



**Truth and Reconciliation Commission**  
**FINAL Minutes – Public Meeting**  
**November 5, 2024**

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

**Attendance:** Melody Mackin, Mia Schultz, Faith Yacubian, Michele Olvera and Ann Miller. **Members of the public** included: Van Dora Williams, Shabnam Nolan and late arrival Rich Holschuh.

Commissioner Schultz facilitated the meeting by explaining accessibility. Asked public to place name, pronouns, where from in the chat if they would like. 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 October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 public meeting minutes and October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 Public Committee Member Meeting Minutes as final.

Executive Director Yacubian reviewed the budget criteria:

- New interns for research work with our newly hired Lead Researcher, Mariessa Dobrick
- October 11th's (**Truth and Healing - In Search of a Common Memory Event**) successful event, which highlighted our Strategic Plan and

featured Act 128 community activists and advocates. Costs include stipends for speakers, food from People's Kitchen, beverages, etc.

- Consultant cost for designing the Strategic Plan for public viewing, formatting the SP to a booklet and digitalizing the document.
- Consultant for Care Plan training. We hired a mental health, social work practitioner (Brenda Reynolds) who was the lead care professional for the Canadian's TRC to create a two-day training on processes and protocols to apply to our work with survivors of physical and mental abuse.

Executive Director Yacubian gave the VTRC Update:

- The State Archives/VTRC event in which the public could view their families' records will be rescheduled. We are looking forward to joining the public when we are able to reschedule. Please know that the State Archives remains open during their normally scheduled hours.
- We held another successful Education Series session on October 30th, which featured leaders in immigrant communities and organizations that support immigrants and refugees in Vermont. We are grateful to those who share their experiences of discrimination by the State of Vermont.
- Our next and final Ed Series session is on Thursday, November 21st from 5pm - 6:30pm. The Zoom link to that is on our website. This session will highlight Experiences of Asian American Pacific Islanders in Vermont.

Commissioner Schultz reviewed the Commissioner deliberation with an update.

- Further work on our Care Plan. Consultations with Canadian TRC leader, Brenda Reynolds. Also, professional intern through the VT Lend Program (Erin Baker-Meno).
- Worked on our internship plan.
- Created report framework for staff to conceptualize how the end report might go.
- Discussed statement taking at length which will begin in the near future. We want to be well prepared with care plan, legal and research.
- Worked on a new on-line statement taking form. This will have save-the-dates and how to give options.

Commissioner Mackin reminded all of the next Committee Meeting scheduled for this Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. We will be discussing next steps for Committee Members and their involvement in the final framework for how the

committees will look. The new committee structure will start in the new year, January, 2025.

**Old Business:** October 11<sup>th</sup> event took place on the State House Lawn. A powerful and successful gathering where many voices from impacted communities were heard. Subsequently, some news articles followed that event and did not truly capture the full depth of the day. The coverage was narrowly focused on certain topics beyond the scope of this Commission, such as questions of identity. In this narrow reporting, it overlooked many voices that made the event impactful. We regret this incomplete portrayal and apologize to those whose contributions were not fully acknowledged in the media outlet. We do thank you for your continued support and trust.

Select Panel Update by Shabnam Nolan, the Executive Director of the King Street Center in Burlington and also Chair of the search committee for the 3<sup>rd</sup> VTRC Commissioner. There has been a stall, as they started to put together the timeline, interview questions and job posting, one on the search committee decided they were unable to continue in this process and needed to resign. Thus the pause, as the Legislature finds another person is found to fill that spot. Once that person is identified, the committee will resume and the clock will be started again for a 60-day turnaround.

Commissioner Schultz thanked Ms. Nolan for her time and dedication.

General Counsel Olvera shared the statute 32 VSA 10-10 and reimbursement of \$50 per meeting to the Commissioner Search Committee. To those that serve on the hiring committee for the new commissioner, they will receive the stipend for each meeting attended. Commissioners Schultz and Mackin voted on this amount of stipend which will come out of the VTRC budget.

Commissioner Schultz went into more with statement gathering and care, which is the VTRC's primary concern. Want to be very intentional every step of the way whether statements are taken publicly, privately, or in a group, the care is of concern before, during and after. Trauma can affect the body in different ways, especially when it is a generational kind of trauma.

Note: VSARA/VTRC event for tomorrow, November 6<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to illness. To be rescheduled as soon as we are able.

From the Public: Rich Holschuh wanted to just thank the VTRC Team for the important work taking place.

With no further questions or comments, Commissioner Schultz closed the meeting at 5:19 PM.

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

**NEXT Committee Meeting is SCHEDULED for Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 3PM – (open to the public).**

**NEXT regularly scheduled PUBLIC MEETING is TUESDAY, December 3<sup>rd</sup> .**