Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
2026 Board Retreat Agenda
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83834682402 Meeting ID: 838 3468 2402

Tuesday 10/27/26

9:50 Arrive at Ascutney Outdoors, 449 Ski Tow Rd, Brownsville, VT 05037

10:00-10:15 Ascutney Town Forest Project overview – we will be joined by Shelley or Glenn Seward

10:20-11:20 Panel Discussion on Challenges to the Working Lands Economy – facilitated by Liz with guests Ellen Kahler, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; Ryan Owens, New England Forestry Foundation; Travis Marcotte, Intervale Center - Will be available on Zoom

> Vermont's farm and forest producers are navigating significant challenges right now, particularly due to recent dairy plant closures, the Finch Paper Mill closure, tariffs, escalating costs of production, and climate change. This panel will focus on the deep and lasting impacts we can expect from this period of economic turmoil, as well as what bright spots and areas of opportunity they see in the working lands economy.

11:30 - 12:00 Travel to Bellows Falls Waypoint Center 17 Depot St, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

12:10-12:40 Walking Tour of Bellows Falls with Robert McBride

1:05-2:30 Lunch and Putney Community Panel facilitated by Pollaidh with guests Lyssa Papazian, Historic Preservation Consulting; Elizabeth Bridgewater, Executive Director Windham & Windsor Housing Trust; Meg Mott, Chair of Putney Mountain Association; Karen Astley, Putney Town Manager; Stormy G, WWHT & Putney Resident – Will be available on Zoom

> Leaders from within the Putney community will join the board for lunch for a discussion on community priorities and challenges, their experience working with VHCB, and how VHCB-funded projects have supported community vitality.

2:30 -2:55 Travel to Alice Holway Drive at 27 Alice Holway Dr, Putney, VT 05346

3:00-3:15 Travel to Vermont Shepherd at 281 Patch Farm Rd, Putney, VT 05346

3:15-4:00 Vermont Shepherd Tour

4:10 - 4:40 Travel to Grafton Inn, 92 Main St, Grafton, VT 05146

4:40 – 5:40 Check in to rooms

5:30 Social Hour (Optional)

6:15 Dinner with guest Bryan Pfieffer

Wednesday 10/28/26 – Full day will be available on Zoom

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30 Personnel Matter

9:05 Strategic Plan Update facilitated by VHCB Management

10:05 Break

10:15 Board discussion – Mission facilitated by Kate & Jen

11:30 For the Good of the Board facilitated by Emily & Gus

12:10 Lunch