

**Land Access and Opportunity Board
Minutes of the meeting October 3, 2022
Meeting Facilitator: Lynn Stanley**

The Oct. 3, 2022 LAOB meeting was convened by Lynn Stanley at 5:34 p.m., with a quorum of seven members present. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Board members present:

- Lynn Stanley, National Association of Social Workers, Vermont
- Pacifique Nsengiyumva, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Vermont
- Kirsten Murphy, Vt Developmental Disabilities Council
- Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity
- Ana Mejia, Vt Releaf Collective, Liberation Ecosystem
- Jess Laporte, Vt Every Town Project
- Arnold Thomas, Vt Racial Justice Alliance

Board members not present:

- Raheema Madany, Pride Center for Vermont
- Karim Chapman, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors
- Naomi Moody, NAACP of Vermont
- Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs

VHCB staff present:

- Gus Seelig, Executive Director
- Trey Martin, Director of Policy and Planning

Guests present:

- Maura Collins, VHFA
- Aaron Carroll, Vt Releaf Collective
- Malcolm _____
- Rev. Mark Hughes, New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
- Coralí Cotrina, Winooski Parents and Teachers Project

1. Board Discussion:

Lynn Stanley prompted:

Over our first five meetings, I feel we have arrived a shared understanding about hopes and goals, as well as the barriers and needs to advance this work. Do we all agree that

we have created that strong foundation for our work? Are there any red flags for members, based on conversations to date?

Here is a summary of comments from Board members and guests to that prompt:

- We are about the business identifying solutions for housing and land access, to welcome new BIPOC people and others to land and home ownership.
 - I feel we need to acknowledge land theft – we are talking about ownership of colonized land. We need to start with an honest conversation about this dynamic. We’re talking about providing access back to those from whom land and identity was taken. That needs to be addressed.
 - Do we need group norms for how we have hard conversations? Acknowledging that we have some very difficult conversations ahead of us.
 - A lot of work is going on across Vt to address / dismantle systemic racism. Data is unequivocal about the link between racism and political and economic marginalization. But too often we are reluctant to take on the system and rules that keep the status quo. If the rules don’t allow progress, we need to change the rules, break the rules, and dare what follows.
 - Want to approach equity work and this board’s work by acknowledging the multiple identities and positionalities that members bring.
 - How we meet is important: how can we make these calls more accessible; are translator services available?
 - Land Access & Opportunity Board is the first stage of a larger work to fund, normalize and operate a platform and system for land/wealth redistribution.
 - Access to ownership and opportunities for growing wealth must also be safe.
 - What comes out of this work: what is the plan to create return on investment, successful business development?
 - How does this group plan to involve the community in the work? How can we make it accessible? Break down language barriers?
2. The Board had a chance to review meeting notes from the Sep. 19, 2022 meeting. There were no questions, edits, comments, but Board members and guests are always welcome to contact Trey at VHCB with questions or corrections to any posted minutes.
 3. Public comment was received from Maura Collins, VHFA, who provided a brief summary of VHFA’s work on first time / first generation home ownership and invited further conversation with Board members who might be interested in VHFA’s programs.

4. Review/Preview: Board members present agreed to shift our upcoming meeting scheduled, and a separate email will be sent out to Board members to summarize the following:
 - a. The Oct. 17 meeting will be facilitated again by Lynn Stanley, to conclude some unfinished business from the Oct. 3 meeting, namely a presentation of research from Lynn's interns at the National Association of Social Workers, Vermont regarding land access and housing equity opportunities and examples from jurisdictions outside Vermont.
 - b. There will be no meeting on Oct. 31.
 - c. The Board would like to meet in person on Nov. 7 from 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Randolph area, exact location tbd (VHCB to identify potential locations). This meeting will include dinner and an opportunity for Board members and guests to socialize informally, following a formal agenda that Pastor Thomas will facilitate with VHCB to learn more about and discuss the work of VHCB and its partners related to housing equity and land access.
 - d. The RFP for Legal Services deadline is Friday, Oct. 7. Trey is looking for 3-4 board members to assist in reviewing and vetting proposals received, as well as ongoing support in a working group that will engage with whomever is selected. This request will be addressed to Board members in a separate email message as well.
 - e. Meeting dates for the rest of 2022 would be: Nov. 7 (in person, Randolph area TBD, 5 – 7:30), Nov. 21 (remote, 5:30 – 7), Dec. 5 (remote, 5:30 – 7), and Dec. 19 (remote, 5:30 – 7).

Zoom Coordinates for Future Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7762892697>

Meeting ID: 776 289 2697

Dial by your location:

- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)