# *Land Access and Opportunity Board:* Hearth Tending Committee
# September 9, 2026 9:30AM – 10:30AM

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta- Figueroa

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

| **Attendees** | **Not Present:** |
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| **Board**<br>● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs<br>● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DD Council<br>● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont DD Council<br>● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance<br>● Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance<br><br>**Staff**<br>Arealles Ortiz<br>Ornella Matta-Figueroa<br>Jean Hamilton | ● Samantha Langevin, Liberation Ecosystem Inc.<br><br>***Tentative:***<br>● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter<br>● Marita Canedo, Migrant Justice<br>● Emily Carris- Duncan, Vermont Every Town Project |
| **Guests & Public:** No members of the public were present. | |

## Agenda

| Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 9:30AM | |
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| **1. Introductions & Check-in** | Agenda Items:<br>- Check-ins: Name, Nominating Organization<br>- Prompt: What's one hobby you've never tried but would love to start?<br>- 9/2/26 DRAFT Minutes Review<br>- Public Comment<br>- Andy Robinson, next steps<br>- Scheduling<br>- Executive session to continue discussion of personnel matters |

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| **2.Discussion/ Updates** | <u>9/2/26 DRAFT Minutes Review</u><br>Dan Coutu makes a motion to approve 9.2.26 minutes as presented.<br>Mark Hughes seconds that motion.<br>All were in favor.<br><br><u>Andy Robinson, next steps:</u><br>- 2-hour workshop sessions will take place on: 10.26 & 10.27 from 4-6PM<br>- Shared survey findings: A copy of the presentation can be found in LAOB.Board Folder→ LAOB Hearth Tending Committee → HTC Materials → Andy Robinson Board Dev Workshop pdf<br>- Andy will conduct 6 interviews with a mix of board and staff.<br>- Andy will propose a workshop agenda to Hearth Tending Committee.<br>- Hearth Tending Committee will provide feedback on Andys proposed agenda.<br>- Andy will finalize that agenda and meeting structure with the Co-Directors.<br><br><u>Update: Protocol on executive session notes. What's LAOBs obligation?</u><br><br>The general rule is we are required to document why we go into executive session, when we went to executive session, and if any decisions were made.<br><br>Any written notes about LAOB is considered discoverable.<br><br>The secretary of state's office would recommend training to the board and staff.<br><br><u>Scheduling:</u><br>- Touch Point on Monday 9/14 11-12PM to review Strategic & Board Development 2-pager.<br><br>- 9/17 Special Board Meeting 2PM-2:30PM to vote on the three components of the proposed strategic plan:<br><br>1. Adopt the six-priority strategic framework and the first-year phase of the 2026 – 2028 Board Development Plan as interim operating direction.<br>2. Authorize the First 100 Days actions.<br>3. Require a validated final implementation package following the First 100 Days.<br><br><u>Executive session to continue discussion of personnel matters:</u><br><br>Susan Aranoff makes a motion to discuss a personnel matter.<br>Mark Hughes seconds that motion. |

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| | All were in favor.<br><br>There were no decisions made coming out of executive session at 10:31AM. |
| **3. Process Check-in, Next Steps** | ● Reflections<br>● Next Steps:<br>-Reach out to Secretary of State for Board/Staff Training regarding Open Meeting Law.<br>-Touch Point (Review Strategic & Board Development Plan) on Monday 9/14<br>-Special Board Meeting on 9/17<br>● Gratitudes |
| **Meeting Adjourned at 10:31AM** | |

***Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz***