

Lamoille County Planning Commission

JEDI Committee Meeting

November 7, 2023

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liz Courtney, Chair <i>(Video)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Tilton <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds <i>(Video)</i>
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Staff: Tasha Wallis, Georgeana Little

Liz Courtney called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Additions to the Agenda and Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no additions to the agenda and no public comment.

Approval of August 1, 2023 Minutes

Brian Leven motioned to accept the August 1, 2023 minutes. Liz Courtney seconded. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds suggested adding the word “regional” before “plan” in the first sentence under How to Increase Community Accessibility in Public Hearings. Motion carried with one addition..

Community Planning Discussion

The document Bennington Town Plan: Incorporating DEI Values had been distributed to committee members and formed the basis for the discussion. Tasha Wallis explained that this document had been drawn up by the Bennington County Planning Commission at the request of the Town of Bennington. The idea was to add a JEDI lens to town planning. The suggestion was that this document could be used to draw up a list of questions to offer to towns as they update their town plans. The committee will look at the examples in this document and compare them to our checklist, drawn up last year. Examples could be expanded to speak more specifically to town plans. Liz will attempt to create a list of questions, drawing from the Bennington document and staff can then refine them for planning purposes.

The question was raised as to whether there were numbers for those who are unhoused in Lamoille County. Tasha receives a list every month from Working Communities Challenge (WCC) and will forward that information to the committee. She also explained the Emily Rosenberg has left WCC and Saudia Lamont has replaced her. WCC will be focusing more on diversity going forward. Liz asked if Saudia could come and speak to the committee at some future meeting. Tasha will contact Saudia. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is forming a Working Communities Cohort which will be available to 8 municipalities and focus on making communities more welcoming and engaging. Tasha will check to see if Regional Planning Commissions’ participation would be allowed.

Carol suggested that the term JEDI had a lot of negative baggage and perhaps a different acronym should be considered. Committee members will bring suggestions to the next committee meeting.

The next meeting will be January 9 at 6:00 pm, following the Executive Committee meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Brian Leven motioned to adjourn the meeting. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.