



Truth and Reconciliation Commission FINAL Minutes – Public Meeting #6 February 6, 2024

Meeting opened at 5:00 PM by Ann Miller

Attendance: Melody Mackin, Mia Schultz, Faith Yacubian, Adam Kersch, Michele Olvera and Ann Miller.

Members of the public included: Patrick Finn, Wayne Maceyka, Abby Paige, Rachel and Lexi Krupp .

Commissioner Schultz facilitated the meeting and started by explaining our language accessibility. We ask that the public please request access to any assistance needed in language translation or ASL via our email at least 72 hours in advance of any public meeting the VTRC holds. In addition, Teams offers closed captions to our meetings.

Commissioner Mackin shared our land acknowledgement which is found here on our website: [Land Acknowledgement.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#) and in addition, mentioned gardening the comfort the thought brings; considering what will be planted in the garden.

Staff introductions were made. The VTRC Agenda for the meeting was shared on the screen.

Commissioner Schultz reviewed the VTRC's working pledge which is posted here: [About Us | Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). Commissioner Schultz also reviewed the protocols of the open meeting.

Previous meeting minutes voted on as approved as final by Commissioners Mackin and Schultz – 1/2/24 public meeting minutes and 1/25/24 Emblematic meeting minutes approved as final.

Executive Director Yacubian reviewed the budget and recent expenditures. Namely, purchases for the health and safety of staff and public such as HEPA filter, masks, etc. A large expense that we will be addressing soon will be the retreat held in early March with ICTJ. ICTJ is the International Center for Transcontinental Justice. Their guidance to our Commission is valuable.

Executive Director Yacubian reviewed **team updates** and what we have been doing this past month. What the TRC has been up-to:

- 3rd Emblematic Case Meeting held in January. Centering on categories of harm and systems such as criminal justice and accommodations through which discrimination is enacted. The categories were not identity specific, but rather touched across multiple identities.
- Several staff members have met in the Legislative Sessions throughout the month of January at various times. Answering questions they had. Testified proposed changes to our Commission such as the process for hiring the new Commissioner, budgetary support and amending open meeting laws to best serve people who have entrusted the Commission with their presence and stories.
- We have intentionally researched and designed protocols for language, accessibility and security measures for virtual meetings and in-person meetings. The accessibility process means that the VTRC holds people who violate agreements accountable. Public participation is paramount to the Commission's mission.
- Process started in hiring student interns to help in our research. There are a few interns already working with us, but more will join in the coming months.

Researcher Kersch reviewed the 3rd emblematic case meeting. Approved meeting minutes can be found on our website: [Meetings | Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). Discussed were public accommodations, important events in the past that we are still determining how we see in the present. Wonderful contributions from the public were received. We will be working on the themes that came up. Next emblematic case study will be Wednesday, March 20th at 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Schultz thanked Researcher Kersch for the time and explanation.

New Business - Commissioner Schultz shared the link in chat to the new application for committee members. The VTRC seeks out 10 candidates to assist in

our work. More information will follow as we go along. We require assistance from the public. Link to the form found here: <https://forms.microsoft.com/g/PtfMr6nAtc>

Legal Counsel Olvera shared some information regarding the interns currently on staff and those that will follow, who on VTRC staff might be working with the interns, as well as working together on projects in the Vt Law School library. The plan is for 5 interns altogether for now. More at a later date.

Commissioner Schultz explains that there will be more digital forms created for people to use in signing up to tell their truths; stories to share. The Commission hopes to be open to receiving those stories in the next month to two. We are currently in the building and planning phase of that process.

Commissioner Schultz opened the floor to the public and those that would like to speak.

Abby Paige shared that she is very happy with the work that the VTRC is doing and the expertise ranging in the ways that we reach out to the public. What is the best way for people that are interested in keeping abreast of the work the VTRC does? This is Abby's first time joining a VTRC meeting. Commissioner Schultz that if Abby shares her email address, she will be placed on our listserv and updated monthly of events taking place.

With no further questions or comments, Commissioner Schultz closed the meeting at 5:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Miller, Administrative Assist
Faith Yacubian, Executive Director

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING is SCHEDULED for TUESDAY, March 5th at 5:00 PM

NEXT EMBLEMATIC MEETING is SCHEDULED for Wednesday, March 20th at 1:00 PM