



Vermont State Ethics Commission

July 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum, Chair, at 10:05 a.m. Also present for the meeting were Commissioners Christopher Davis, Michele Eid, Executive Director Christina Sivret, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Desch. Commissioner Sarah Biolsi Vangel was absent.

Approval of Minutes: On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis, minutes of the May 4, 2022, and May 12, 2022, meetings were approved.

Public Comment: None.

Executive Director's Report:

Financial Disclosure Form: A June meeting was held with the Secretary of State's office to discuss who is best placed answer questions regarding candidate financial disclosure form requirements as the legislature did not assign interpretive authority to a specific entity. There was agreement that a legislative fix is likely needed. T.J. Jones has prepared a research memo regarding the how candidate financial disclosures are handled in other states and related questions. No action needs to be taken at this time.

Open Commission Seat: The Society of Human Resource Management has nominated Sarah Butson to fill the Commission seat vacated by Susan "Ze" Anderson Brown. An official appointment letter is forthcoming.

Training Development: The Ethics Commission, with input from the Center for Achievement and Public Service (CAPS), developed a web-based Code of Ethics training. The training satisfies the statutory requirement that State of Vermont employees and public servants be trained on the State Code of Ethics. The training is now available on the Ethics Commission website and via the Learning Management System.

Website: The Ethics Commission has engaged NiC Vermont to help update the Commission's website and make it more user-friendly. Phase one is now complete with future improvements anticipated.

Executive Session: None.

Other Business:

Annual COGEL Conference: Michele Eid asked to be updated on the COGEL conference, slated for 12/4-12/7 in Montreal. Carolyn Desch will provide information as soon as it becomes available.

Commission Social Gathering: The Commission is interested in an in-person social gathering in the Fall to say good-bye to former Executive Director Larry Novins and welcome new Commissioner Sarah Butson. Discussion to resume at the September meeting.

Policies: Next agenda to include discussion of the draft Complaint and Privacy and Data policies. Carolyn Desch will resend those to the Commission.

Adjournment: Michele Eid moved to adjourn, second by Chris Davis. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.