

**VLITE Board of Directors Annual Meeting:
Vermont State Colleges,
575 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier**

**Minutes of June 8, 2021
Approved on September 9, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 1:00

In attendance:

Board members: Dick Marron, Richard Rubin, Hal Cohen, Peter Walke, Tony Klein, Pat Moulton, and Annie Noonan participated remotely.

Others: Gabrielle Malina. Geoff Wilcox, Hannah Carpino, Jonathan Williams presented remotely.

Approve Minutes of March 2021

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.
 - 1st - Pat Moulton, 2nd – Richard Rubin
 - All in favor

Treasurers Report

- Treasurers Report read: Treasurer Annie Noonan provided bank account balances. As of May 20, 2021 there was \$1,473,538 in savings \$12,000 in checking, \$8,690 in money market.
- A motion was made to approve the report.
 - 1st - Tony Klein, 2nd – Peter Walke
 - All in favor

Update on Committed and Available Funds

Staff reviewed an unofficial report showing grants payable of \$759,000, as well as an approved grant with BGS that is close to contract, and the two current applications. The report demonstrates that the board is committing within its means.

Grant Presentations

Office of Economic Opportunity

Geoff Wilcox, Director of Weatherization for the Vermont office of Economic Opportunity presented the application.

The request is for \$100,000 - \$20,000 for each of the five regional weatherization assistance programs - to replace older, inefficient wood stoves with EPA certified wood or pellet stoves in homes with less than 80% AMI. They WAPs will perform this woodstove work in homes where

they are already present for weatherization work. The new EPA-certified stoves are a significant health and safety improvement for clients, burn at 70% efficiency, more efficiently than the stoves they are replacing, and release less particulate in the air - 2 grams per hour compared to 30. The new stoves provide safe and comfortable heat at less cost to clients, although exact annual savings are difficult to calculate. OEO uses a prioritization matrix and extensive audit process to determine who gets the stoves based on need and whether the space is appropriate.

A prior VLITE grant to OEO for the same amount of funding replaced 20 stoves throughout the state at an average cost of \$4,935. Costs include safety measures including hearth, any needed chimney repairs, and fire extinguisher.

There is no other current funding source for wood stove changeouts such as these and Wilcox said that whether ARPA federal dollars can also be used is unknown at this time.

Vermont Foodbank

Jonathan Williams, Senior Grants Manager and Hannah Carpino, Grants Specialist for the Vermont Foodbank presented the application.

The Foodbank requests \$134, 233 to replace three of its facilities passenger vehicles with Subaru plug-in hybrids and install three charging stations at each of its three facilities in Barre, Brattleboro and Rutland. Due to an increase in the demand for its services during the pandemic, Foodbank staff increased from 50 to 70. While some staff were able to work remotely, overall fleet vehicle miles travelled to food distribution events increased. In a normal year the Foodbank serves one in four Vermonters but UVM data shows that during the pandemic year, one in three Vermonters accessed charitable food services. The Foodbank distributes food through more than 300 partner community food shelves, meal sites, senior centers, schools and hospitals. Foodbank distributed 19 million pounds of food in the last year including one million pounds of locally grown produce.

The vehicles are used to transport the increased number of employees to direct food distribution events such as Veggie Van Go a mobile produce pantry serving 19 schools across the state, and the backpack program serving 38 schools across the state. Community Kitchen Academy operates in both Barre and Burlington and Foodbank operates the state's largest gleaning program.

Given the remoteness of some travel sites, Williams said hybrid vehicles would be more reliable than all-electric vehicles which do not have sufficient range, especially considering topography. They also have very good relationships with local Subaru and Toyota dealers who sell to them nearly at cost. Due to some programs being federally funded, there are procurement guidelines that affect what models they choose.

Votes on proposals

- A motion was made to approve the Office of Economic Opportunity's application for efficient wood and pellet stove swap outs in low income homes.
 - 1st - Pat Moulton, 2nd – Peter Walke

- All in favor
- A motion was made to approve the Vermont Foodbank grant.
- After further discussion about the proposal the motion was withdrawn.
- A motion was made that the Foodbank should return to VLITE with an amended proposal for three all-electric vehicles instead of hybrids and the charging stations. The proposal can be written, and if it is satisfactory, the board can vote electronically on it before the next quarterly meeting.
 - 1st – Richard Rubin, 2nd – Tony Klein
 - All in favor

Appointment of Board Members for New Terms

- A motion was made to reappoint Hal Cohen and Richard Rubin to the board for another three-year term until 2024.
 - 1st - Tony Klein, 2nd – Pat Moulton
 - All in favor

Appointment of Board Officers

- A motion was made to reappoint board officers: Dick Marron as Chair, Richard Rubin as Vice Chair, Annie Noonan as Treasurer, Hal Cohen as Secretary.
 - 1st – Richard Rubin, 2nd – Peter Walke
 - All in favor

VLITE board recruitment and succession discussion

The board discussed recruitment for a new board member and reviewed upcoming turnover. This is Pat Moulton’s last meeting on the VLITE board. In 2022, Annie Noonan and Dick Marron will be ineligible for reappointment according to the bylaws. Dick Marron’s replacement must be from Stowe Electric. Board members also reviewed the bylaws and qualifications for board membership, and discussed possible candidates.

Funding for Climate and Energy Initiatives

Peter Walke summarized recent federal and state funding streams for climate and energy initiatives and recapped the progress of the Global Warming Solutions Act Climate Council.

Board Discussion

The board discussed grants in the pipeline for consideration and other subjects. Richard Rubin will draft a plan for limiting and staggering VELCO board terms for discussion at the next quarterly meeting.

The board adjourned at 4:00 pm.