

**VLITE Board of Directors Special Meeting  
DRM Conference Room and on Zoom, 52 State St., Montpelier, VT  
Minutes of September 22, 2025  
Approved on December 12, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM

**In attendance:**

Board members: Tony Klein, Larry Lackey, Sarah Hofmann, Amy Shollenberger. Paul Dragon (remote), Jean Hamilton, and Peter Walke. Gabrielle Malina, Executive Director.

**Approve Minutes of June 13, and August 11, 2025**

A motion was made by Sarah Hofmann and seconded by Larry Lackey to adopt the minutes of June 13, and August 11, 2025.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Sarah Hofmann reviewed current VLITE financial documents noting that VLITE's position continues to be strong. Total current cash account assets are \$1,000,948 as of August 31, 2025. Gabrielle noted that VLITE's cash balances are lower than this same time last year. This is partially due to the timing of deposits and grant payments, but also because, over time, VLITE has consistently granted about a million dollars per year thus slowly reducing its original cash reserve. At its beginnings, VLITE accrued three quarters of dividend from VELCO before it began issuing grants.

**VLITE Bylaws and PSB MOU Review**

Sarah Hofmann reviewed the original Public Service Board MOU and VLITE's bylaws to clarify their guidance on advocacy and lobbying. The MOU is silent. Article II of the bylaws states that no substantial part of VLITE's activities may involve influencing legislation or participating in political campaigns.

The board discussed the meaning of "no substantial part" and identified circumstances where letters on issues tied to VLITE's mission—such as to the Public Utility Commission or legislature—could still be appropriate. Hofmann noted that as a 501(c)(4), VLITE faces no legal lobbying limits beyond those it sets itself. Larry Lackey stressed that VLITE should maintain a neutral, expert reputation rather than advocate for one side.

The board agreed that any advocacy letters would be rare, consistent with the bylaws, and that no amendments are needed. Hofmann added that if changes were ever desired, the board could simply post an amendment on the agenda and approve it by majority vote.

The bylaws also require representation from named sectors—state government service, energy policy, utility, and consumer/low-income advocacy. Although some members already serve on quasi-governmental bodies, the board agreed there is no immediate need to add a state government representative but that the role should be prioritized at the next vacancy.

Finally, Hofmann confirmed VLITE’s status as a party to the original docket, meaning it remains under PUC jurisdiction.

### **Weatherization Report**

Geoff Wilcox, Director of Weatherization for the State of Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity, summarized current activities. Last fiscal year, 1,300 homes were weatherized through OEO at a cost of \$22 million. Of these, 950 were one- to four-unit homes and 354 were multifamily units completed by 3E Thermal. Work also included required vermiculite removal and home repairs, along with some heat pump and pellet stove installations funded by \$1.5 million in ARPA Wx dollars, which will be spent by March 30th. After that, funding returns to traditional sources, and vermiculite removal funds will drop to \$200,000 per year across all five community action agencies (CAA). An estimated one in ten Vermont homes contains vermiculite.

OEO launched a new Training Center in Barre, run by Everblue as a Certified Test Site. It uses a single-family home for training. The grant ends February 28th, and Everblue, Efficiency Vermont, and others are discussing long-term funding.

Vermiculite abatement averages \$15,000 to \$20,000 per home. Vermont is the most expensive state for removal, likely because certified contractors prioritize commercial jobs. CAAs compete for limited contractors. NETO or another CAA may consider becoming a certified abator for all CAAs, though insurance costs may make this impractical.

Peter Walke noted that Efficiency Vermont wants to encourage more DIY weatherization, but EVT must validate DIY projects for credit. The return on investment is too low for EVT under its current regulatory model.

### **Board Discussion: Funding Priorities and Future Grant Applications**

The board continued its discussion, begun in August, on how to respond to federal and state funding changes since January 2025. Members reached a consensus that VLITE funding should prioritize grants that deliver direct services to low- and moderate-income Vermonters. The board reviewed five preliminary applications and considered a potential sixth applicant, focusing on how well each proposal aligned—or did not align—with this priority on direct service projects.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Gabrielle Malina, September 25, 2025

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