

Land Access and Opportunity Board Meeting
Oct. 17, 2022, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Facilitator: Lynn Stanley

Facilitator Lynn Stanley convened the 10/17/22 meeting by conference call of the Land Access & Opportunity Board at 5:34 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:18.

Board members present:

- Lynn Stanley, National Association of Social Workers, Vermont
- Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Development Disabilities Council
- Xusana Davis, Vermont Office of Racial Equity
- Rich Holschuh, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs
- Jess Laporte, Vermont Every Town Project
- Rev. Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
- Pacifique Nsengiyumva, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Vermont
- Raheemah Madany, Pride Center of Vermont
- Samantha Langevin, Vermont ReLeaf Collective

Board members not present:

Karim Chapman, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors;
Naomi Moody, NAACP of Vermont

VHCB Staff present: Trey Martin

Guests present:

Malcolm Greene, Ana Mejia, Releaf Collective, Aaron Carroll, Buster Caswell, Nikki Lennart, Intervale, Irmgard Stiehl, NASW, Liz Mills, Graham Unangst-Rufenacht, Rural Vermont

1. The Board reviewed and finalized VHCB's meeting notes from 10/3; no suggestions or comments were received.
2. Board Discussion: *NASW Intern Irmgard Stiehl Figueroa provided an overview of research into successful programs from other jurisdictions working towards housing equity and land access through the model of community land trusts. Please see the attached Excel document, which provides an overview of those organizations reviewed.*

What information from this research do we find intriguing for follow up?

- Agrarian commons model; other?

What kind of process should we follow to identify our top priorities?

- Really important to look at research from other jurisdictions, but also need to move forward and create something new.

What additional research would be helpful for future conversations?

- Are there institutions that break out of existing models and requirements that often make access difficult for Vermonters from traditionally marginalized and disadvantaged communities?
- How do we bring specificity to our work understanding how barriers are different for different people? There are different needs for new Americans, BIPOC Vermonters, developmentally disabled Vermonters.
- Where are the models that move away from colonial / dominant culture norms?
- Can we analyze not only who Community Land Trust orgs serve, but who is not served?
- What are the challenges these models face?
- Are there models out there for how housing / land access organizations receive feedback and research the effectiveness of their efforts: polling / surveys / etc.?

3. Board Business

- a. RFP Update: Four RFP Responses were received. A working group will convene to provide a recommendation back to the Board regarding the legal service provider who will best assist the Board with legal research and recommendations to inform the Jan. 15 Sunrise Report mandated in Act 182 of 2022.
- b. Other business: The Board discussed one change to meeting protocol, with regards to participation by members of the public present during meetings. Going forward, Board meetings will commence with introductions of Board members and alternates present on behalf of appointing authorities. Members of the public will be asked to identify themselves and share public comment during that portion of the agenda.

4. Public Comment Received

- Buster Caswell – expressed appreciation and hope for this board to accomplish things that other boards have not. How can we have more dialogue? How can we take care of those who work on the land and provide food?

- Nikki Lennart – as rep of Intervale Center, offered her organization’s expertise on alternative land tenure models, financing, farm business models, access
- Malcolm Greene – requested VHCB add names to email list for communication to interested members of the public. He also asked whether additional board members would be needed to help facilitate the wide mission of LAOB? And he commented on the need to continue to think about the context for our work, which is genocide and land theft.

5. Review/Preview

Nov. 7 – In Person Meeting, Bethany Church, Randolph

- i. 5-6 p.m. Board dinner
- ii. 6-7:30 p.m. public board meeting
- iii. Formal invitation and rsvp to follow