

## Minutes

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board  
Retreat  
November 3 & 4, 2021  
ZOOM Meeting in response to COVID

The Board held its annual retreat on November 3 and 4, 2021, remotely, by ZOOM. The retreat focused on presentations and panels devoted to issues of importance to VHCB's mission. There was no business meeting, and no actions were taken

**Board Members Attending:** Neil Mickenberg, David Marvin, Kate McCarthy, Maura Collins, Billy Coster, Diane Bothfeld, Andrea DeLaBruere, Clarence Davis, Marie Audet, Ann Fielder.

**Staff in attendance for all or part:** Gus Seelig, Anne Duffy, Karen Freeman, Larry Mires, Liz Gleason, Jenny Hyslop, Jen Hollar, Elizabeth Egan, Pam Boyd, Francis Sharpstene; Kendall Lambert; Mark Martin; Mariah Noth, Aaron Guman, Kathleen Kanz; Stacy Cibula, Julia Anderson; Craig Peltier, Ariane Kissam, Leah Sare, Bill Dell'Isola, Erin Riley

**Others in attendance for all or part:** Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of AAFM; Leslie Black-Plumeau, Community Relations and Research Manager, VHFA; Jesse Larson, Appraiser; John Vogel, Adjunct Professor, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth; Ellen Kahler, Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; Michael Monte, Champlain Housing Trust; Nick Richardson, Vermont Land Trust; Sarah Phillips, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Pollaidh Major and Tom Berry, Office of Senator Patrick Leahy; Neil Kamman, Director of the Water Investment Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, ANR.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Welcome from David Marvin, Board Chair, at 8:32am

#### **Session I: Vermont's Red Hot Real Estate Market.**

How has it accelerated? What is driving it? What does it mean for VHCB's housing and conservation work?

Participants: Leslie Black-Plumeau, Community Relations and Research Manager, VHFA Jesse Larson, Appraiser, John Vogel, Adjunct Professor, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, Kate McCarthy, AICP, Program Officer, Vermont Community Foundation and VHCB Board member

#### **Session 2: Report of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Vermont**

## **Agriculture and VHCB**

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Ellen Kahler, Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

### **Session 3: Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion in VHCB's work, and work of Partner Organizations**

Karen Freeman, Francis Sharpstene and Jenny Hyslop on work underway by VHCB and partners

Partner Organizations discuss the work they have done and are doing: Michael Monte of the Champlain Housing Trust, and Nick Richardson of the Vermont Land Trust

### **Session 4: Progress and Concerns on Homelessness**

Sarah Phillips, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Maura Collins, Jenny Hyslop

### **Session 5: Board member open discussion**

How can we improve meetings and materials? Any organizational concerns or reflections? Discussion of the last very busy year and the year ahead?

## **DAY 2 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

### **Session I: Federal policy and Infrastructure Investment Update**

Pollaidh Major and Tom Berry, Office of Senator Patrick Leahy

### **Session 2: Water Quality and Lake Memphramagog**

Neil Kamman, Director of the Water Investment Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, ANR, Kendall Lambert, Lake Memphremagog Clean Water Program Manager, VHCB

### **Session 3: Closing reflections from Board Members - Thoughts and actions for the coming year.**

Meeting ended 12:45pm