Land Access and Opportunity Board: Policy Committee

December 16, 2025, 2:00PM-3:30PM

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta-Figueroa, Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	Not Present:
Board ● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disability Council ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs, VT Council on Native American Affairs ● Brian Cina, VT National Association of Social Workers **Staff**	● Alyssa Beauchamp, Liberation Ecosystem, Inc. ● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disability Council ● Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
Guests & Public	

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 2PM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Name, Nominating Organization Check-in: What are you celebrating? Agenda Building: -Review 12.9.25 Policy Meeting Minutes -Check in about Holiday Schedule:12.23.25, 12.30.25 Meetings -Revisit FY27 Appropriations Strategy: -Do we support the recommendations of Staff? Do we need any other information? -Share legislative initiatives with one another. -What are we doing with Brians Bill when we meet on Thursday?

2. Discussion/ Updates	Review FY26 Budget Adjustment- $1M for LAOB to reinstate FY26 grant programs: Homes for All Grant Fund $750K Community Resilience Hub Grants $250K- to be contracted by July 1st Plus, another $400K proposed from FY27 Budget Comments: If people were friendly about reinstating FY26 grant programs that is positive. Review 12.9.25 Policy Meeting Minutes: Amendments: Remove Susans Name from Minutes Brian Cina makes a motion to approve minutes as presented Dan Coutu seconds that motion All in favor Mark Hughes abstains from approving minutes as presented Check in about Holiday Schedule: 12.23.25, 12.30.25 meetings will be canceled because staff are on Holiday. How would you like to take steps forward to get a policy slate together to propose to the board? Suggestion of Board members interviewing board members about their legislative agendas we may want to incorporate into our policy slate. Decided to Review LAOB Policy Platform 2026: -Budget Detail -Food Security RoadMap Coalition Question: Maximize federal funding with strategic state investments. Are you having conversations about that?

	Response: They don't know what opportunities will be available for the Food Security Road Map. They will be going for federal funding and asking the state to make investments into their programs. It would be great to present the Justice Agenda to the Food Security Roadmap Coalition. -Cannabis Social Equity Comment: I would rather we are not sustained by cannabis revenue that perpetuates harm toward marginalized communities. I would rather that the state funds us in their general funds. Comment: There are some foundational stones like social equity grants, social equity license, the platform we are under, Cannabis Excise Tax. Comment: The way we prevent the marketplace from becoming harmful to our communities is to maintain connection to the land, people, herbal medicine, and agriculture. Comment: We're talking about cannabis advocacy and a push to recommend 25% excise tax. We would like to advocate for the rights of Vermonters as it is related to cannabis use and housing. -Act 181, Act 250 Question: How do we remind our policy makers of the role that Act 250 has had in the economic cap/economic growth and housing cap of the state? How has Act 250 contributed to the lack of diversity in this state & lack of black generational wealth in this state? Acknowledge harm and contribute toward repair. We will be asking for a study on these impacts. Create a mitigation plan for economic and environmental justice impacts of Act 250. In the house appropriations testimony we had today, we were asked what do we think of Act 250? We addressed that we need to understand the impacts of economic and environmental justice. We would see a growth in home ownership in Black and Brown Vermonters. We see the homeless population being represented. Question: Can we incrementally include a conversation, with Act 250 with some baseline principles? We have been deeply engaged in the institutions, in a standing meeting with Miro Weingburger and coalition partners. They want to open up act 181.

	Leadership doesn't want to open it up because it's contentious. LAOB is in an active role. **ACTION ITEM: We will come back to a conversation on the draft civil rights bill.** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pgZFZ_k69-0aDw8eI9_ia5G5YrzJ8ss9/view?usp=drive_link **Check out testimony in 2019 on Act 250 from Amy Sheldon committee. So, it never informed act 181.** **Links shared from Ornella:** **https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Natural/Bills/19-0040/Written%20Testimony/Environmental%20Justice/W~Bindu%20Panikkar~19-0040,%20Copy%20of%20Testimony~4-30-2019.pdf** **https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2018.1/WorkGroups/Act250/Final%20Report/W~Ellen%20Czajkowski~Commission%20on%20Act%2250%20Final%20Report~1-11-2019.pdf**
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	• Reflections • Next Steps • Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 3PM	

Submitted By: Arealles Ortiz