

Ward 5 NPA Meeting Agenda

January 21, 2021, 7-8:30 PM

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574495720>

Agenda:

7:00 - 7:10 - Musical Welcome: Ben Wang, Fiddle

7:10 - 7:25 - Public Forum: Voice your concerns, questions, announcements.

7:25 - 7:45 - Water Resources: Update on Burlington's Rate Affordability Study, Jenna Olson & Jessica Lavalette

7:45 - 8:30 - Discussion on Experiencing Homelessness in Burlington: Kevin Pounds ANEW Place; Stephen Marshall, Homeless Advocate; Travis Poulin, CVOEO.

Zoom Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574495720>

Or iPhone one-tap :

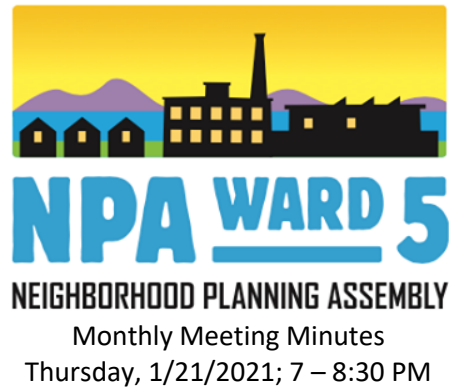
US: +13017158592,,89574495720# or +13126266799,,89574495720#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 895 7449 5720



I. Participation

- a. Steering Committee Attendance & [Contact Information](#): Kirstin Boehm; Lucia Campriello; Billy Clark; Joe Dery; Jillian Kirby; Nate Lantieri; Scott Pavsek; Andrew Simon; Ben Traverse
- b. Total Attendees: 21

II. Minutes

a. 7:00 – 7:10 – Musical Welcome: Ben Wang (fiddle)

b. 7:10 – 7:25 – Public Forum

- i. Grace Ahmed, running for South District (graceforbtv.com)
- ii. [Tiff Bluemle](#), State Rep, available to provide update to constituents re: housing support

c. 7:25 – 7:45 – Water Resources: Update on [Burlington's Rate Affordability Study](#), [Jenna Olson](#), Water Policy & Programs Manager & [Jessica Lavalette](#), Customer Care & Finance Manager

- i. Refreshed audience re: project, which was presented to Ward 5 NPA in Spring-2019 with intention to visit again in Spring-2020
- ii. Project details are accessible via the link above, along with schedule of outreach, continuous improvement, approvals, and implementation with new rates taking effect July-1st, which will be reflected in August-2021 bills

d. 7:45 – 8:30 – Experiencing Homelessness in Burlington

- i. [Kevin Pounds](#), Executive Director, [ANEW Place](#) (newest piece of most relevant
- ii. [Stephen Marshall](#), Homeless Advocate; [Chittenden County Homeless Alliance](#) Steering Committee member; [Vermont Council on Homelessness](#);
- iii. [Travis Poulin](#), Director Chittenden Community Action, [CVOEO](#)

Conversation opened with a discussion re: preferred language when discussing homelessness to ensure people within the general population are not reinforcing stigma. Using the term *individuals experiencing homelessness* helps reflect the multi-dimensional nature of homelessness from income, to mental health, addiction, social attacks, missing community of support, etc. – the solution to homelessness is as complex as is the spectrum of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Discussion Guide:

1. What is it like to be an individual experiencing homelessness in Burlington during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Generally, it is expensive to be poor and expensive to lose your home – for most people a home is the foundation for your life, which makes losing your home entirely upending. Characteristics of homelessness are incredibly varied. Homelessness is traumatic and often results in outcomes that a person would never have anticipated experiencing; providing people with a safe environment, a home, is an opportunity to first interrupt a traumatic experience and then provide services.

2. What supports exist / should exist for people experiencing homelessness?

COVID-19 relief funding is expanding existing support for growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness. Increasing mental health services for people experiencing homelessness is critically important. CARES funding has enabled progress and yet doesn't meet the needs of a growing population.

3. Community Calls to Action:

- ✓ Be open to learning about the complexities of homelessness;
- ✓ Encourage community leaders to actively think about affordable housing;
- ✓ donate to your local nonprofit organizations that are working to support people experiencing homelessness!
- ✓ [Read proposal to the Vermont State Legislature: Safe Parking, Safe Camping](#)
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the [Chittenden County Point In Time Count of Homelessness](#)
- ✓ Post-COVID-19 consider sharing a meal with community of people experiencing homelessness (ANEW Place will resume hosting community meals)
- ✓ Let the city know about the trash in the homeless camp!

NEXT Ward 5 NPA MEETING: Thursday, February 18 @ 7:00 PM

*****Special All Wards Meeting on Tuesday, February 9 @ 6:30 PM to host Mayoral Forum & Ballot Question**

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