DRAFT

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
MINUTES
10/27/2026
In person (various locations) and on Zoom

Day One – October 27, 2026

Board Members: David Marvin, Kate McCarthy, Billy Coster (designee for ANR), Ari Rockland-Miller (designee for VAAFM), Justin Davis (designee for AHS); Amy Mynter, Emily Wadhams, Jen Hollar, Neil Mickenberg; Maura Collins (VHFA) and Clarence Davis (joined via zoom for panel discussions)

VHCB Staff: Gus Seelig, Elizabeth Egan, Christopher Baning, Pollaidh Major, Bonnie Woodford, Francis Sharpstene, Colleen Casimira, Sarah Phillips, Trey Martin, Liz Gleason

Others Present: Shelley Seward, Ellen Kahler, Ryan Owens, Travis Marcotte, Robert McBride, Lyssa Papazian, Elizabeth Bridgewater, Stormy Gammon, Meg Mott, Karen Astley, David Major, Yesenia Ielpi Major

Chair David Marvin called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Public Comment
No public comment

Shelley Seward, a board member with Ascutney Outdoors, gave an overview of their work and VHCB's support.

Liz Gleason facilitated a panel on the challenges to the working lands economy with Ellen Kahler, Ryan Owens, and Travis Marcotte.

Board members participated in a walking tour/site visits in Bellows Falls with Robert McBride.

Pollaidh Major facilitated a panel on community development in Putney with Lyssa Papazian, Elizabeth Bridgewater, Stormy Gammon, Meg Mott, and Karen Astley.

Board members visited Alice Holway Drive, a newly opened apartment building.

Board members visited Vermont Shepherd Farm.

Day Two – October 28, 2026

Board Members: David Marvin, Kate McCarthy, Billy Coster (designee for ANR), Maura Collins (VHFA), Ari Rockland-Miller (designee for VAAFM), Justin Davis (designee for AHS); Amy Mynter, Emily Wadhams, Jen Hollar, Neil Mickenberg, Clarence Davis (joined via zoom)

VHCB Staff: Gus Seelig, Elizabeth Egan, Christopher Baning, Pollaidh Major, Bonnie Woodford, Francis Sharpstene, Sarah Phillips, Trey Martin, Stacy Cibula, Liz Gleason

Chair David Marvin called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Public Comment
No public present

Personnel Matter

Emily Wadhams made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Neil Mickenberg seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Roll Call
David Marvin – Yes
Neil Mickenberg - Yes
Billy Coster - Yes
Maura Collins – Yes
Ari Rockland-Miller – Yes
Justin Davis – Yes
Amy Mynter– Yes
Emily Wadhams – Yes
Jen Hollar – Yes
Kate McCarthy – Yes

Billy Coster made the motion to come out of executive session. Neil Mickenberg seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Roll Call
David Marvin – Yes
Neil Mickenberg - Yes
Billy Coster - Yes
Maura Collins – Yes
Ari Rockland-Miller – Yes
Justin Davis – Yes
Amy Mynter– Yes
Emily Wadhams – Yes
Jen Hollar – Yes
Kate McCarthy – Yes

Kate McCarthy made the motion to approve recommendation of the Board in the executive session about a personnel matter. Emily Wadhams seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Roll Call
David Marvin – Yes

Neil Mickenberg - Yes
Billy Coster - Yes
Maura Collins – Yes
Ari Rockland-Miller – Yes
Justin Davis – Yes
Amy Mynter– Yes
Emily Wadhams – Yes
Jen Hollar – Yes
Kate McCarthy – Yes

Strategic Plan
Francis, Pollaidh, Sarah, Trey, Liz, and Bonnie presented updates on the strategic plan and program workplans.

The Board discussed when they would like the next updates and discussed how we measure success.

Board Discussion – Mission

Kate McCarthy & Jen Hollar led a session with the Board about the mission of VHCB and policy issues.

Clarence Davis joined on zoom at 11:39 AM.

Board support
The Board discussed how they would like to structure regular meetings to ensure there is time allotted to longer policy discussions. The Board was generally in agreement to increase meeting time slightly to allow for more in-depth discussion outside of regular project discussions.

The Board started to discuss the potential for compensation updates for public members.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM.