
State of Vermont
Vermont Commission on Women
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Vermont Commission on Women

Meeting minutes

Friday, May 17, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Brooks Memorial Library
224 Main St, Brattleboro, VT
And virtually

Commissioners present: Co-Chair Esther Charlestin, Kellie Campbell, Hazel Brewster, Brenda Churchill, Nancy Kaplan, Annie Mackin, Ashley Messier, and Linda Joy Sullivan

Commissioners absent: Co-Chair Sarah Mell, Heather Bouchey, Alex Hilliard, Wendy Knight, Sophia Rabe, Kelly-Rue Riso, and Susan Sussman

Advisors present:

Staff: Cary Brown, Ellie Lane, and Emily O’Hara

Presiding: Co-Chair Esther Charlestin

Recording: Ellie Lane

1. Meeting called to order

Meeting called to order at **10:07 a.m.**

2. Approval of agenda and review Group Agreements

MOTION made by Ashely, seconded by Hazel

To approve the proposed amended meeting agenda, giving discretion to the chair to deviate from the agenda as necessary.

MOTION APPROVED. Agenda adopted.

Review Group Agreements

3. Approval of April 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by Nancy, seconded by Ashley

To approve the April 2024 minutes as submitted.

MOTION APPROVED. Minutes adopted.

4. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and we welcomed new staff member Em O’Hara.

5. Legislative Updates

Cary gave an update on legislation VCW has been following

6. Values-Setting

Cary sent in advance two proposals of values drafted by staff to consider.

MOTION made by Nancy, seconded by Esther

To adopt the language labeled “alternative A” with the following changes: define equity and make improvements towards plain language, and include a commitment to revisiting this as the world changes, and for VCW to adopt a definition of women similar to the Vermont Women’s Fund definition.

MOTION APPROVED.

7. Public forums discussion

The group discussed the upcoming St. Albans public forum and follow-up for public forums.

8. Meeting schedule for FY2025

Cary asked for thoughts about our meeting schedule next fiscal year.

Cary shared that there is a NACW Conference in Boston, MA at Suffolk July 24 – 28. Commissioners who want to attend should let staff know and we will figure out what expenses we can cover. Linda, Ashley, and Nancy expressed some interest.

9. Public Forum

Cary gave a brief overview of the Commission and our work and members of the public engaged in a dialogue about our work.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.