exempt from the impact review.

Phet Keomanyvanh (Community Development Specialist-Public Engagement, CEDO): They did put a request to talk to all the NPAs. It was part of the same request that went out to us.

Ben: Should we invite anyone back? Also: Should we have a more substantive meeting for our June meeting?

Chip Mason: Caveat: We don't know what the next step is, though. It's not unreasonable to ask the School Board members to come back and make an update. We don't know if the project's going forward yet.

Alec: I'm a designer myself. I'm always trying to find the benefit in projects that I have kneejerk reactions to. I haven't heard anyone elucidate there's a problem this building would solve. I want to believe they're acting in good faith, but...

Chip: There was a meeting last night, and I heard a good explanation/rationale. Re the Pine St drop-off, one objective was to try to solve for that problem. We did hear from the head of the preschool, but she said there'd been discussions among providers before the community, and I said this might be a cart-before-the-horse thing.

Alec: I would want both people who are against the plan and who don't know to remain open, but I don't want what *might* be a kernel of goodness to it...

Ben: Regardless of what happens, I think folks have learned a lot. For example, I thought if the School District was doing to spend hundreds of thousands on a building, there'd be more a review.

Attendee: It doesn't make sense why the school would be exempt.

Attendee: I wonder how the architect and the engineer were hired. They seemed out of touch with the community.

Ben: My understanding is that they have a longstanding relationship with the School District. The Ward 5 NPA Steering Committee will be meeting in the next two weeks, and we'll consider whether to add a business portion to the June meeting.

Chip: There's a comments mechanism online, and please reach out to your Board Members.

Ben: Their FAQ page answered a lot of questions for me.

(4) Community Development Block Grant Report – Sam Beall, Ward 5 Representative

Summary:

Explained the way the grants work, the development vs. the public service parts of the grants, and the actual grant recipients as well as applicants who weren't awarded grant money.



Sam Beall

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is federally based. Most of the money comes to the state, but Burlington gets its own pot of money. We received this year \$416K for actual development, for example, buildings, and \$124K going toward public service programs.

Myself and 12 other people including the Mayor met four times in total to review all the applications and discuss their merits.

Re the development piece: There was an ask of \$420K. It was an easy decision to fund, but YouthBuild had a SNAFU with Housing and Urban Development (HUD), so we can't give them money. But good news is we can roll that money over to next year. Money's closely monitored. 20% of money goes to CEDO to manage the program and do oversight.

More information:

- Born type apartments, part of Cambrian Rise.
- YouthBuild.
- St. Joseph's Community Center received \$100K.
- A Place to Call Home, part of Turning Point Center, part of McClure building. They're a substance abuse nonprofit.
- Then a couple of Women's small biz program, plus a makerspace program via CVOEO.

Public Service: The ask was \$273K, and we had only \$124K.

More information:

- Homeshare VT: \$20K – Facilitate people who are elderly or disabled by having a 3rd party come live with them. It's a light touch that allows two parties to live together.
- Save Tonight: People in a shelter.
- Pathways VT: \$64K: Facilitating people staying in their home. One issue is we don't have enough apartments, and for someone with mental health issues or substance abuse, these programs help facilitate people being able to live at home.
- We weren't able to fund a Community Healthcenters of Burlington program.
- Burlington Bicycle Project: We weren't able to fund
- CVOEO VITA program.
- Burlington Children's Space: We weren't able to fund

Andy: Is the breakdown federally mandated?

Sam: Yes, and the proportion's set by the original law, i.e., this percent for projects and that percent for public service. But each city does things differently. For example, in another city the Mayor may have people who just decide on their own. But here, there's a lot of public input.

(5) City Council Updates

- Chip Mason, Ward 5 Councilor, and Joan Shannon, South District Councilor

Summary:

Shared updates re the City Council's recent vote to waive School Superintendent Yao Obeng's residency requirement, the redesign of Cherry and Bank Streets based on public input, the perpetual "bike lanes vs. parking" dilemma of street design, the City Hall Park redesign process, and their efforts to determine the extent to which the Council can have a role in the School District's capital plan.



Joan Shannon, Chip Mason

Joan: We recently had to make a decision re the School District Superintendent's residency. I was in the minority. I thought that waiving the requirement would set a new precedent, i.e., for someone moving in from outside the area. Our charter requires that the person be a voter of the city, but because he's not a citizen, he needed that part of the waiver. We was given a waiver, so has it for as long as he lives in his house.

Chip: The charter says if you head a department, you have to be a Burlington resident, but the Council can make an exception for personal hardship. (1) If children are of school age, (2) if you move up through the dept and already live somewhere else, and (3) if you live in Chittenden County and it would cause "significant hardship" to move, for example, as we did for Noelle MacKay. I missed the vote, but I would have voted with the minority. I don't like voting on whether you know someone or not.

Joan: I'm not happy we were put in this position but.... Moving on: redesign on Cherry and Bank Streets. They were redesigned based on response in community meetings, and there were some concerns on not having bike lanes. They've designed

Bank St. to be a curbless street; there'll be color delineations. I think it'll work well on Bank St., where you won't be picking up a lot of speed, and it allows closing the street off for block parties, the Farmers Market, etc. Cherry St. will still be more of a traditional street.

Chip: Part of the tension is always "bike lanes vs. parking". The Walk/Bike Master Plan errs on side of making things more bike-friendly. There is concern on the part of the Council that removing parking will have a negative effect. We will also be debating in a month or so the Main St. plan, too, with bike lanes.

Joan: I'm leaning toward not supporting bikes on mid Main St., because the businesses depend on people being able to park there. But that's something that will come down the pike in the future...

Q: So we'll have more and more cars, tourists come in. Have you thought about elevated parking lots?

Chip: There's been much time spent on the Downtown District by the (?). Report's not ready, but the idea is that there'll be a nonprofit created.

Joan: With every development project, we require that the developers will build parking that meets their needs. We might disagree on what their needs are, but we don't want them to burden the other parking.

Chip: Traffic's an issue right now.

Joan. The "traffic calming" project on Pine Street's been a **huge** success. (Laughter in audience.)

Chip: We have a resolution Monday night dealing with having DPW look at recommendations re parking.

Andy: Re bike lanes, I feel like there's a tendency to create a bike lane, for example, South Winooski Ave., but to actually GET there, you're risking your life until you get to Maple St. The idea of creating a Main St. bike lane that disappears horrifies me. I encourage you to think about the whole stretch of a particular street and what the experience is.

Joan: So. Winooski Ave. has to be one of the scariest places to bike.

Joan: Re City Hall Park: We agreed to a process. Yesterday was the first meeting of sitting down with a couple of people from the Save the Trees group. We took a tour of City Hall Park. It's amazing to me what poor health a lot of the trees are in. When you look at the plan for renovating the park and the tree canopy, you see they're planting trees that are going to be very large, and when they mature, 80% of the park will be shaded, as opposed to now, where the trees are kind-of woven into each other, planted too closely. There are discussions on saving some crabapple trees; one of the options, though, would interfere with building the ADA path.

Chip: There's an aggressive schedule for the group to report back to the Council.

Joan: We just appointed the committee for the Mural Task Force, seven community members.

Ben: Re the School District's capital plan, do you see any role for the Council in this process, especially re the bond process? Reimbursement on that has to come from City Council issuing funds.

Joan: We've been asking the City attorney what is our role. Can we have ways we could influence that bond? We've been politely persistent. The City Attorney's office works hard, and I KNOW they're trying to get to this, but they haven't gotten back to

us yet. But it IS a concern to me: It's a different project now than what were the expectations of the voters.

Chip: I've been passing along communications from constituents. "To be continued."

(6) State Legislative Wrap-Up
- Tim Ashe, Vermont Senate President Pro Tem

Summary:

Shared updates re the upcoming special session, Governor Scott's numerous veto plans, addressing Lake Champlain cleanup, education funding, minimum wage increases, and opioid treatment issues.



Tim Ashe

Tim: The Legislature spends 95% of its time working in bipartisan way. For example, we passed the most significant gun legislation in VT in 60 years. And Burlington's encouragement was part of the foundation that allowed us to move forward.

I've never been at a press conference where 50 people were very happy and 50 were...the heckling was something like I've never seen. You could see each heckler's face. It was quite brutal.

On Saturday at 11:15 we adjourned for year knowing the Governor would veto what we were doing. It's an unusual experience to have bipartisan legislation back on the

veto block. So the Governor has called the Legislature back. Next Wednesday we'll show up and take it from there.

Q: I had impression that there was no money for Lake Champlain cleanup.

Tim: The Governor said he'd veto any money-raising for the Lake. The problem is it's a 20+ year issue. The Governor changed his pledge to not raise taxes from a "first year" to a "first term" pledge. He even said he'd veto a study for the water quality issue!

Large- and medium-size dairy farms have increasingly big requirements. There are a lot of good regulatory things.

Q: What's Legislature's role re oversight and implementing rules?

Tim: (Agency of Natural Resources Secretary) Julie Moore is a high-quality, competent person. The Governor's office doesn't want "burdensome regulations". There was a requirement that all properties with three acres of impervious surface would have to meet. The Administration keeps missing these deadlines again and again, and the Legislature can't do much but cajole, push, nudge. This Administration doesn't believe in fighting for water quality.

Joanna: What's going on with education funding and the Governor?

Tim: Typically, the Agency officials and the Governor's team are in committee rooms all year with the goal to get to a common objective. The Scott team is nowhere to be found. So once our committees are shutting down at end of year, the Administration comes in. This year, they said, "We have a five-year plan that requires mandatory cuts and could have penalties and will save \$400M!" But their numbers were debunked; it was a political move.

The actual staff at the Agency of Ed were professional, but the "Fifth Floor", the political people, would place all the burden on public-tax-dollar schools, not private or independent schools. For example, staff ratio requirements wouldn't affect these other schools! And any time you put the squeeze on people in a community, they flog their local representatives.

The tax rate we set every year historically wasn't controversial. There's a base tax rate, and then local spending is a variable that multiplies against that base rate, so even under the gov's own proposal, over 100 district's taxes will go up anyway!

Q: Minimum wage increase?

Tim: It's at the Governor's desk and will probably be vetoed. Our law would increase each year with an inflationary adjuster, going to X in 6 years. Current law would already increase it part of the way there anyway.

There's also paid-family leave, almost a micro-charge on everyone's payroll; collectively, all the payments in would go to a fund, then if you had an eligible reason (sick parent, maternity), you'd get money. THAT's also likely to be vetoed.

Re the budget: The Legislatures really feel good about them. There's no partisan reason to veto. So...we're scratching our heads. It doesn't feel serious, it's disengaged.

Re overriding a veto: Historically, there was no such thing as a veto session. Then there became the habit of saying, "We're adjourning, but we're setting this date in June just in case the Governor vetoes." But the Republicans have enough votes to

keep the veto in the House. If the Gov wants to call a special session, he can do that, but...

Next week, the moment we gavel in, the Legislature runs the session. We're not using this as an opportunity to do whatever we want on the budget, tax bill, anything. The Gov can still veto.

What grownups do when they both say they have "nonnegotiable positions" is they meet and try to find common ground.

I want the public to see the Governor come in and say why we should cut positions in every school in the state. He's got a blood-sport approach, interested in takedowns but not good governance.

If we were passing partisan-line bills, I'd be taking a lot of heat. But it's a different story.

Re the public's understanding of these issues: I was on Burlington City Council from 2004 to 2008, local issues were covered more than they are today. There was a common amount of info. It's different today.

For example, Equifax: There's a bill that charges \$100/year fee for Equifax. Gov said he'd veto because it's a new fee...but it would save consumers so much!

Chip: I'm hoping that a more suitable Dem candidate would emerge.

Tim: It's hard. For example, the Governor was adamantly opposed to legalizing marijuana, then acquiesces, and now he's the "Crown Prince" for a lot of Vermonters because of just a single issue.

Q: Re opioid issues, anything you've done?

Tim: Starting with Gov. Douglas & ripening with Gov. Shumlin, we established a system that, even though it's inadequate, is a national model, the "hub and spoke" model. Virtually anyone who needs treatment can get it. One-and-a-half years ago, people in Burlington were waiting up to 12 months. The infrastructure's improved, but it's like back when people (with mental health conditions) were deinstitutionalized and "fell between the cracks".

We have workforce shortages at almost every level. If you work at Howard Center as a clinical social worker, you probably make 30% less than the same position at UVM Medical Center. That's true around the state. That's because, when it comes to getting more money, hospitals go to bureaucrats, and mental health agencies have to come to the legislature. It's built in overtime a two-tiered system. There's a constant churn at Howard Center, and good people get poached.

We also have policies that are difficult. Involuntary commitment is an excruciating decision. For example, the person who recently slugged the restaurant owner: re that type of case, what is society's role in respecting autonomy but keeping the public safe?

But we're making strides on the physical space. After we constrained the number of beds, we found our ERs filling up. I think we'll start seeing some improvement.

Stay tuned for next week!

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm.

<END>



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards	Wards	Wards	Ward	Ward
1 & 8	2 & 3	4 & 7	5	6

Date of Assembly : **5 / 17 / 2018**

Start Time: (Commence): **6:30 PM**

Location: **City Market South End, Flynn Ave.** Finish Time: (Adjourn): **8:30 PM**

Notetaker: **Nate Orshan**

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Joe Dery
Joanna Grossman
Nate Orshan
Ben Traverse – Moderator
Andy Simon

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

(1) Open Forum

Alec Bauer advised that the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is performing a randomized tree study. Andy Simon shared information about the Friends of Englesby Brook group and a future presentation. An attendee said they noticed work on reclaiming wetlands at Oakledge Park.

(2) Meeting Venue and Time - Discussion - Ben Traverse, Meeting Moderator

Solicited feedback from attendees re whether the City Market community room is working as an official meeting space. Consensus among attendees was to keep meeting there for the time being and reassess after September.

(3) Burlington School District Capital Plan Recap - Discussion - Ben Traverse, Meeting Moderator

Attendees expressed a significant number of outstanding questions about the proposed South End Early Ed Center, a new building and road next to Champlain Elementary, especially whether the School District had sufficiently considered other options, whether a previously proposed addition to Champlain School had been scrapped in favor of the Early Ed Center project, and exactly how much public and regulatory review the District had to engage. More than one attendee appeared to have a degree of skepticism re District's intentions and sincerity. Ben Traverse said the NPA Steering Committee will discuss in its next meeting whether to add a follow-up section about this in its June meeting.

(4) Community Development Block Grant Report – Sam Beall, Ward 5 Representative

Explained the way the grants work, the development vs. the public service parts of the grants, and the actual grant recipients as well as applicants who weren't awarded grant money.

(5) City Council Updates - Chip Mason, Ward 5 Councilor, and Joan Shannon, South District Councilor

Shared updates re the City Council's recent vote to waive School Superintendent Yao Obeng's residency requirement, the redesign of Cherry and Bank Streets based on public input, the perpetual "bike lanes vs. parking" dilemma of street design, the City Hall Park redesign process, and their efforts to determine the extent to which the Council can have a role in the School District's capital plan.

(6) State Legislative Wrap-Up - Tim Ashe, Vermont Senate President Pro Tem

Shared updates re the upcoming special session, Governor Scott's numerous veto plans, addressing Lake Champlain cleanup, education funding, minimum wage increases, and opioid treatment issues.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.