

**VLITE Board of Directors Annual Meeting:
At Green Mountain Power, 7 Green Mountain Drive, Montpelier, VT
And by Zoom
Minutes of June 8, 2022
Approved on September 7, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 1:00

In attendance:

Board members: Dick Marron Richard Rubin, Hal Cohen, Sarah Hofmann, Tony Klein, and Larry Lackey

Absent: Peter Walke

Others: Gabrielle Malina. All others participated by Zoom including Nial Reelee, Sophia Donforth, Samantha Dunn, Peter Schneider, Liz Curry, and Marc Mihaly.

Approve Minutes of March 9, 2022

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.
 - 1st – Sarah Hofmann, 2nd – Hal Cohen
 - All in favor

Treasurers Report

Treasurers Report read: Treasurer Sarah Hofmann provided bank account balances and noted that financial reports do not vary much over time because of VLITE's stable financial position. As of May 31, 2022 there was \$1,333,226 in savings \$13,242 in checking, \$8,699 in money market.

- A motion was made to accept the report.
 - 1st – Tony Klein, 2nd – Richard Rubin
 - All in favor

Review Informal Reports

Staff reviewed available and committed funds reports that demonstrates that grants payable and grants under current consideration, as well as possible grants for next quarter are within VLITE's means.

Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) Grant Application

Nial Reelee, outgoing Executive Director for VEEP and Sophia Donforth (attended but did not speak), new Executive Director presented a grant application for \$75,000 for a year of student energy education and professional development for teachers. VEEP will reach about 3,000 K-12 students in at least 12 out of 14 Vermont counties.

Burlington Community Economic Development Office (CEDO) Grant Application

Samantha Dunn Assistant Director for Community Works for CEDO and Peter Schneider Senior Engineering Consultant for Efficiency Vermont presented CEDO's grant request for \$50,000. The funds will be used towards a rooftop solar array on two community buildings that are part of the Burlington Pod Shelter Project. The Shelter Project is being built on the Elmwood Street parking lot, owned by the City of Burlington, and consists of thirty compact shelter pods that will house houseless people, in addition to the community buildings. The Zero Energy Modular-capable bathhouse building and community resource building will offer health and social services for homeless individuals and pod-residents, and the bathhouse will have hygiene facilities. The PV will help offset anticipated energy costs of the Shelter Project. The entire project including PV and community buildings are transportable to another location, and will likely be moved in three years' time when the Pod site is no longer necessary. Dunn said public restrooms might be a future use of the community buildings.

Dunn explained that the Burlington Development Review Board scheduled an additional hearing to gain more community input about the shelter project, but anticipates that a decision will be made on June 21st. Dunn said construction could begin immediately after DRB approval.

East Calais Community Trust (ECCT) Grant Application

Liz Curry, Community Development Consultant for ECCT and Marc Mihaly (audio difficulties precluded Marc from speaking), President of the ECCT board presented a grant application for \$30,000. The VLITE funds will be used towards the total rehabilitation of the East Calais General Store and its three affordable apartment units on the second and third floors of the building. The Trust was insistent that it wanted to keep the apartments affordable which is a major cost driver for the project along with the energy efficiency measures. The building will not use fossil fuels and the rehab is also adhering to federal preservation standards for historic buildings. This will be the first Net Zero General Store.

The VLITE funds will be braided into 15 other funding sources totalling \$2.4 million for the 5,300 square foot building or \$440 per square foot.

Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) Vermiculite Abatement

The VLITE board considered a written request from Geoff Wilcox, Vermont Weatherization Program Director requesting a new grant of \$125,000 for an additional year of vermiculite abatement. (See memo dated May 31, 2022 in board packet). Each of the five weatherization agencies receives an equal share of \$25,000. About 35 homes per year are abated through the use of VLITE funds, Zonolite Trust, and other funding sources through OEO.

Board members expressed support for continuing to fund vermiculite abatement through OEO because of its key importance in accomplishing weatherization in low income homes, and because OEO "passes through" all the funding, and no organization takes an administrative cut. One VLITE member pointed out that approximately 10 percent of all VLITE grant spending over time has gone to OEO and to vermiculite abatement. Including this new request that amount would be \$900,000. The board asked the Executive Director to urge OEO to continue to seek other funding sources for vermiculite abatement. One board member noted that while it is a

worthy endeavor, there is an opportunity cost with organizations that repeatedly receive VLITE grants.

Vermont Adult learning (VAL) Grant Update, Amendment Request, and Request for Funding for Year 2 of Grant

Hal Cohen, speaking as Executive Director of VAL, updated the VLITE board on VAL's progress in creating and implementing workforce training programs in the energy fields. The field most requested by employers has been weatherization and that's where VAL has focused to start.

VAL hired its program director in September of 2021 and launched in October, later than anticipated and VAL is asking for an extension for the project until December of 2023. VAL has conducted five trainings with 23 trainees and 16 people now working in the weatherization field. Because of other funding sources it received, VAL did not use VLITE funds as originally proposed, but has been asked by CVOEO to expand its training outside of Rutland County and to Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. VAL requested that it be allowed to use \$53,000 of its Year 1 funding of \$150,000, with \$47,000 of that being used towards salaries. VAL is also requesting approval of its Year 2 allocation of an additional \$150,000. Funding for Year 2 was stipulated in the VLITE grant agreement as contingent upon successful completion of Year 1.

- A motion was made to approve VAL's request of amendment for extension until December 30, 2023, reallocation of existing \$47,000 towards salaries for new trainings in Franklin and Grand Isle, and approval of its Year 2 funding in the amount of \$150,000.
 - 1st – Tony Klein, 2nd – Richard Rubin
 - All in favor with Hal Cohen and Amy Shollenberger abstaining from the vote.

Board Discussion and Votes on Grant Applications

- A motion was made to approve the Vermont Energy Education Program grant.
 - 1st – Richard Rubin, 2nd – Sarah
 - All in favor.
- A motion was made to approve the Burlington CEDO Shelter Project grant with a stipulation that all Development Review Board and other necessary approvals be in place before a grant agreement is signed.
 - 1st – Tony Klein, 2nd – Hal Cohen
 - All in favor.
- A motion was made to approve the East Calais Community Trust request.
 - 1st – Tony Klein, 2nd – Sarah Hofmann
 - All in favor.
- A motion was made to approve the OEO Vermiculite Abatement funding request.
 - 1st – Tony Klein, 2nd – Richard Rubin
 - All in favor.

Appointment of New Board Member and Board Officers

- A motion was made to appoint Larry Lackey of Stowe, Vermont to the VLITE board.
 - 1st – Richard Rubin, 2nd – Hal Cohen
 - All in favor.
- A motion was made to appoint VLITE board officers: Tony Klein as President, Richard Rubin as Vice President, Sarah Hofmann as Treasurer, Hal Cohen as Secretary.
 - 1st – Dick Marron, 2nd – Richard Rubin
 - All in favor.

This being Dick Marron's last meeting on the VLITE board due to maxing out terms, the board acknowledged Dick's service to VLITE and expressed its gratitude.

Discussion of Multi-Year Grants

The board discussed a draft policy on multi-year grants by the Executive Director. Some board members said it is important, from a nonprofit sustainability perspective to be able to apply for multiyear grants. Other members expressed that the board should be careful about overcommitting VLITE funds to multi-year grants because of the opportunity costs.

After review and discussion, the board decided it does not need a written policy about multiyear grants but should pay adequate attention to the effects of multiyear grants upon other funding opportunities.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Gabrielle Malina, June 2022

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