



## Vermont State Ethics Commission

Minutes of April 6, 2022

6 Baldwin Street, Montpelier, VT

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum, Chair, at 10:02 A.M. Also present for the meeting were Commissioners Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Christopher Davis, Ze Anderson-Brown, Executive Director Christina Sivret, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Desch. Commissioner Michele Eid was absent.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On the motion of Sarah Vangel, second by Chris Davis, minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting were approved. Meeting minutes for 2/2/2022 and 2/14/2022 will be approved during the May meeting due to a lack of a quorum of Commissioners who attended the February meetings.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Executive Director's Report:** Legislative Update: S. 171 was unanimously passed by the full Senate and it is now with the House Committee in Government Operations. A possible vote is scheduled for this week. Once it is passed, it will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Code requires new State of Vermont employees to complete training on the Code of Ethics within 120 days of the start of their employment. Over the next two months the Executive Director will focus on getting a basic online training in place prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. TJ Jones will consult on content development. The Executive Director appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee last week and is hopeful the Commission's budget request will be approved. Advisory Opinions. The Executive Director suggested the Commission think about potential subjects for Advisory Opinions to be issued once the Code of Ethics is passed. Based on requests for guidance, conflicts of interest might be a good initial topic. Annual Conference: The COGEL Conference is slated for 12/4-12/7 in Montreal. Chris Davis and Ze Anderson-Brown expressed interest in attending in addition to Chris Sivret and Carolyn Desch. Website development: Improving the website and making it user friendly is a top Commission priority. Carolyn Desch is working with Harry Bell from the State of Vermont and NiC Vermont to learn more about what services they can provide, including the possible development of an ethics app.
5. **Other Business:**
  - Reappointments: Chris Davis was reappointed by the Vermont Bar Association. A letter regarding the reappointment of Sarah Vangel was sent into Chief Justice Reiber at the Vermont Supreme Court.
  - No formal complaints were filed this month.
  - The Commissioners agreed that meeting reminder emails do not have to include attachments of the agenda and minutes, so long as they are posted on the website.
  - The Commissioners all agreed that they would like to continue to receive email messages to both personal and State accounts.

- Carolyn Desch related that expense sheets will have to be done monthly instead of quarterly as State policy requires submission within 30 days.

**6. Executive Session:** No Executive Session was held.

**7. Adjournment** Chris Davis moved to adjourn, second by Ze Anderson-Brown. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.