

Ward 6 NPA Meeting March 7, 2019 from 6:45 to 9:00 PM Greek Orthodox Church, 600 South Willard Street

Draft Agenda

7:00-7:15: Public comment and NPA Steering Committee Elections

7:15-7:35: Transportation planning at Edmunds--Peggy O'Neill from Edmunds PTO and Allegra Williams from Local Motion

7:35-7:55: Electric Scooters/electric bikes/Segways in Burlington--Glenn Eames, former owner of Old Spokes Home; Bob Herendeen, Burlington Electric Commissioner; Barbara Headrick, Ward 6 resident

7:55-8:15: Moran FRAME project with Kirsten Merriman from CEDO

8:15-8:30: Report from the school board with Commissioners Clare Wool and Jeff Wick

8:30-8:45: Report from City Councilors Karen Paul and Joan Shannon

8:45-9:00: Report from UVM with Lisa Kingsbury and Champlain College with Sandy Yusen

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 6 are:

- Charles Simpson, simpsocr@plattsburg.edu
- Michelle Mraz, michelle.mraz@gmail.com
- Matt Grady, matt7631@gmail.com
- Gail Rafferty, gailraff8890@gmail.com
- Mary Riley, rileyburl@burlingtontelecom.net

For more information about Ward 6 NPA Register for the Ward 6 NPA e-newsletter <http://eepurl.com/c9pQLL>

*Parking entrance off of Ledge Road on the east side of the Rotary. Overflow parking at foot of Willard St, or even Christ the King School, and walk up paved walkway from Willard directly to church.

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees



NPA (choose one)	Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	W
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Date of Assembly : 3-7-19 Location: 600 S. Willard St. Greek Orthodox

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

1	<u>Mark S. Smith</u>	20
2	<u>Gail Rafferty</u>	21
3	<u>Pat Thompson</u>	22
4	<u>Joel Fitzgerald</u>	23
5	<u>Michelle Mraz</u>	24
6	<u>Colleen Horgan</u>	25
7	<u>Andrea Rogers</u>	26
8	<u>Peggy O'Neil Vanecko</u>	27
9	<u>Sandy Gusev</u>	28
10	<u>Samuel Lurie</u>	29
11	<u>Teresa Witt</u>	30
12	<u>Robert Herendeen (Ward 4)</u>	31
13	<u>Lisa Kingsbury</u>	32
14	<u>Jim Barr</u>	33
15	<u>B. Headrick</u>	34
16	<u>Fr. Andreas Papayiannis</u>	35
17	<u>Clare Wool</u>	36
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19		38
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Ward NPA Meeting, March 7, 2019
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 So. Willard St., Burlington, VT

Members of the Steering committee who attended: Mary Riley, Michelle Mraz, Charles Simpson, Matt Grady, and Gail Rafferty

Start: 7:00pm

NPA Steering Committee Elections:

All members of the current Steering Committee were reelected by a show of hands except Charles Simpson, who has served for 5 years on the committee and was thus ineligible to run again. Joel Fitzgerald asked what type of commitment is required, and once he learned of the commitment by the current members, decided to run for the vacant position. He was elected and will become the newest member of the Ward 6 Steering Committee.

Public Comment:

Q: What became of the pop-up trial in front of Edmunds?

A: That is next on the agenda

Transportation Planning at Edmunds-Peggy O'Neill representing Edmunds PTO and Allegra Williams from Local Motion:

Peggy O'Neill started working on making Edmunds Elementary and Middle schools safer. In the fall, after working with DPW, the city, the schools, and the fire dept., the pop-up trial occurred. This was a barrier on South Union creating a lane for bus drop-off and bikes only, with the goal of making drop off safer for children. There are 80-110 EMS Neighborhood Special bus riders, as well as lots of students biking and walking. Cars are not supposed to park on Maple Street but do so regularly, creating congestion and unsafe conditions. Also, there is no designated cross walk at the top of King Street to cross South Union in the middle of the congestion. In addition to the barriers on South Union St., the demonstration also made a bike lane on the right turn lane, and made the road temporary one way from Maple to Main.

Allegra said that the data from the online survey of 164 responders showed mixed results. There were lots of angry commuters who felt that traffic was further slowed down than usual. The biking community did not feel that the pop-up barriers provided enough protection. Suggestions were made to remove parking on the left side of South Union or to permanently make the last block on South Union one way. The school feedback was also split. People are still driving into the bike lane, and the situation remains unsafe. Traffic did slow considerably, which was a positive for the school and residents. Most cars could still make the traffic light; additionally, it was hard to distinguish the traffic delays at this site due to the construction delays from St Paul Street construction.

Q: Why not drop off on Main St and remove parking spaces?

A: That has been encouraged but it is hard to enforce

Q: What about the horseshoe on Main Street?

A: This project didn't deal with the horseshoe. There is a service in the mornings where people open the doors and students get out, to encourage cars not to park but they do anyway. Cars always park in the afternoon. This aspect is not working either.

Recommendations:

Enforce drop-off areas, Add a crossing sign at King and South Union, add a stop sign at the end of the road which cuts behind EMS and ends on South Union. Also, designate a safe space for bikers to bike on South Union, but it is undetermined how to make this road safe. Enforce a designated pull off for buses. Add illumination for no right turn onto Main Street when pedestrians are in the crosswalk. Adjust the South Union light timing. Create a school travel plan.

Peggy and Allegra met with the city and presented; there are no plans for action this summer and nothing on the docket yet.

Electric Scooters/Electric Bikes/Segways in Burlington:

Glenn Eames, former owner of the Old Spokes Home; Bob Henredon, Burlington Electric Commissioner, Samuel Lurie, LICSW ; Barbara Headrick, Ward 6 resident Charles Simpson provided background info: This is Part 1 of a 2 part series- the City of Burlington will present at the next NPA meeting. Gotcha is a national Company with 50 bikable locations, many college campuses. They own the equipment. E-scooters can go up to 15 mph; e-bikes can go to 20mph. There are 25 hubs in Burl, So. Burl, and Winooski. There are currently non-motorized bikes which Gotcha rents (and the city subsidized during the trial period). A trial period found that many people rode them down the hill but most didn't want to return them up hill, which is why Gotcha wants to replace them with electric bicycles. The Old Spokes Home will collect them at the end of the day and have them charged by 7 am.

Glenn Eames: Has been in the bike business in Burlington for 30 years, and was the founder of the Old Spokes Home, commissioner of public works, and a member of advocacy organizations for cycling. The jury is out on e-scooters. E-bikes have a place here. Gotcha is going to pull the pedal bikes and replace them with 200 e-bikes. The city should regulate and limit the speed in certain parts of the city. The city is struggling with safe cycling versus road safety, a concern given that there will be 400 motorized vehicles on the road (200 bikes, 200 scooters).

Bob Henredon: BED Commissioner, cyclist. E-vehicles lots of fun, e-bicycles will replace cars in part; they can go where motors can go. There is the potential for conflicts on greenway spaces where there are currently no motors. There are currently no limits on where they can go, but there should be. There seems to be a premature rush to accept these vehicles.

Samuel Lurie: There is no regulation regarding e-scooters. They are present on college campuses, and they are creating a dangerous and disruptive situations nationwide. In Portland, OR, they accounted for 176 ER visits after 4 months. What is our liability? The city of San Diego was just sued. Many users just drop them on the sidewalks, not returning them to proper places. Concern: Burlington has no plans to do anything differently. There needs to be regulation and community input. Samuel handed out a sheet with information, with the following quote: "If there is a long-term strategy for

change, we must have a slower roll-out which can make Burlington a true innovation leader by demonstrating a safe way to integrate E-Scooters.”

Barbara Headrick: The e-bikes and scooters pose a risk of injury to dogs, kids, and the handicapped. In Fort Lauderdale, e-scooters have to ride on the sidewalk, but riders still weave in and out of traffic, creating a dangerous situation. In San Francisco, riders ride both places as well. It is premature for Burlington to have them until we have proper safe regulation and compliance methods. It will be overwhelming to the police otherwise. The city should give enforcement to Gotcha, where they could program the motors to work on the streets only, but not on the sidewalks.

Comment: Burlington should not be involved in bike rentals. Florida rents golf carts, which have to be rented from a private contractor, not a city or township. Treat them like non-motorized bicycles, which already go very fast; this is a fact of life.

Comment: The reason Gotcha is switching is because they were originally bike sharing, but they were bought by Uber, so they designed their own bikes and scooters.

Comment: All of the bikes rented on the hill stayed down the hill-people did not ride or return them back up the hill.

E-scooters are contentious, UVM has done their homework on these and UVM not allowed to accept them.

Comment: The original intent was for the bikes to be used only to get the rider the final mile to or from the bus, but they were used differently than intended. As a result, the price structure is being revised.

Barbara: UVM had found money from the clean energy fund which contributed to the original pricing. The e-portion can be governed. Gotcha pays to recharge the batteries, not the city; they are looking for hub sponsors.

Bob: Burlington is required by the state to find non-fossil fuel options for transportation.

Charles Simpson: The Segway person on the agenda was not able to come to the meeting.

Moran FRAME project with Kirsten Merman from CEDO:

At the February 19 meeting, the city took action on the Moran FRAME project. The city has been trying for years to find the right plan for adaptive reuse. This year, there are \$5.6 mil in Funds (2.09 from HUD and 3.5 in T.I.F. Funds) which will need to be used by the end of the year. They presented to all NPA's in January except Ward 6, which didn't meet in January. The plan chosen (the FRAME) satisfies the following:

- public space
- uses existing funding
- eliminates drivers like having to winterize the whole building
- honors the importance of Moran's historic importance
- enables new opportunities for using the waterfront

This will be a city-led project, to be led by Parks and Rec.

In the future, there will ideally be additional enhancements like viewing decks, rooftop access, and ice-skating. For now, there is the base plan, and the enhancements will come in the future. The city feels good about the financial sources, projections. Two reputable construction companies gave very similar estimates. Annual operating costs will be \$65,000-\$75,000. Switzerland and Paris have done similar projects successfully.

In February, the City Council gave approval to proceed. November 2019 will be the bond closing. There will be additional public parking to replace what was lost.
Comment: This is not a good idea given the short season.

School Board Commissioners Clare Wool and Jeff Wick

Clare Wool: Thanks to the voters who voted to pass the school budget. Kendra Sowers was elected to the school board. A lot of hiring will occur in the next couple of months, including the new BHS principal. They have extended the search and are actively recruiting.

Jeff Wick: Any questions?

Comment: Congratulations to Jeff on being reelected.

Clare: Burlington voters turned out in greater numbers than other districts, a fact she was happy about. The high school groundbreaking is set for spring of 2020. They are currently in the design phase now and are meeting weekly. The building of the High School will be a three year process.

Comment: Charles Simpson followed up on the Safe drop-off issue for Edmunds. The school board needs to work with the city to resolve the traffic safety issue.

A: EMS just became handicapped accessible a couple of years ago, they need to work with the DPW. The current construction will create a handicapped entrance. In city schools, parking is always an issue, we need to focus on it.

Q: How does this become a higher priority?

A: We need to keep working with the city.

City Councilor Karen Paul

Thanks to Champlain College student Luke, as well as Caroline, for filming our meetings.

Town Meeting Day summary: School budget passed, the very modest tax increase passed, the item ending the Business Personal Property tax passed: the city council worked for 8 years to phase out and accommodate the loss of revenue with other sources. The advisory item for banning single use plastic bags passed. The only item which did not pass was the downtown improvement district. Even the Church Street marketplace needed several ballots to pass. The message is that the council will need to go back to work to revisit this and adjust. The process will need a little bit more time. Three new city councilors were elected, and Joan Shannon was reelected. She was unable to attend the meeting tonight to due out of town family commitments. The new council will begin for their April meeting. Thanks to Charles Simpson for his years of service on the NPA. Congratulations to Joel for being elected.

Q: How does communication work with the NPA to the city council?

A: The NPA can draft a resolution, then it would be advanced on the agenda for City Council. Lots of ideas come from ideas generated at NPA meetings.

Sometimes All-Ward Meetings bring more unified issues.

Q: E-scooters and bikes and Moran FRAME?

A: Not a lot of discussion at the Council level regarding e-scooters and e-bikes. Lots of people like them, especially downtown. There has been much more on the Moran discussion: Kristin presented to the Council. There was overwhelming support from the

Council. Burlington has to commit to the funding by the end of the year. There has been lots of outreach, and mostly positive comments.

Q: What is the next step for plastic bags?

A: Two years ago, the council had a great response from the grocery stores, but the small places like the mini marts were more resistant. They will try to craft an ordinance that the majority of businesses will support.

Q: Straws too?

A: Yes, one use plastic items; styrofoam too.

Report from Champlain College with Sandy Yusef and UVM with Lisa Kingsbury

Sandy: Current Enrollment is 2100 Undergraduate residential students, with some in Dublin and Montreal, and 3500 participating in online programs. The building at 194 St Paul Street is now full, with 105 student apartments and 312 beds. It is full for next semester already. The construction is mostly complete. There is a solar array on the roof, and it is Green Globe Certified. The "Perky Planet", a coffee shop which employs adults with disabilities, is open. Also, "Juice Amour" is open. "Cafe St Paul" and "Magic Chopsticks" will open soon. There are public parking spots, and students are not allowed to park there. Currently, 28% of students have vehicles, compared to 81% in 2003. Percent of employees who commute alone is 47%, was 58%. Next week is their spring break. Commencement is May 10-11; they will post this on Front Porch Forum. The 194 St Paul St building lease is for 11 1/2 months, to give a buffer for students moving in and out. The apartments are partially furnished and are unable to be sublet.

Lisa Kingsbury: Four years ago did University compiled a Student housing master plan, which was a survey of all students. They will be compiling again, and maybe add the Trinity College Campus. Construction of a multipurpose center will start in spring; they are in the permitting process now. There will be some renovations to Slade Hall on South Prospect St, to be completed by fall. The third phase of Virtue Field work is a support building which will be less than 5,000 square feet. This needs to be re-permitted because the permit expired. There will be a small addition to the music building for storage, as well as to add handicapped accessibility. This will be built this summer after permitting.

Q: Regarding VT higher education and the fact that VT has recently lost a couple of colleges recently, any plans for cooperative housing to help with costs?

A: Not at this time but could look at this with Citizenhire (the master plan).

Comment: Handicapped accessibility very positive.

End: 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Riley

