



Truth and Reconciliation Commission
DRAFT Minutes – Public Meeting
October 1, 2024

The meeting was started at 5:00 PM by Commissioner Mackin.

Attendance: Melody Mackin, Mia Schultz, Faith Yacubian, Michele Olvera and Ann Miller. **Members of the public** included: Van Dora Williams, Dan Coutu, Mary Gerisch, Lexi Krupp and Jules Lees.

Commissioner Mackin facilitated the meeting. Announced one slight change in the agenda regarding the discussion around the 3rd Commissioner. Legal Counsel Olvera will be leading that conversation.

Language and accessibility rules were explained. We ask that the public 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.

Commissioner Schultz shared our land acknowledgement which is found here on our website: [Land Acknowledgement.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#).

Commissioner Schultz reviewed the VTRC's working pledge which is posted on our website: [About Us | Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). Also reviewed were the protocols of the open meeting and potentials for removal of a person in a meeting if it becomes contentious.

Commissioners voted and approved the September 3rd, 2024 public meeting minutes and September 4, 2024 Public Committee Member Meeting Minutes as final.

Executive Director Yacubian reviewed the budget criteria:

- Upcoming Consultant (lead healer from the Canadian TRC) for Care Training
- Interns who are supporting ongoing legal research and historical research

- Purchases, like food, refreshments, paying speakers, etc. for our 10.11 event
Truth and Healing - In Search of a Common Memory Event

Executive Director Yacubian gave the VTRC Update:

- We completed our selection process for our new Lead Researcher. We are pleased to announce Mariessa Dobrick as our new Lead Researcher. Mariessa will bring a wealth of knowledge in archival research, data analysis, and public record keeping to our work.
- We are embarking on a Care Training, which will provide the team with skills for supporting impacted communities and their families.
- We held our sixth Ed Series Session titled Experiences of Franco Americans/French Canadians) on September 25th. The education series is proving to be important means for educating both the public and VTRC Team.

Commissioner Mackin reviewed the Commissioner deliberation with an update.

- On September 3rd discussions around VTRC events we are planning. In person days where different communities across the State will be able to come and ask questions.
- In the new year, the in-person events will take place. State Historic Sites with someone from the Historic Division, looking at history through an anti-racist lense and trying to get around the state and meet people, partnering with some of the state entities that are already doing some of the research.
- Brenda Reynolds from Canadian TRC who will be coming to meet with our team for a 2 day session this month.
- Discussed work and goals planned with Committee Members.
- Event: Truth and Healing in Search of a Common Memory. Speakers for the event.
- Dates are being considered for Truth-telling events in the summer of 2025. Dates and hours discussed for Truth-telling sessions and geographical areas around the state.

Commissioner Schultz brought up September Committee Member meeting, the videos shared, how testimony will be taken when we start taking Truths from the public.

Lead Counsel Olvera shared the news that a committee has been formed as selection panel for our 3rd Commissioner. We have been without the 3rd

commissioner since November. Their first meeting late October and hopefully they will work through that quickly and thoughtfully.

Lead Counsel Olvera reviewed the Interns working with legal and research. Four Interns at the Vermont Law School and what they are focusing on.

Announcement by Director Yacubian: We will host our seventh Education Series session on Wednesday, October 30th from 5pm-6:30pm. This session will highlight voices and experiences of Immigrants of Vermont.

Dan Couto expressed his gratitude for the work the VTRC is doing.

With no further questions or comments, Commissioner Mackin closed the meeting at 5:24 PM.

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

NEXT Public MEETING is SCHEDULED for Wednesday, October 2nd – Committee Member Session- also a public meeting.

NEXT regularly scheduled PUBLIC MEETING is TUESDAY, November 4th