



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-3201

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING **TUESDAY, July 12, 2022** **11:00 am**

Board Members Present by Phone:

Sabina Haskell, Chair; Andrew Collier, Member; and Don Turner, Member

ABSENT

Brad Aldrich, Vice Chair and Steve Larrabee, Member

Staff Present by Microsoft Teams:

Alison Stone, Associate General Counsel; Jenny Ronis, Associate General Counsel; Aaron Brondyke, State Coordinator; Michaela Stickney, Enforcement and Compliance Officer ; Katie Emerson, Legal Technician; Rachel Lomonaco, Business Director

Members of the Public:

The Vermont Natural Resources Board convened at 11:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams, Chair Sabina Haskell presiding.

11:01 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Haskell introduced Jenny Ronnis as the new associate general counsel. She comes to the NRB from the Agency of Transportation.

11:03 a.m. Opportunity for public to comment and agenda and non-agenda items.

Chair Haskell offered the opportunity for the public to comment, there were no members of the public present.

11:05 a.m. Review and action on Minutes of June 14, 2022

A motion to review the minutes of the Tuesday, June 14, 2022 meeting was made by Mr. Andrew Collier and seconded by Mr. Don Truner and approved unanimously. Ms. Alison Stone proposed some clarifying language regarding the descriptions of S.226 and S.188.

Original Language in minutes:



“S. 226 did pass, it is mostly a housing bill, that exempts designated downtowns from Act250, continuing priority housing exemption and changing unit counts in Priority Housing Projects in smaller areas. S.188 also became law, it exempts cannabis operations from Act 250 review. Staff will be putting together a training for staff on how those changes will affect work going forward.”

Proposed amended Language:

“S. 226 did pass, it is mostly a housing bill, that exempts priority housing projects under a certain threshold in designated downtowns from Act250, continuing priority housing exemption and changing unit counts in Priority Housing Projects in smaller areas. S.188 also became law, it exempts certain small cannabis operations from Act 250 review. Staff will be putting together a training for staff on how those changes will affect work going forward.”

Mr. Don Truner made a motion to amend the minutes as written. Mr. Andrew Collier seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Mr. Andrew Collier, seconded by Mr. Don Truner and approved unanimously.

11:07 a.m. NRB office and budget updates

Chair Haskell provided a staffing update. The job opening for 3-year limited service executive director position has been posted. Hopefully the two limited service coordinator positions will be posted today

Ms. Michaela Stickney gave an overview of the newly launched new web-based violation reporting form. Members of the public can now make complaints through the website instead of downloading a PDF and mailing or emailing it in. It is easier for complainants to remain anonymous, although they can provide contact information if they wish. The questions have been updated to focus on the most important information for the initial intake. There is a character limit to enhance intake process and violations are focused on recent occurrences (up to a year ago). People can still download PDF if they do not want to use the online form, but it will have the new questions.

When the form is submitted, the information is sent to the enforcement.nrb@vermont.gov inbox. It is then assigned a unique enforcement number and entered into a database as an active investigation.

11:13 a.m. Discussion of appeals, enforcement, and attorney-client memoranda

Ms. Alison Stone gave an update on recent appeals. We received notice of a new appeal of JO decision this morning. The Burton appeal is having a mediation meeting this Friday.

The Exit 16/ Costco appeal is still ongoing. A potential trial date is being set for the fall for the Costco appeal of Act250 permit. Costco has completed a traffic study that was a condition of previous permit amendment.

The attorneys will be providing a legislative training next Monday to Board and Commission members on legislative changes from past session that impact act250. It will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Chair Haskell reported that staff have been meeting internally with Agency of Agriculture regarding the legislative report on on-farm accessory business that is due at the end of 2022. There are three commissioner stakeholder meetings planned for the fall.

11:18 a.m. Adjourn

At 11:18 a.m., Mr. Andrew Collier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Don Turner, and unanimously approved by the Board.