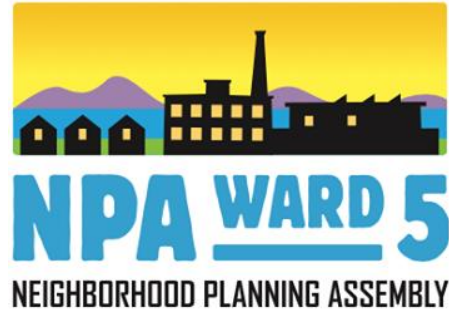




Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, 2/17/2022  
7:00 – 8:30 PM

In person @ DPW, 645 Pine Street & via Zoom

Zoom URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574495720>  
By phone at: +1 301 715 8592  
Webinar ID: 895 7449 5720

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**I. Agenda**

7:00 -- Public Forum (your comments, questions, brainstorm)

7:20 -- Calahan to Birchcliff path update (Billy Clark)

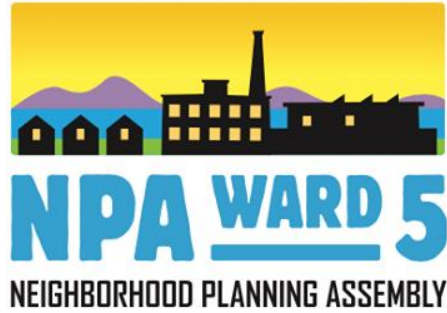
7:30 -- School Budget information (Jeff Wick)

7:45 -- Redistricting proposals (Chris Haessly, Burlington Independent Mapping Group)

8:00 -- Great Streets/Main Street Concept Design (Olivia Darisse, DPW)

8:20 -- Ballot Items: Tax Increase and Capital Bond (Joan Shannon)

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*\*In-person option @ DPW, 645 Pine Street; virtual attendance encouraged due to heightened COVID risk.*

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## **I. Participation:**

- a. Steering Committee Attendance & [Contact Information](#): Andy Simon, Billy Clark, Joe Dery, Ben Traverse, Kolby LaMarche, Scott Pavsek, Nancy Stetson
- b. Total Attendees: 18

## **II. Minutes**

### **a. 7:00 PM – Public Forum: announcements, questions, brilliant ideas**

Billy Clark serves as moderator; public forum starts at 7:05.

David Mickenberg speaks on behalf of Campaign for Yes on Item 5, a ballot question related to eliminating language addressing sex work from Burlington's charter. Language change received support of City Council's charter change committee. David clarifies this language would not legalize sex work. Andy Simon asks David to address concerns around charter change.

Andy Simon reminds people to vote. Ballots shouldn't be mailed later than 2/19; multiple drop-boxes are available throughout the city. Lea Terhune mentions Vermont's same-day voter registration option.

Ilona Blanchard asks if Joan Shannon can speak to ordinance on camping in public parks. Ben Traverse notes this issue will be discussed at next Parks Commission meeting.

### **b. 7:20 PM – Calahan Park and Birchcliff Path update (Billy Clark)**

Billy Clark provides an update on access to Calahan Park from Birchcliff neighborhood. Maintenance of the path to park from Linden Terrace to Cherry Lane area has been in question; Billy offers overview of changes in ownership of path. Birchcliff Dwellers Association, a defunct neighborhood association, is legally responsible for maintenance of pedestrian passageway. City attorneys suggest association may

not have ever existed. Maintenance of path in future may require formation of Birchcliff Dwellers Association, if legal successors to last known extant company cannot be found.

**c. 7:30 PM – Burlington Independent Mapping Group (Christopher Haessly)**

Christopher represents grassroots organization of interested citizens putting forth mapping proposals in light of redistricting. Tonight's presentation focuses on restoration of a downtown ward, which last existed in 1967. New map still offers eight wards while preserving communities of interest, per Haessly. City continues to evaluate map proposals, which will be sent to Council for consideration, then to Board of Civil Authority - then to voters via ballots in November. Plan would then be implemented via charter change, which must then be approved by state legislature.

**d. 7:45 PM – Ballot Question Item #1 Discussion: School Budget (Jeff Wick)**

School Board district rep explains three percent growth in school budget proposal for next fiscal year. Jeff Wick mentions current \$90 million surplus in state Education fund; if this isn't reallocated by Governor and legislature, tax bills for school spending are expected to decrease. Burlington schools are running seventh consecutive year of budget surplus.

Nancy Stetson asks about potential changes to pupil weighting; Jeff mentions Burlington's own equalized pupil count has dropped by five percent. Changes being considered by the state legislature, as proposed through UVM study, could result in additional funding coming to local district.

**e. 8:00 PM – Ballot Question Item #4 Discussion: Great Streets Main Street Concept Design (Olivia Darisse, Department of Public Works)**

Olivia Darisse introduces Great Streets framework (e.g., City Hall Park and Saint Paul Street renovation projects) and outlines City's approach to Main Street changes. Olivia recaps DPW neighborhood meeting held on 2/1. Great Streets projects began in 2016, with standards guiding maintenance or development of new street/sidewalk infrastructure being adopted in 2018. Main Street renovations will unify Waterfront area and other Great Streets projects. Olivia notes that the final concept for Main Street Revitalization is still being developed, but offers glimpse of initial concept introduced in 2016. Project is divided into functional, aesthetic and community-led dimensions or components. Community engagement is still underway; special focuses on groups normally not engaged through open public engagement processes. Questions? Contact [odarrise@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:odarrise@burlingtonvt.gov) and visit [www.greatstreetsbtv.com](http://www.greatstreetsbtv.com).

**f. 8:20 PM – Ballot Question Items #2 and #3 Discussion: Taxes and Capital Bonds (Councilor Joan Shannon)**

Councilor Shannon cites slew of reasons for general fund tax increase, explaining COVID's continued impact on public budgets. Shannon shows that largest expenditure is wages and benefits. Encourages viewers and attendees seeking employment to assess open positions listed on the City of Burlington's website. Councilor Shannon draws a connection between wages/benefits of City staff and essential municipal services. Councilor Shannon explains capital bond was supported by Council last December; previously supported by majority of City's residents, but two-thirds majority is required. The capital bond increase has now been reduced from \$40 million to \$23 million. Request for Memorial Auditorium project has been reduced; local match for grants category has been increased by \$500,000. Amount for the fire department has changed slightly, and sidewalk spending remains the same. Councilor Shannon notes costs of deferred maintenance and questions any assumed savings associated with voting no on the capital bond increase. Councilor Shannon discusses potential consequences of the capital bonds not

receiving a two-thirds vote on Town Meeting Day, including loss of matching federal funds for key projects throughout the city.

**III. Next Meeting: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

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