

**Land Access and Opportunity Board Sub-committee: Advisory Powers & Advocacy
WORK SESSION**

November 28th 2023, 9:00 – 10:00 am / Meeting Facilitator: Jessica Laporte, CROs

Attendee	Present	Not Present - includes Board Alternates
Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Morton-Dow, VT Releaf Collective • Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA) • Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council • Ana Mejia, Vermont Every Town Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity • Brian Cina, NASW • Rev. Mark Hughes, VRJA
Public & Guests	None	

Agenda & Notes

1. Meeting Convened by Facilitator, Jess Laporte @ 9:00am	
2. Welcome & Overview of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Agenda:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check-ins ○ Review Surveys ○ Discussion and Next Steps
3. Review Surveys submitted to date	<p>All Surveys Received are shared for review in this folder - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tsRvNnh6W8q99m5l2Ai7RZRuNnyoA8Ab?usp=drive_link</p> <p>Vermont Economic Development Authority & Vermont Agriculture Credit Corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana - Noting that their DEI initiatives lead to more awareness but not reporting any barriers or challenges for people from protected classes to access their loan products and services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dan - I see this a lot, so ini the weeds of the work that they aren't analyzing their approach/results. ○ Ana - It is concerning that they are saying they're aware but don't acknowledge well documented barriers/difficulties to access. • <i>Other comments in document</i> <p>Agency of Agriculture Farm and Markets Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other comments in document</i> <p>Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other comments in document</i> <p>Vermont Housing and Finance Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan - Mention about legal constraints on what things they can do. Recognition that LAOB is tasked with cases where existing laws work against equity and accessibility.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess - Assuming they're alluding to the 14th Amendment loop where state and federal programs that "target" protected classes come under scrutiny. Therefore they end up using economic eligibility. ● <i>Other comments in document</i> <p><u>General Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ana - Are we limited to the organizations on this list? Mostly state agencies or created by the state but there are other organizations offering these services and I can imagine their responses may be very different. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess - this list comes from the statute that created the LAOB where Advisory Powers were established. In the Outreach plan we have a second list of "Peer Organizations" we'd want to connect with and made a space for us to brainstorm "Other Organizations" providing house and land ownership support. ● Ana - Who filled these out? Would be interesting to know if it's a single staff perspective or group effort. If opinions represent the whole organization or individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dan - we may also know more through the presentations when they come ○ Ana - in the future would be good to clarify that this should be organizational and involve discussion ● Dan - A few things to keep in mind when reviewing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1) May learn valuable information that could be applied to other organizations. Being able to identify tips/tools/tricks that can be shared broadly. ○ 2) Critical eye - are they giving canned answers or actually thinking about this? Need to see which organizations we need to engage with more to think constructively.
<p>4. Updates and Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next Meetings; Tues 12/5 & 12/12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ana wants to discuss budget follow-up ○ Next steps for synthesis, sharing findings and engaging the full board and how to manage this project as a sub-committee ○ How to incorporate into on-boarding ● Updates for the Board - None
<p>5. Meeting Adjourned at 10:05am</p>	

Recurring Zoom meeting Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84487600423>