Land Access and Opportunity Board: Policy Committee

January 12, 2026, 11:30am-1:00pm

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta Figueroa, Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Jean Hamilton/Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	**Not Present:**
Board ● Alyssa Beauchamp, Liberation Ecosystem, Inc. ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disability Council ● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity **Staff:** Ornella Matta-Figueroa, Jean Hamilton	● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs, VT Council on Native American Affairs ● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disability Council ● Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice ● Alliance ● Brian Cina, VT National Association of Social Workers ● Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors ● Emily Carris-Duncan, Vermont Every Town Project ● Sonali Samarasinghe, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
Guests & Public	

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 11AM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Name, Nominating Organization
2. Discussion/ Updates	January 5, 2026, meeting minutes review: - Susan Aranoff makes a motion to approve minutes as presented. - Mark Hughes seconds the motion to approve minutes as presented. - Alyssa Beauchamp abstains due to not attending the Jan. 5th meeting.

	Agenda Building: - Policy Committee meeting schedule - Prep for Board meeting - BAA community testimony sign ups - Justice agenda discussion Meeting schedule 12:05PM: - Desire to meet weekly during the session because things move fast - Some committee members cannot commit more than 2/month because session is so busy. - Mondays Noon-1PM timeframe may be difficult to accommodate during the legislative session - Helpful to be mindful about how much time LAOB is requesting from Board members. - Other proposed options: What if there was a policy update for the weeks we didn't meet? Or have shorter meeting time frame? How about 2PM on Mondays? - Feedback in the Chat: Feel very supportive of a 30 minute "huddle" where the staff bring updates - but we're not co-creating an agenda at the top of the meeting. We just know updates are coming - and we have the opportunity to respond. Board meeting preparation: - Discussed staff and committee preparation for board meeting. Committee members affirmed support and asked staff to lean on the committee for support in communicating with the full board. BAA testimony request: - Discussed strategy for community testimony at BAA community hearing. - Susan Aranoff signed up to testify their perspective which may include LAOB related or other items. - We could share this opportunity to our RAD Weavers meeting. - We could ask Tay or their housing developer partners if they are open to advocating for $750k toward beginning developers' program. - Further discussion planned for 1.12 Board meeting. - https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Press-Releases/2026-HAC-BAA-Public-Hearing-Press-Release.pdf Justice Agenda: - Reviewed Justice Agenda, Mark H presented updates and orientation. - Briefly reviewed Vermont Civil Rights Sovereignty and Equal Protection Act of 2026. Set up agenda item for future policy committee meeting to review and discuss the current draft of this bill. - Discussed PR 4 (Equal Protections Constitutional Amendment). - How can LAOB help?

	▪ Show up when testimony occurs. ▪ Offer testimony on the relationship between this proposed amendment and LAOB's purpose. ▪ Recommendation to advance to the full board for a vote in support of PR4. Look at February board meeting. -Overviewed H361, police oversight bill. Military equipment be pushed into local law enforcement agencies, they would have full indemnification and legal protection.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps **- Further discussion planned for BAA Testimony at 1.12.26 Board Meeting.** **- Review and discuss the Equal Protections Constitutional Amendment further.** **- Recommendation to advance to the full board for a vote in support of PR4 (Equal Protection Constitutional Amendment) for February board meeting.** ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 1:08PM	

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz