Land Access and Opportunity Board: Hearth Tending Committee
May 6, 2026 9:30-10:30AM

Meeting Facilitator: Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	Not Present
Board -Samantha Langevin, Liberation Ecosystem Inc. -Kirsten Murphy (VT DDC) -Mark Hughes (VRJA) **Staff:** Arealles Ortiz, Jean Hamilton, Ornella Matta-Figueroa	● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA) ● Susan Aranoff (Vermont DDC)
Guests & Public: No members of the public were present.	

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at:	
1. Introductions & Check-in	- Check in: Name, Nominating Organization - Prompt: What's been on your mind lately? - Review 4/22/26 DRAFT Minutes - Prioritize Board development list - Public Comment
2.Discussion/ Updates	Review 4/22/26 DRAFT Minutes: Samantha Langevin makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kirsten Murphy seconds that motion. Amendments: edits 'Liberation Ecosystem, Inc.' with no 'Vermont' in attendance. Samantha Langevin abstains due to absence. All were in favor.

	Prioritize Board development list: Comment: We are seeing a couple of distinct categories that are time bound, one-time projects, and items that can be outsourced. There is overlap between LAOBs intentions in creating new structures and consultants working with food cooperatives. Comment: From last week's meeting, there was real priority of what the staff versus board duties are. Question: Do we want to talk about board terms? Comment from the chat: A member may serve not more than two full terms. A member who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring during a term may serve two full terms in addition to the unexpired portion of the term during which the member is first appointed. Question: Can we talk about the LOAB conflict-of-interest policy? Response: We do have a policy. The last time we evaluated or edited it was in 2023. Kirsten, Samantha, and Alyssa had a conversation and noticed there were some things surfacing that weren't addressed in that policy. Samantha and Alyssa checked in with the co-directors to report out what we talked about and next steps. We will write a recap of meeting with the co-directors, identify short-term and long-term priorities, and bring it to the board to have a discussion. Comment: We are due to revisit the existing COI policy. Typically, we should be signing off on it on an annual basis. Comment: For added context because our structure at LAOB is not common, the representatives on our board are community members who are also the leaders of the work we need to be funding. We are trailblazing how do we do this well, talk about it, and bring it up in meetings. Comment: If we are going to revise or expand the COI policy, let's do that work. Then we can review that revised COI policy, and the board should sign that one. Comment: Another option is, if it seems like the review process is going to be long, we could come back to the board, have them sign our current COI, and let them know we are going to revise and review.

	Question: Does this committee need space and time to work on the COI Policy during meetings? Comment: Liberation Ecosystem probably will. We will come back and let co-directors know what we need. For us to participate we would imagine we would need it to be a part of our regular board service. <u>Board Terms Discussion:</u> Shared LAOB board members who reached their first term and are up for renewal. Comment: Thinking about how general the language is in statute. - Do these terms apply to primary or alternate? Does it matter? - What happens when organizations' name changes? Does it need to be changed through an act of legislation? - What happens when an organization's structure changes? - Where do we get guidance? Comment: A division of charitable trusts may have some advice. Comment: Noticed instances that say, "a member named by". We should talk about recruitment strategies, finding appropriate members, support onboarding, and training new members in a way this is expansive and inclusive. Question: Should we have a standard start term date? Response: We definitely have some more work to do as well as some difficult conversations.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps: - Arealles: Reach out to board primaries who are going into their second term and ask who the appointing authority is who authorizes your board presence. ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 10:30AM	

Submitted By: Arealles Ortiz