

**Land Access and Opportunity Board: Onboarding Committee**  
**Feb 28, 2024, 9:30 – 10:30a.m**

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Attendee	Present
<b>Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective</li> <li>● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA)</li> <li>● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC</li> </ul>	●
<b>Guests &amp; Public</b>	

Meeting Notetaker: Jean Hamilton

## Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator, <u>Jean</u> @ 9:30	
<b>1. Introductions &amp; Check-in</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Name, Nominating Organization,</li> <li>● Check-in</li> </ul> <p>Whirlwind but manageable. Mud season is year round now. Taking some time to work from home. Exhausted by everything today. Echoed. Hard news delivered today is impacting ability to make decisions. Reminder that no meeting is worth your life. Prioritize safety.</p> <p>Check out "<a href="#">our life is more than our work our life is more than jobs</a>" Charlie King</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agenda Building</li> </ul>
<b>2. Discussion/ Updates</b>	<p><a href="#">Review MOU with VHCB</a></p> <p>Postponed. ACTION ITEM: invite Kirsten to discussion at 3/6 hearth tending meeting.</p> <p><b>Legislative update</b></p> <p>Susan – overview of DDC \$10.2M appropriations for planning grants for housing. Whole generation of adults with developmental disabilities living with their parents. The alternative is “shared housing” which is essentially adult</p>

foster care, which includes no tenants rights. The self-advocacy committee illustrates how much this community needs improved housing access. [SEE testimony \(ref: Act 186 & Housing for Adults with DD\)](#) in public budget hearing.

Planning grants would support

- 12 unit housing in monkton
- A project with downstream
- A project with champlain housing

Jean – ACTION ITEM: maybe schedule a legislative review for upcoming board meeting where we can expand our awareness of related bills and appropriations requests.

Susan – yes, sharing information is a good first step. Moving forward it would be great to craft a shared platform that gives us the multiplier effect.

Ornella – I like starting with information sharing. There is a lot to navigate in the statehouse and knowing

- Press release – staff will circulate draft before next meeting

#### **Property Tax legislation update**

Dan – plans for 20% property tax increase is putting people, esp elders on fixed income, in a position where they cannot afford their homes.

Samantha – what will the role of homestead declaration be on individual's property taxes.

Jean – looks like there is creative policy making in the works in an attempt to address the impact of property tax increase.

Ornella – agree, this is a primary focus on the legislature.

Susan – the disproportionate impact of property tax increases is definitely an issue that impacts our communities. Suggest ACTION ITEM: discuss property tax impact on our constituents at our next board meeting. Can the LAOB issue a statement?

Ornella – curious about using some of the LAOB's money to distribute money to homeowners to help pay for the increase in property tax?

Samantha – worth exploring. We would have to figure out a process, review process, etc. In thinking about spending money for community benefit, I think about one time vs generative. How does one time payment for tax relief compare with other investments we could make.

[Shared article about second home owners paying lower property taxes than residents.](#)

Dan – a lot of the increase in property prices has come from people coming in from out of state being able to pay more. How can we tax those folks to contribute to the costs they've created for the rest of the community.

	<p>Susan – there are things that people don’t know about property taxes. You can be taxed on your income vs the value of your property. ACTION ITEM – outreach to our impacted communities about opportunities to find relief and assistance from overly-burdensome property taxes.</p> <p>Samantha - I think there is some room for community engagement here, Ornella, to really get a sense of who would most be affected within our communities - elders? im migrants? first time buyers?</p> <p>Samantha – how much of a priority is this right now? We should be deliberate about what we want to devote energy to and how much energy.</p>
<p><b>3. Process Check-in, Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reflections</li> <li>● Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- discuss property tax impact on our constituents at our next board meeting. Can the LAOB issue a statement?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>FUTURE DISCUSSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize other funding sources. What is a strategy for diverse funding streams. Would be great to focus legislative time on other issues that appropriations.</li> <li>- Susan: its great to see state support, esp because of being a state instrumentality</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gratitudes: wonderful that the people in this room have different and complimentary skill sets. The make up we have here is conducive to the work we are trying to do. Appreciate everyone’s being here and contributing. Always learning more, which makes it easier to make a positive difference for my community. Appreciative for Ornella and Jean, for stepping in and carrying the work of the LAOB at the statehouse. Appreciate Dan for his steady presence and bringing the issue of Property Tax. Glad to be able to share statehouse knowledge, its something DDC has invested in and feels meaningful to share this skill with others. Grateful for this meeting time to help us land and arrive so we can feel inspired. Grateful for this space where we can be honest and humane.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM</b></p>	

*Recurring Zoom Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85603029734>*

