



Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8th

7:00-9:00pm

Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect St & online on zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/96245939050>

Webinar ID: 962 4593 9050

Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID= 962 4593 9050

Facilitator: Tom Derenthal

Minutes: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol / Carol Livingston

6:30 **Welcome and Food:** Sam Ayotte

7:00 - **Formal start** - Introductions: name, street

Announcements: share events, meetings, activities of interest to Ward 1 community.

Tom Derenthal
Cindy Wolkin
Lacey Smith BPD
Sara BPD
Jake Schuman
Justin Calarco Court
Susan Lenz
Benjy Oberhal
Kyle Claus
Carter Neubieser
Sharyl Green
Peter Lackowski
Carol Livingston
Breck Bowden
Emma Mulvaney-Stanak
Angie Chapple
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Katherine Vermann
Caryn Long
Pat Selen

Dave Cawley
Richard Hilliard
Erhard Mahnke
Zoraya Hightower
Rob Gutman
Malachi Doherty
Tim Doherty
Steven Chisa
Amy Malinowski
Marcy Gallagher
Joel Kolata
Samantha Ayotte
Betsy McGavisk
Sharon Bushor
Ethan Fleming
Sophie Quest
Lisa Lax
Troy Headrick
Melo Grant

Announcements:

Carol: Dave Cawley awarded by AARP Andrus award for Community Service in VT
Sarah – BPD Community Academy 1/3-2/7 id PD Community Room
AARP Paid Family Leave discussion Weds Pizza 44
Dave Coffee at Schmanska Barn AARP/City Planning Missing Middle 9AM
Zoraya – not running for re-election
Carter – running for Ward 1 seat on Progressive slate; event at Schmanska Sunday
Tom – Seeking support for Mayoral Candidate forum
Amy – Petition Vermonters for Palestine – advisory question for Town Meeting Day

(16 minutes in)

7:05 - [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Advisory Board](#) -
elect Ward 1 representative

Advisory Board Elections

Nominee: Rob Gutman by by Tom

Nominee: Jake Schumann by Justin Calarco

Jake is appointed

(34 minutes in)

7:10 - **Speakout** - an opportunity to raise concerns and appreciations about Ward 1

Sharon: Transparency needed in UVM BTV MOU discussions

Gateway block letter of intent signed before public discussion disappointing

(41 minutes in)

7:30 - **Public Safety** - Conversation with Lacey Smith, Community Support Supervisor - CAIP
(Crisis, Advocacy, Intervention Programs), Burlington Police Dept

Community Support Supervisor

Crisis Advocacy Intervention Program

Social Services all sit in one wing Victim Services, 5 CSLs,

Systems need changing – our systems are failing people (some city, some state, a lot Fed)

People of Burlington should be yelling at state. Montpelier says “you already get enough. Others need money in state” → need citizens to speak up

Even Fire Dept is struggling with resources. PD isn’t responding, because the public does not want PD to intercede where public safety is not directly involved. No preventative service from PD because no resources.

What does it mean to be truly unsafe?

There isn’t help available beyond immediate (food, gloves,...)

People want the help and the systems cannot fill the need

- If you see someone nodding out, check if they’re breathing
- Food is easy to come by; gloves hats, shoes...better
- State not coming through with housing, low barrier day station
- PD can’t deal Quality of Life – only blood/death/fire/weapons
- If we did a drive, contact Safe Harbor, CVOEO, Feeding Chittenden, CC
- Homeless Alliance – Fed funds come through Continuum of Care
- Emma – 11 Reps, 6 Senators not all BTV reps feel the same. Advocacy needs to be to Legislature and the Governor

- Troy – need to change the narrative it's not “making it easier to be homeless in BTV”
- Economic vitality of city has eroded over the past years. Do we need more focus on generating money without raising taxes?
- City is setting up a low barrier shelter

(1 hour 16 minutes in)

8:00 - **City Council Resolution** - [“Maintaining Open and Accessible NPA's”](#) - Ben Traverse, City Councilor, Ward 5 Resolution sponsored by every member

- Some history not many parameters when set up – “Open and Accessible”; Steering Committees
- NPAs are like Town Meeting Day
- Incident – specific concern: an individual reached out to CC and others stating their NPA was not open and accessible because of gender identity / gender expression; others, CC member(s) also expressed feeling unwelcome due to race.
- Fast moving, designed to avoid further harm. In hindsight wish there was more time and have more conversation prior to passage
- Reflect on Open and Accessible principles in bylaws
- Dispute resolution
- Training
- Asking for city officials to begin the discussion; All Wards discussion?
- Tim – regrets role in the process in not contacting steering committee. This is not a power grab!
- Melo –incident over equity and policing was disturbing. Folks become emboldened when there is no response to disturbing behavior
- Bylaws reflect ward identity; model language will be developed
- Fosca – public engagement liaison
- Perhaps the city council should define criteria that require input from NPAs ?

(1 hour 42 minutes in)

8:30 - **City Council updates** - Zoraya Hightower & Tim Doherty

- Tim - Public Safety Committee update – **needed to leave**
- Zoraya - Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization (CDNR) update.
 - There are just as many visitors, but folks aren't spending like they did.
 - Missing Middle housing – more infill = bigger grand list
 - Police Oversight –

- Committee Agrees
 - More Oversight
 - Police Commission should be oversight body
 - It should have access to all complaints
 - Chief and Oversight agrees, then consensus
 - Chief and Oversight disagree on policy, goes to CC
 - Chief and Oversight disagree on discipline not a solution on who should be a mediator.
 - Increase PC to 9
 - Transparency needed -need some summary data
 - Charter Change vs Ordinance

- Opinion – ultimate decision should be at the Commission

- MOU – not necessarily making progress

~~8:50 – School Commission update – Gary Golden and Aquilas Lokossou~~
~~Upcoming School budget~~
No time

9:00 - Adjourn

OUR NEXT NPA MEETING IS DECEMBER 13, 2023 AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE.

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,
 Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,
 Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,
 JF Carter Neubieser carterneubieser@gmail.com
 Sam Ayotte samantha.ayotte11@gmail.com