

1 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**
2 **NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
3 *December 15, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes*
4

5 The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held using the Zoom platform and a physical meeting
6 location was provided at the Regional Planning Commission offices at 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans
7

8 **Attendance**

9 Commissioners: See attached. A quorum was present to conduct business.

10 Staff: C. Dimitruk, B. Remmers, D. Pierce, G. Brunswick, K. Lavoie, D. Devlin, P. Jenkins

11 Guest: Xusana Davis, Vermont Executive Director of Racial Equity
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13 Chair B. Irwin began the meeting at 7:04 PM.
14

15 **Adjustments to the Agenda-** None.
16

17 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks-** Chair B. Irwin welcomed everyone and introductions were
18 made.
19

20 **Opportunity for Public Comment-** None.
21

22 **Minutes of the May 2021 Meeting**

23 A. Voegelé moved to accept the October 2021 meeting minutes. R. Noel seconded. Motion carried.
24

25 **Presentation: Xusana Davis, Vermont Executive Director of Racial Equity**
26

27 X. Davis presented an introduction to the topics of equity and systemic oppression. She shared some
28 definitions and statistics related to equity and racism. She also discussed Vermont's context related to
29 equity and pointed out that Franklin and Grand Isle are the two oldest and whitest counties in the state.
30 She provided several stories and examples to help board members better understand the concept of
31 equity and the damaging impact that systemic oppression has on our society. She noted that her
32 presentation was a brief introduction and is happy that the Board will be taking a deeper dive into this
33 work with the consultants from Abundant Sun.
34

35 X. Davis answered board member questions and provided links to resources. A few board members also
36 shared their own personal experiences and observations related to equity.
37

38 **Next Steps for 2022, with professional assistance from Abundant Sun**
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40 B. Irwin noted that next steps involve equity training for the board and NRPC staff in 2022 provided by
41 Abundant Sun. He invited C. Dimitruk to share details.
42

43 C. Dimitruk shared that Dr. Jude Smith Rachele, PhD. of Abundant Sun will be leading the board and staff
44 through a year-long training in ethical leadership. Within the framework of ethical leadership, Dr.
45 Rachele will have us focus on the topics of *Equity* and *Belonging*. The work with Abundant Sun will also
46 connect to our update of the Regional Plan. The Abundant Sun training and Regional Plan update will be
47 taking place concurrently.
48

49 B. Irwin asked if there will be any other presentations or topics planned for 2022

50

51 C. Dimitruk stated that she is working to finalize the Abundant Sun schedule with Dr. Rachele before
52 considering other topics

53

54 **Year in Review and Recognition of Staff and Commissioners**

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56 B. Irwin shared that it has been a year of challenges, but positives include new staff, expanded energy
57 planning and water resources work. B. Irwin shared his appreciation for the NRPC staff and board
58 members. He also noted that this has also been a time of loss in our community. He shared that Pat
59 Hourigan and Ellen Morris recently passed away. B. Irwin asked if there are others who we should
60 remember at this time. Remembrances were shared for Bob Johnson of St. Albans; Robert Ostermeyer,
61 FGI CVOEO Director; Connie Burns, FCIDC; and Nancy Hunt.

62

63 B. Irwin also recognized several board members their years of service as Commissioners in increments of
64 5 years.

65 • Claude Charron- 15 years of service

66 • Lori Ruple- 5 years of service

67 • Leonard Charron- 5 years of service

68 • Martin Manahan- 5 years of service

69 • Barclay Morris- 5 years of service

70

71 **Commissioner Announcements**

72 A. Voegelé shared that by the next meeting the St. Albans town will hopefully have a second
73 commissioner

74

75 **Adjournment**

76 A. Voegelé moved that the meeting adjourn. R. Noel seconded.

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78 Meeting ended at 8:26 pm

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