Land Access and Opportunity Board: Hearth Tending Committee
February 18, 2026 9:30AM – 10:30AM

Meeting Facilitator: Arealles Ortiz

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	**Not Present:**
Board ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA) ● Mark Hughes (VRJA) ● Susan Aranoff (Vermont DDC) ● Jaada Longmore (VRJA) **Staff: Arealles Ortiz**	● Samantha Langevin, Vermont Liberation Ecosystem ● Kirsten Murphy (VT DDC)
Guests & Public:	

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 9:30AM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	● Name, Nominating Organization ● Check-in: What does success mean to you? ● Agenda Items - 2.11.26 Minutes Review - Update: Reschedule LAOB Case Study Testimony: Please complete this meeting poll - Any updates for Evaluation Process send out to Francis? - Any feedback on Hearth Tending Committee Processes? What's working well? What's not?
2.Discussion/ Updates	Review 2.11.26 Minutes from last week: Jaada Longmore makes a motion to approve minutes as presented Dan Coutu seconds that motion All in favor Susan Aranoff abstains due to absence

	Update: Reschedule LAOB Case Study Testimony: Please complete this meeting poll Eval Process send out to Francis update: Dan made a draft to send to Francis. Got suggestions and feedback from Samantha. Committee members agreed, we can keep moving forward. Discussion on Hearth Tending Committee Processes. What's working well? Are there areas for improvement as we continue to develop our systems? Comment: I have never heard of an activity such as Hearth Tending. As we go along, we see what issues are existing around us. Who are the people we are interacting with? How do we interact with one another? All of these factors create where we are today. I feel like we have created a way to collaborate effectively. Looking forward to figuring out what other things we can do in order to make the world a better place. Comment: I really enjoy this committee. I feel anxiety around not accomplishing some of the work in a timely way. We haven't really finished the evaluation process. It has taken us a while to complete. Thinking about whether we are honoring our duties and commitment to the staff during this process? Comment: I am new to this committee and committed to showing up. I think this is a really beautiful committee and its purpose is really great. I want everyone to stay encouraged. Comment: I view this Hearth Tending Committee as the executive committee of LAOB. Generally speaking, I view this committee as a place for emerging strategy, recurring updates, and moving parts to converge here. We are here to speak into the process. Could we review minutes before the meeting? Could we work toward the end of meetings to establish agendas? We should be able to have our finger on the pulse on the major activities and initiatives of LAOB within this group, brief updates for programming. Comment: I remember there being an LAOB planning spreadsheet that was updated on a regular basis.

	Thought: Sometimes this team deals with situations that I feel like I don't have the skills or knowledge to tackle. I'm often hoping someone else in the group can guide the conversation. <u>Next Step:</u> I would like to schedule the conclusion of the Evaluation Process, fact finding with staff. Comment: Concerned around Agenda Building. There have been many times when I have been under the impression that directors will be present at a meeting and then are not because of an emergent need. <u>Next Step:</u> Case Study & VHCB Evaluation Next Steps <u>Next Step:</u> What is our board development plan process? Growth to work plans?
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps: - I would like to schedule the conclusion of the Evaluation Process and fact finding with staff. - Case Study & VHCB Evaluation Next Steps -What is our board development plan process? Growth to work plans? ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 AM	

Submitted By: Arealles Ortiz