



## Vermont State Ethics Commission

### Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023 (Unapproved)

Remote Attendance\*

**1. Call to Order:** The regular meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum at 10:04 A.M. Also present for the meeting were Commission members Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Michele Eid, Christopher Davis, Executive Director Christina Sivret, and Administrative Assistant Erin Smith. Commission member Sarah Butson was absent.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis, minutes of the July 6, 2022, October 5, 2022, and November 2, 2022, meetings were approved.

**3. Welcome Erin:** The Commission welcomed Erin Smith, who has recently joined the Ethics Commission as an Administrative Assistant.

**4. Public Comment:** None

**5. Executive Session:** At 10:12 A.M., on the motion of Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis, the Commission went into Executive Session to review and approve Advisory Opinion ([AO 1 2023](#)) and to discuss complaints and Guidance requests received over the last few weeks. At 10:32 A.M., on the motion of Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis, the Commission voted to conclude the Executive Session and return to open session.

**6. Executive Director's Report:**

**Annual Report review and approval:** The Commission reviewed the draft Annual Report. Michele Eid requested adding a few sentences related to COGEL. Chris Davis requested that comments on COGEL be added as well.

**Discussion of possible Ethics Commission speaking event:** Executive Director Christina Sivret suggested that late spring may be a good time for the Ethics Commission to organize a public speaking event. There is a speaker that the Commission may be interested in inviting, however the budget would not be able to cover their speaking fee - this would necessitate finding local organizations and businesses who might be interested in co-sponsoring the event. The commissioners recommended several local groups that have a particular interest in ethics who

may be interested in participating. The Executive Director will send the commissioners a write-up with necessary information to begin outreach to find co-sponsors. She also mentioned that next year the Commission may need to consider making the Executive Director a full-time position in order to meet the demands of an increasing workload.

**COGEL update:** Commissioner Chris Davis and the Executive Director updated the Commission on the session topics and discussions from the annual COGEL conference. Chris Davis noted that many of the sessions were very interesting, and that the level of expertise was very high. He will email the commissioners his notes from the conference.

**7. Other:** None

**8. Adjournment:** Sarah Vangel moved to adjourn, second by Chris Davis. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 A.M.