



Wards 2 and 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

Thursday, February 14, 2019, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Old North End Community Center, 20 Allen Street

wards2and3npa.weebly.com

Community Dinner at 5:30pm (by donation)

<http://onecommunitydinner.weebly.com>

NPA Announcements – 15 minutes (6:15 – 6:30):

- These meetings are now live streamed on YouTube? November's meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hLh5ACqL6c>
- Reminder to Steering Committee members and presenters to introduce themselves.

Public Forum– 15 minutes (6:30 – 6:45):

- Announcements / Comments / Issues / Suggestions (one minute per speaker)

Announcement - Sample Town Meeting Day Ballots are posted on the City's website at:

- <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Sample-Ballots-Warnings-and-Notices>

Ward Clerk & Inspector of Election Candidate Forum – 10 minutes (6:45 – 6:50):

- Wendy Coe (Ward Clerk, Progressive – Ward 2)
- Alex Rose (Inspector, Progressive – Ward 2)
- Sara Jelen (Ward Clerk, Democrat – Ward 3)
- Barbara Alsop (3 year term Inspector, Progressive - Ward 3)
- Julia DiPietro (3 year term Inspector, Democrat – Ward 3)
- Bonnie Filker (2 year term Inspector, Progressive – Ward 3)
- Charlie Giannoni (2 year term Inspector, Independent – Ward 3)

Ballot Item 4 – 15 minutes (6:50 – 7:05)

- Expansion of Downtown Improvement District from Church Street to an area bordered by Lake Champlain, South Winooski, Pearl Street and King Street. Transfer of oversight from the City of Burlington to a private non-profit entity to be determined.
- Gene Bergman - NoOn4BTV.com
- Mayor Miro Weinberger - <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/2019/did>

Ballot Item 3 – City Charter Change - 10 minutes (7:05 – 7:15)

- Proposed charter changes to create department of permitting & inspection
- Create a director of permitting and inspection to be appointed by the Mayor
- Have the planning director be appointed by the Mayor
- Have the zoning administrative officer be appointed by the Mayor
- Mayor Miro Weinberger

Central District City Council Candidate Forum – there are 3 candidates – 45 minutes (7:15 – 8:00):

- Jared Carter (Democrat),
- Perri Freeman, (Progressive)
- Jane Knodell (Independent)

FY20 Burlington School District Budget Proposal – 10 minutes (8:00 - 8:10):

- Jeannie Waltz and Liz Curry presenting

Ballot Item 5 – City Charter Change to eliminate the Business Personal Property Tax 10 minutes (8:10 – 8:20)

- Mayor Miro Weinberger
- City Councilors Brian Pine, Jane Knodell and Max Tracy

Ballot Item 6 – Advisory Ballot Question 5 minutes (8:20 – 8:25)

- Advise and encourage City Council reduce plastic waste through a Ban or restriction on “single use plastic bags, plastic stirrers, plastic straws, and Styrofoam (Extruded Polystyrene) food containers”
- Mayor Miro Weinberger
- City Councilors Brian Pine, Jane Knodell and Max Tracy

City Market Gift Certificate Door Prize – 5 minutes (8:25 – 8:30)

A section of Burlington City Council resolution first adopted in 1982 establishing provisions for a Neighborhood Planning Assembly in each City ward.

...Neighborhood Planning Assemblies shall... help provide citizens with information concerning city programs and activities; help obtain citizen views of city needs; help provide citizens with the opportunity to participate in making recommendations with respect to governmental decisions including the allocation of revenues.

...Assemblies shall also be encouraged to provide advice to the appropriate commission or this council with respect to community development, housing programs, this City's Comprehensive Plan and its waterfront planning activities, and the city's budget among other issues....

Current NPA 2/3 Steering Committee:

Andrew Champagne	Ward 2	802-540-0717
Perri Freeman	Ward 2	perrienne23@gmail.com
Patrick Johnson	Ward 2	superdogirie@gmail.com
Emma Schoenberg	Ward 2	em.schoenberg@gmail.com
Tony Redington	Ward 2	TonyRVT99@gmail.com
Infinite Culcleasure	Ward 3	infinite.culcleasure@gmail.com
Amanda Hannaford	Ward 3	amanda.hannaford.vt@gmail.com
Lizzie Haskell	Ward 3	haskelllizzie@gmail.com
James Lockridge	Ward 3	jim@bigheavyworld.com
Barbara McGrew	Ward 3	bmcgrew@aol.com
Vikas Mangipudi	Ward 3	mangipudivm@gmail.com

Burlington City Elected Officials Wards 2 and 3

Mayor Miro Weinberger	Democrat	802-865-7272	Mayor@BurlingtonVT.gov
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City Councilors:

Central District (Wards 2 and 3)	Jane Knodell	Progressive	862-2469	jknodell@burlingtonvt.gov
Ward 2	Max Tracy	Progressive	373-1968	mtracy@burlingtonvt.gov
Ward 3	Brian Pine	Progressive		bpine@burlingtonvt.gov

School Board Members:

Central District (Wards 2 and 3)	Jean Waltz	355-7856	jwaltz@bsdvt.org
Ward 2	Stephen Carey		scarey@bsdvt.org
Ward 3	Liz Curry	578-5793	lcurry@bsdvt.org

Vermont State House Representatives

Chittenden-6-3	Jill Krowinski	Democrat	802.363.3907	jkrowinski@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-3	Curt McCormack	Democrat		cmccormack@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-4	Brian Cina	Progressive/ Democrat	802.448-2178	bcina@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-4	Selene Colburn	Progressive/ Democrat	802.540.0546	scolburn@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-2	Jean O'Sullivan	Democrat	802.658.0492	josullivan@leg.state.vt.us

Vermont State Senators (Chittenden County)

Tim Ashe	Progressive/Democrat	802.318.0903	tashe@leg.state.vt.us
Philip Baruth	Progressive/Democrat	802.503.5266	pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us
Debbie Ingram	Democrat	802.879.0054	dingram@leg.state.vt.us
Ginny Lyons	Democrat	802.863.6129	vlyons@leg.state.vt.us
Chris Pearson	Progressive/Democrat	802.860.3933	cpearson@leg.state.vt.us
Michael Sirotkin	Democrat	802.999.4360	msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us

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 : 1-10-19 Location: 20 Allen St. ONE

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

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|----|------------------|----|
| 1 | Brian Pine | 20 |
| 2 | Barbara Alsop | 21 |
| 3 | Carol Czina | 22 |
| 4 | Kevin Deutermann | 23 |
| 5 | Lizzie Hassell | 24 |
| 6 | Ben Dube | 25 |
| 7 | Laura Mistretta | 26 |
| 8 | ALBERT PETRARCA | 27 |
| 9 | JACK DAGGITT | 28 |
| 10 | Annie McAneny | 29 |
| 11 | Curt McCormack | 30 |
| 12 | Kenzie Hines | 31 |
| 13 | Max Tracy | 32 |
| 14 | Perri Freeman | 33 |
| 15 | Melissa Carr | 34 |
| 16 | | 35 |
| 17 | | 36 |
| 18 | | 37 |
| 19 | | 38 |
| 20 | | 40 |



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards
1 & 8

Wards
2 & 3

Wards
4 & 7

Ward
5

Ward
6

Date of Assembly : 2 /14/ 2019 Start Time: (Commence): _6:30pm__

Location: 20 Allen Street ONE Community Center Finish Time: 8:30pm_____

Note taker: Hannah Carpino Please forward these official minutes to: _____

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Perry Freeman-Ward 2, James Lockridge-Ward 3, Amanda Hannaford-Ward 3, Vikas Mangipudi-Ward 2, Tony Redington-Ward 2, Patrick Johnson-Ward 2, Emma Schoenberg-Ward 3

Discussion Topics

- Upcoming election
- Ballot items and candidates

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

Agenda Items and Actions:

NPA Announcements:

Public Forum:

- Jacob Flanagan and Alyssa Jacobs: Winooski Corridor Visioning Group holding public meetings through April near Winooski. Looking for input now as well, will be tabling at NPAs.
- Emma Schoenberg: Hosting a tenant's rights forum. Information can be found on Facebook- February 23rd at 10:00-12:30 AM in Family Room
- Sample Town Meeting Day ballots available! Also available online
- Brian Cina, State Representative: Event tomorrow night, 2/15, at 294 N. Winooski from 7:30-8. Food from the People's Kitchen, music. At 8, campaign lawn sign making and info about getting involved in democracy.

Inspector of Elections, Ward Clerk:

- Wendy Coe: Ward Clerk in Ward 2 for 23 years, tries to organize the polling place so that democracy can happen as smoothly as possible.
- Sara Jelen: Running unopposed for Ward 3 Clerk
- Julia DiPietro: Running for Inspector of Election for Ward 3, has been working polls since 2008. Was appointed to be Inspector of Elections last cycle.
- Barbara Alsop: Running for Inspector of Elections for Ward 3 with endorsement of Progressive Party. Wants to make sure elections are fair, every vote is counted.
- Charlie Giannoni: Running for Inspector of Elections in Ward 3. If anyone has interest in serving as a Ward official, reach out for more information! Amazing way to get involved
- Bonnie Filker: Running for Inspector of Elections in Ward 3

Mayor Miro Weinberger, Charter Changes:

- Ballot Item #2, maintaining city services. For second time in 8 years, city needs a small increase to municipal property tax levy. 10-2 vote of City Council, asking for a 1.5% increase, about \$40/year for average Burlington homeowner.

-Ballot Item #3, implementing permit reform. High priority of City Council for years, trying to untangle municipal services and make them less complicated. Taking zoning element of planning and zoning department and moving it to permitting and inspections departments. Planning department will be reduced to 3 people- will remain its own department. Instead of commission recommending chair of department, position will be appointed by Mayor. DRB (Development Review Board) is still independent body, comprised of citizens. Position will be subject to residency requirement, though city retains flexibility for hardship exemptions.

-Councilor Knodell: Has been very involved with permit reform. Great cooperation among department heads. This will make basic home improvement easier and more affordable

-Councilor Pine: Hopefully there will be a closer review of the process as we start making changes, making processes less complicated and reducing overall need for unnecessary permits. Potential creation of one unified home improvement permit.

-Jean Bergman, Ballot Item #4

-Resident of Ward 2, former Senior Assistant City Attorney after 20 years, recently retired. Working on No On 4 BTV Committee to oppose ballot item #4, which expands downtown improvement district and turns it over to private non-profit entity's management.

-Proponents of Item #4 have created lots of literature, explaining that "the city will retain all current authorities", which is untrue. Democratic control of downtown district would be turned over, even though it is paid for by public (renters, business owners).

-Downtown Improvement District advisory committee is private, not open to public scrutiny. Tried to obtain public records about process, formation of this plan.

-Council can delegate all of its powers over the district to the entity.

-Coalition for a Livable City read through the plan, thinks it is rushed

-Mayor Weinberger, Ballot Item #4

-This ballot item is not privatization- no public assets are being turned over.

-New structure is being proposed, active management is being expanded. Fulfilling instincts from Church Street's beginnings 30 years ago.

-City Council retains ability to correct course, if the public does not approve of actions of entity. City Council will approve management plan, budget, structure, etc. Public retains enormous amount of oversight.

-Being proposed as a non-profit (501c6) because many downtown improvement districts across the country have adopted this structure and been very successful

FY20 Burlington School District Budget Proposal:

-Jeannie Waltz: District Commissioner, on the ballot again running unopposed, first elected by special election in August.

-Liz Curry: Ward 3 Commissioner

-Budget of ~65 million

-Tax increase is 4.83% for \$250,000 value house

-This budget, if passed, achieves a lot of goals that have been in the works for 5 years

-Added 21 instructional positions

-Moving to proficiency-based model at the high school level

-Equalized per pupil amount is ~6% higher than it was last year

-Chittenden County per pupil amount is low compared to the rest of the state

- 5 years ago, it was \$13,000 per pupil. Hopefully, if budget is passed, we will reach \$16,000 per pupil this year.
- Budget available on bsd.org

Central District City Council Candidate Forum:

Opening Statements:

Jane Knodell:

- Running as independent
- Has been active in senior center, expanding senior services. Got funding with other councilors for jobs and people study, which will be first step in developing people-first economy.

Perri Freeman-

- Running as Progressive.
- Current government does not represent needs of the people. Need a government that will focus on equity, act on living wages, climate change, and transparent and open democracy.

Jared Carter-

- Running as a Democrat.
- Declaring “municipal emergency”- City Place project is failing, Burlington Telecom was sold to highest bidder, and people are struggling to feed their families. There is no strong leadership
- More power to NPAs, citizens in democracy.

Question: Thoughts on upcoming review of inclusionary zoning?

-Jared: There are zoning issues in Burlington that are not being addressed- too much focus on development, not enough on affordable housing. Looking to stabilize rent and educate tenants about their rights. City can take stronger role in terms of housing availability.

-Perri: Inclusionary zoning is a great start, but it will only get us so far. Looking to improve the policy, and have renters organize. Many renters are interested in tenants union, looking for more power as renters. The rental market is 60% of the city, but many people are rent-burdened.

-Jane: Inclusionary zoning law requires developers with projects over five units to provide between 15-25% units affordable, as defined by law. Chaired the committee for the inclusionary working group, which was a mix of representatives- private, non-profit, developers, housing advocates, city staff.

Question: What do you plan to do to address climate change?

-Perri: Three main points: moving to mass public free transit and revolutionizing our transportation system, weatherizing our buildings, and resolving issues at McNeil plant. We need a subsidized transit system that helps working people. The efficiency of buildings can be something we incentivize property/business owners to do. McNeil Plant is operating at 24% efficiency- studies show we can use district heating, positive way to work towards sustainability in heating sector.

-Jane: Need to reduce our dependence single-occupancy vehicles, which use fossil fuels and degrade air quality. We need more frequent busses, more routes. Supporter of district energy- pushed Mayor to make downtown project work with district energy, as that involves major users. Energy efficiency is a focus of mine- passed time-of-sale energy efficiency ordinance, which has property owners bring buildings up to standard.

-Jared: Rather than investing in more transit, or more new things, we need to strengthen existing systems, making existing vehicles/buildings more efficient.

Question: Domestic violence against women is a huge issue. No real attention is being paid by the city in regards to this issue. Illegal evictions are also a serious legal problem.

-Jane: We have to empower women economically- gender equity in work structures, city government, and more. Police department is relatively effective. In terms of evictions, it seems to be time to look at just cause evictions, which would require a charter change.

-Jared: Violence against women is not a far-away problem- it is happening within our community. In addition to economic independence, we need to reduce stigma of coming forward, seeking help. As far as tenants' rights/evictions, has worked hard legally to protect tenants. Working hard with ACLU to fight city's homeless camp removal policy, which picks on our city's most vulnerable citizens

-Perri: Violence against women is a prevalent issue that effects almost every woman you know in some way. There is a need for mandatory education around consent, healthy boundaries, and sexual health. City should be pushing for just-cause eviction policy. We should also move to create tenant's union, which would empower the city's renters.

Question: What tools of municipal government would you look at besides property tax to fund basic city services?

-Jane: People want a high level of services- we added staff to Public Works, we added police officers on foot in communities. Budget increase this year was very modest, but we can't just keep increasing property tax. We created a franchise fee on utilities- the university and med center, who don't pay property taxes, use a lot of electricity, etc. We also created a hospitality tax- "gross receipts tax".

-Perri: Last year we looked at tax, luxury tax of 1% on properties over 500,000 to go towards Housing Trust. Good example of taxes outside normal property tax to fund city services.

-Jared: Middle-class working people, young families are burdened with very high taxes in our city. Solutions have to target most successful, highest income brackets in our community, so they can give back to community that has given them so much.

Question: Two major economic drivers of city are UVM and Champlain College, though they compound some of our issues such as rent, housing issues, etc. What would you do to ensure that they are good partners to city?

-Perri: Character of neighborhoods can change- some streets may only have one or two long-term residents, mostly other students. Ratio proposed in study about college-area neighborhoods is 25% students in order to build out healthy character of neighborhoods. UVM needs to create more affordable on-campus housing to allow students to stay on campus longer

-Jared: We have to build relationships. These colleges are a big part of what makes the city thrive- students spend their money, frequent businesses downtown, some go on to seek employment. That said, housing is a crisis downtown. We can respectfully push legislation to increase funding to higher education, so they have a capacity to increase on campus affordable housing.

-Jane: Champlain College houses all of its students, UVM does not. Building university housing frees up demand of downtown housing crunch. Trinity Campus on Burlington seems like potential area for more development. Declining numbers of HS graduates in Northeastern U.S, so the college enrollments will likely not keep increasing. Created as UVM professor an internship program where students help fill out taxes at CVOEO, builds positive connections between university life and community.

Question (for Jane Knodell): Burlington Police Department is not doing an effective job dealing with violence. Relying on the police to address domestic violence is a terrible idea.

-Jane: Clearly, police enforcing laws is one very small part of addressing domestic violence. It's a public health challenge that requires many players.

-Perri: Officers are twice as likely to be domestic abusers as the rest of the population. Working with police to deal with sexual violence, harassment, or domestic violence is incredibly frustrating. The only positive police interaction I've had to deal with this issue was in Iceland, where the issue was taken much more seriously.

-Jared: We must hold police department accountable, strengthen oversight of department in the city. Current oversight model is ineffective, doesn't provide sufficient checks on authority of law enforcement. Growing strength of NPAs to engage in community policing, oversight efforts would be a good start.

Question: Do black lives matter?

-Jared: Absolutely. We need to do everything we can (using courts to litigate when necessary, using streets to protest when necessary) to advocate for black people in our community.

-Jane: Yes, black lives matter. City councilors need to take that into their work- we need a fair and impartial policing model that city has effective oversight on, includes citizen complaint process. We need to do more on housing access, get rid of housing discrimination

-Perri: Black lives matter. Our institutions are not doing enough to support people of color. City constantly recommends more policing as solution, which simply does not work for black people. Councilors have tried to create Community Oversight Review Board, but it has lost momentum and needs to be re-visited.

Closing Remarks:

-Perri:

-Appreciate input about what issues you want addressed by City Council. Has door-knocked every day since the caucus, amazing opportunity to see the issue that been brought up addressed by people here.

-Jane:

-Lots of community based entrepreneurship to make life better in ONE and downtown. We need to continue to foster community organizations who are doing good work- government cannot do it all, can be a good partner.

-Hopes to bring experience and knowledge of city council to continue making change.

-Jared:

-Government cannot do everything, but what government and NPAs can do is set the tone. Burlington is at a crossroads- we have an opportunity to establish ourselves as leaders in investing in people, having fair democracy, and protecting public assets.