

## Approved Minutes

Tax Structure Commission

Thursday, August 29, 2019

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

BGS Board Room

133 State Street

Montpelier, VT

Present: Commissioners: Stephen Trenholm, Bram Kleppner, Deb Brighton; Staff Director: Sean Sheehan; Consultant: Susan Mesner; JFO Staff: Mark Perrault, Joyce Manchester, Chloe Wexler; Tax Department: Doug Farnham, Erin Hicks-Tibbles, Jill Remick; General Assembly: Senator Ann Cummings, Representative Charlie Kimbell, Representative John Killacky, Representative Kate Webb; Tom Vickery; Public Assets Institute: Paul Cillo, Stephanie Yu, Julie Lowell; Vermont League of Cities and Towns: Karen Horn; Vermont School Board Association: Nicole Mace; Vermont National Education Association: Jeff Fannon; Ethan Allen Institute: John McClaughry

**1:02 P.M.** Commissioner Kleppner called the meeting to order.

Approval minutes - Commissioner Trenholm moved the minutes be adopted, Commissioner Brighton seconded, all in favor.

**1:04 P.M.** Witness testimony: *Recorded witness testimony is available upon email request to [taxcommission@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:taxcommission@leg.state.vt.us)*

1:04 P.M. Senator Ann Cummings

1:10 P.M. Representative Kimbell

1:30 P.M. Tom Vickery

1:52 P.M. Nicole Mace

2:07 P.M. Karen Horn

2:17 P.M. Paul Cillo and Stephanie Yu

2:35 P.M. John McClaughry

2:46 P.M. Jeff Fannon

3:20 P.M. Doug Farnham

**3:25 P.M.** Review of public engagement – Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Mesner will develop a questionnaire for Commissioner review and distribution.

**3:38 P.M.** Discussion of work plan/timeline, review of work plan's completed phase 1, and discussion of Mr. Kleppner's draft outline of final report. No immediate specific changes to work plan. Commissioners will continue to consider outline. Staff will look to adjust the remaining work plan, including adjusting the "tax structure" and "future needs" components to align with the "technology and economy" trends framework. Staff will look to incorporate time for information and testimony that will support Commissioners' work in other identified areas.

**4:13 P.M.** Next Meeting:  
Monday, September 23, 2019  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Ethan Allen Room in the State House.

Items for the agenda include:

- Further Testimony on Education Finance from:
  - Representative Beck, House Committee on Ways and Means
  - Representative Sullivan, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
  - Jeff Francis, Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
- Update on Education Work Plan and time for open discussion among Commissioners
- Update on the Commission budget - Stephen Klein, Joint Fiscal Office

**4:22 P.M.** Adjourn by consensus

Respectfully submitted,

Sorsha Anderson  
Staff Associate, Joint Fiscal Office