

Thursday, May 7
6:30pm - 7:45pm

Agenda

6:30 - Musical Introduction (Robert Resnik)
6:40 - Public Forum (connect via Zoom details below)
7:00 - COVID-19 Updates (City Councilors Karen Paul & Joan Shannon, and RRC representatives Darren Springer (BED) and Luke McGowan (CEDO))
7:30 - Photo slideshow of BTV, "My Town, COVID and Me" (Stephanie Seguino)

There are several ways to tune in for the meeting:

1. Join via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362962238?pwd=ZFFIUkc5RXNTU0dVa0lvYjIFMG9Fdz09>
(Meeting ID: 823 6296 2238, Password: 021293)
2. CCTV YouTube
Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJkWMLSqRNKLoyUZQiNoAcQ>
3. Call in for audio only: (312) 626-6799 (Webinar ID: 931 0000 3435)

NOTE: to speak on public forum, you must access the meeting by Zoom.

Ward 5 and 6 Joint NPA Meeting

May 7 2020

Forum: Due to the Global Pandemic of Covid-19 and social distancing rules, this meeting was a remote meeting via ZOOM, with call-in availability.

Steering Committee Members present: Ward 6: Matt Grady, Gail Rafferty, Mary Riley, Michelle Mraz; Ward 5 Members present: Scott Pavek, Ben Traverse, Kristin Boehm, Andy Simon, Lucia Campriello

Music provided by Robert Resnick and Martha Syler

Public Comment:

-Tony Redington, member Ward 3 NPA and Pine Street Coalition: Gave an update on the status of "Safe Streets of Burlington" initiative. The alternate proposal for the Champlain Parkway introduces "New Street", with a map providing details. This is the cheapest, greenest, quickest, and safest option; this plan will be more formal in the next couple of months. Details are on the website: safestreetsburlington.com.

-Burlington is a peninsula!

-Mary Sullivan: she and Joey (Donovan) have been working on unemployment issues related to Covid-19. Help with these issues can be found on the new portal to the state website or by reaching out to her at m.sullivan@leg.state.vt.us.

-Thanks for holding this NPA meeting.

-Thanks to Mary Sullivan for her years of service (she is retiring).

-Megan O'Rourke from Channel 17: As of May 28, Channel 17 will be located on Channel 1087 on Comcast, and will be called "Town Meeting Television."

-Additional thanks were given to Mary Sullivan for her many years of service, and to the Wards 6 and 5 NPA for putting this meeting together.

Resource and Recovery Center Update:

Luke McGowan, Director of CEDO, helping to oversee the RRC. The RRC is Burlington's response to the COVID-19 health crisis; the city recognized that there were many needs as a result of the crisis, and this is an online place to access information and learn about the response efforts the city has undertaken. The RRC realized that the most vulnerable have been the most affected, and as such they have worked with multiple departments to get information to the website. There have been 900 inquiries so far, ranging from business inquiries to anxiety resources to delivering diapers. There has also been a mask-making and distribution effort as well as an effort to make sure that there were no language barriers to all communities being able to access the site. The RRC has utilized the see-click-fix system to make sure that all requests have been accounted for. The RRC (recovery@burlingtonvt.gov) is a router to non-profit, community networks, and the city is constantly launching new programs and identifying needs.

Darren Springer, General manager of Burlington Electric. He and his employees at Burlington Electric have been identifying policy needs at the state level, and working to interpret guidance coming from the governor. They are taking the approach to advocate for the constituents in Burlington such as providing help with the department of labor for

people with unemployment issues and helping to secure reimbursement for these activities from federal funding. He is working on the Green Stimulus Program so that coming out of the crisis, people can get assistance from BED, like 0% financing (see the BED website for details).

Joan Shannon: Thanks to the leadership of the city which has come together and pulled together all of these resources, and to the city workers who have done a job other than what they were hired for. Also, shout out to volunteer Rebecca Levasseur for being a powerhouse mask maker.

Q: What is the wind-down plan for the homeless population after being housed in hotels and the North Beach Campground during the crisis?

A: Luke McGowan: The state will be moving them to select hotels, and there are a number of different proposals.

Q: When to open the city?

A: Darren Springer: The city is prioritizing health and safety and will be taking an incremental approach. The Stay-at-home order expires 5/15; this is a big date and the city will respond after the governor announces whether the order will be extended or expire.

Joan Shannon:

-Due to the COVID crisis, there haven't been subcommittee meetings. These will be starting soon via ZOOM. They are grappling with the budget now, and trying to predict revenues. A positive is that the city is coming into the crisis in a very strong financial position. There will nonetheless be very tough decisions to be made.

Karen Paul:

-There have been heartbreaking stories of people affected by the crisis. The RRC has evolved so that people can access the resources themselves. The social isolation has been very difficult: Karen has been calling certain people in Ward 6 to help.

Subcommittees will be restarting, such as the library and parks. There will be a community food drive on Saturday, 5/16, in the Champlain Elementary School parking lot.

Chip Mason: Wants to make sure the message of the RRC gets out; the counselors have been funneling requests to the RRC. The RRC web page has information on the property tax relief bill. He is chair of the ordinance committee, which will start up next week. They are waiting to hear from the governor on opening.

Q: How can we help with the South End food drive?

A: Karen Paul: They are still working on logistics due to social distancing, and they are happy to have donations. She will post to Front Porch Forum.

The meeting adjourned with a photography project that Stephanie Sequino created. She wanted to capture the mood of the city; the photos were taken early on during the stay-at-home order. To view the photos, visit her website at stephaniesequino.com

Notes submitted by Mary Riley

