

Land Access and Opportunity Board Meeting
April 3, 2023, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes –Approved 4/17/2023

Meeting Facilitator: Kirsten Murphy

Kirsten Murphey convened the April 3, 2023 meeting of the LAOB at 5:30 pm: brief introductions and acknowledgement of who the active representative is from each appointing authority. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council ; Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective; Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity; Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers (NASW); Rich Holschuh, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs; Pastor Arnold Thomas, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance; Pasifique Nsengiyumva, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants; Ashley Devereaux, NASW (Alternate); Rev. Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance (Alternate)

Board Members Not Present:

Jess Laporte, Vermont Every Town Project; Raheemah Madany, Pride Center of Vermont; Karim Chapman, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors; Naomi Moody, NAACP;

VHCB Staff/ LAOB consultants present:

Trey Martin, Gus Seelig, Bonnie Woodford, Francis Sharpstene; Robert Appel, attorney to the Board

Members of the Public present

Hazel Adams-Shango, Malcolm Greene, Nathan Suter, Buster Caswell, Christine Hughes

Agenda

1. The Board reviewed the meeting notes from the 3/20/2023 meeting, no comments or corrections were made by the board and were accepted. Members of the Board are welcome to send Bonnie or Trey comments.
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Legislative Process Updates and Opportunities
 - a. Gus gave an update on the \$1.2M appropriation in the House budget which was passed and now it goes to the Senate.
 - b. Senate testimony: appeal to members to reach out with personal connections to members of Senate Economic Development and Housing and Senate Appropriations

Seeding Power is working with Action Circles on a google form template for personal communications directly to legislators. Mindy and Shane will support use of the template and messages to key Senators and house members.

Rev. Hughes asked if we can organize meetings offline / outside the Board's formal meetings to support communications to legislators? VHCB has offered to support that work and hold a working session open to members of the Board, alternates, and friends.

- c. Vermont Dep't of Forests, Parks and Recreation – Urban and Community Forestry has some funding and are hoping to get guidance on the funding, Samantha, Pastor Thomas, Xusana, and Rev. Hughes volunteered to attend a meeting with them.

4. LAOB Conflict of Interest Policy

Robert gave an overview of the policy for the Board. The board asked some clarifying questions.

- Add “volunteers” to list of those who will be treated with fairness and respect under “Other Considerations.”
- VHCB/Robert will follow up with signature pages for each LAOB member

The Board unanimously adopted the Conflict of Interest Policy by consensus.

5. Public Comment

Buster Caswell asked where to advocate for farmworker housing, given the lack of legislative committees directly working on this issue. Advocating for more voice in the process for people working on farmer and farmworker housing. He also hopes the Board will focus on farmworker housing.

Malcolm Greene shared the importance to testify and thanked the Board.

6. Board Facilitator Hiring Update

Brian Cina made a motion to enter executive session to discuss staffing, Samantha seconded. The Board entered executive session at 6:38p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:05 p.m.

Kirsten gave an update that the board has been presented with 3 strong candidates for the Board Facilitator position and that the review committee will conduct interviews and plan to be prepared to make a decision at the April 17, 2023 Board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned by Kirsten Murphy at 7:07 PM