



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards
1 & 8

Wards
2 & 3

Wards
4 & 7

Ward
5

Ward
6

Date of Assembly : 02 / 01 / 24

Start Time: (Commence): 6:30pm

Location: Champlain College

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 8:35pm

Note taker: Mills Forni

Steering Committee Members in Attendance: Nancy Harkins, Anita Rapone, Mills Forni

Discussion Topics

6:30 | Public Forum - Call to Order, Announcements

6:45 | Town Meeting Day

6:50 | Connect with our State Representatives

7:15 | Downtown Redevelopment Project Updates, CEDO

7:45 | Meet the Ward 6 Candidates for City Council

8:00 | NPA Business

8:15 | Adjourn

Votes and Nominations

- The Ward 6 NPA approved via voice vote the appointment of Dale Azaria to Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee.

Agenda Items and Highlights:

6:30 | Call to Order, Announcements, Public Forum

- Clare Wool is seeking re-election as the Ward 6 school commissioner and asks for your continued support. This will be Clare's 4th term serving. Clare is available via email or phone for questions: 917-912-4333, cwool@bsdvt.org
- Mayoral candidate Emma Mulvaney-Stanak shared details on the upcoming Mayoral debate on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:30 PM - 7:15 PM EST. Register [here](#). The debate will be hosted by Lake Champlain Chamber, the Northwest Vermont REALTOR Association, and the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation.

6:45 | Town Meeting Day (Greg Epler-Wood, Ward 6 Clerk)

- Town Meeting Day is March 5, 2024
- Shared dates and details for our upcoming elections in 2024, including Town Meeting Day and the presidential and state-wide elections.
- Election information is available at <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Elections>.
 - Key Dates:
 - February 14th – Ballots for Annual City Election mailed to all registered voters
 - March 4th, 1pm – Deadline to register to vote online or in the Clerk Treasurer's Office before Election Day; Election Day registration is available at your polling place on March 5th.
 - March 4th, 4:30 p.m. – Deadline to drop off your voted ballot in a drop box
 - March 5th – Election Day! Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - Note:
 - ANNUAL CITY ELECTION ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters in Burlington by February 14th. If you do not receive your ballot by February 21st, please contact the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.

- PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ballots will NOT be mailed out to all voters. If you would like to request this ballot be mailed to you, please request one online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or call the City Clerk's office at (802) 865-7000.

6:50 | Connect with our State Representatives (Tiff Bluemle, Barbara Rachelson, Garielle Stebbins, Mary-Katherine Stone)

- Rep. Barbara Rachelson
 - Priorities include court back-log, restorative justice, auto theft laws
- Rep. Mary-Katherine Stone
 - Priorities include community testimony on challenges facing Burlington, particularly children and our schools.
 - Developing school construction strategy, particularly following the challenges of Burlington High School
- Rep. Gabrielle Stebbins
 - The state legislature faces a particularly challenging year in terms of the big issues we're taking on.
 - Priorities include housing policy and development, land use and conservation.
- Rep. Tiff Bluemle
 - At the end of last year, Vermont projected a \$29 million surplus. We were able to help communities impacted by last year's flooding, and support Vermonters facing other challenges.
 - We invested \$9 million in affordable housing. But we need more.
 - There is a significant amount of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that needs to be allocated by the end of 2024. We are looking at opportunities to use that money for challenges facing Vermonters. We've already been able to use a lot of these funds for broadband investment and natural disaster relief.
 - We need citizen advocacy in passing the budget adjustment and in keeping vulnerable Vermonters in mind.

7:15 | Downtown Redevelopment Project Updates, CEDO (Brian Pine, Director of Community and Economic Development Office)

- Provided an update on Memorial Auditorium and planning for the Gateway Block. Read more on the Burlington city website [here](#).
- Gateway Block includes the block and street between Main and College streets and Winooski and Union streets.
- Memorial Auditorium has been deteriorating since the 1990s due to deferred maintenance and budget challenges of the city.
 - Note: The Burlington High School bond is using most of the city's credit, making it a challenge to issue another bond measure to revitalize the memorial auditorium.
- Key city priorities for the Gateway Block:
 - Attractive and welcoming entrance to downtown.
 - Mixed Income Housing
 - Preservation of Veterans memorials
 - Public use space
 - Public parking
 - Grow the Grand List (increased property tax revenue)
 - Long-term economic benefit for the community
- Opportunity: Public-private partnership with Eric Farrell and Joe Larkin
 - Participants raised questions about the process for soliciting proposals from developers.

7:45 | Meet Ward 6 Candidates for City Council

- Will Anderson
 - Progressive candidate with experience in federal and state government
 - Committed to affordable housing, including rent stabilization
 - Committed to renewable energy and in favor of closing the McNeil plant and replacing it with clean renewable energy

- Supportive of public safety and staffing up the police department with police officers and community service officers, among others
- Becca Brown-McKnight
 - Democrat candidate, business owner and mother
 - Supportive of public safety and in addition to sweeping policy changes that might be necessary, in favor of small improvements to our city that are feasible to implement (e.g. more lights on church street for public safety, bike lanes, speed bumps, etc).

8:00 | NPA Business

- Shared proposed new sample by-laws that we will vote on at our next meeting (with some edits)
 - See the ["Agenda Packet"](#) attached document connected to this meeting in civic clerk
- NPA Budget: How should we use the \$2,500 budget the city allocates to our NPA? Come to our next meeting with your ideas and suggestions! Or, share your ideas with the Ward 6 NPA Steering committee via email: ward-6-sc@googlegroups.com
- The Ward 6 NPA approved via voice vote the appointment of Dale Azaria to Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee
- Call for new NPA Steering Committee Members. Romeo has volunteered and we will vote at our next meeting.

8:30pm | Adjourn