

August 29th, 2024
State Building Naming Committee
Meeting Notes/Minutes

Meeting Summary: This was the first meeting of the “State Building Naming Study Committee” as established in [Act 162 \(H.882, 2024\)](#). Study Committee members selected a Chair and Co-Chair for the study committee, and discussed the group’s timeline for work product, legislative charge, work flow, and began discussions regarding future meeting schedules and goals.

Members Present

Xusana Davis, State Racial and Equity Officer
Catherine Delneo, State Librarian
Kate Eberle, Building and General Services Designee
Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer
Stephen Perkins, Vermont Historical Society
Jessica Vintinner, Agency of Commerce and Community Development Designee
John Zicconi, Vermont Agency of Transportation Designee
Ted Brady, Executive Director, Vermont League of Cities and Towns

11:00 AM – Meeting Called to Order by Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer (pursuant to Act 162)

11:04 AM – Member Introductions

11:15 AM – Selection of Chair

Motion was made: Motion to nominate and elect Kate Eberle (BGS) & Jessica Vintinner (ACCD) to perform duties as co-chairs. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

11:20 AM – Timeline Discussion & Workflow Discussion

- Group must meet at least 3 times
- A report from the Committee is due February 15th, 2025
- Group ceases to exist on February 28th, 2025
- Group work product as defined in statute: “a proposed process for naming State buildings that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings and General Services.”

Other topics discussed:

- **Legislature did not provide a budget for the group's work** and the group discussed the need to be able to access funding for public engagement strategy (public feedback gathering, translation services...etc).
- **Outreach Strategies:** The group discussed the importance of identifying and creating accessible outreach. It was discussed that the group would start with a Microsoft Forms "survey" to solicit feedback and letters, and then move towards engaging with groups like the local NAACP chapters and the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs.
- **The Need for Resources:** In the absence of a budget for the group, the study committee discussed the importance of exploring financial resources to access translation resources.

11:44 AM – Future Meeting Planning/Outline

The group generally agreed to a future meeting schedule in order to be able to gather information, engage in public outreach and make recommendations:

(TENTATIVE) September Meeting: An exploration of what other entities "do". This includes: Department of Libraries, Towns, Vermont Agency of Transportation, and any other state models that can be found. Review draft of Microsoft Forms questionnaire, and discussion of potential "town hall" meeting(s) schedule.

(TENTATIVE) October Meeting: Review solicited feedback from members of the public and interested/impacted parties regarding how a new system should be built in a culturally sensitive way. Invite 1-2 individuals/stakeholders to speak.

(TENTATIVE) November: Draft report outline review, and recommendations drafting begins.

December: TBD

January: TBD

11:50 AM – Open Discussion and Questions Posed for Committee Members

The Committee engaged in open discussion towards the end of the meeting, and below is a summary of some of the questions posed and topics discussed. The below is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

- Various Committee members acknowledged that whatever system is created is going to be difficult to evade "political tensions" when it comes to a naming system embedded within the legislature or state government.

- The “buildings” and properties that this new system will impact are only the buildings within BGS jurisdiction.

- Recommendations that might include State Agency responsibility in undertaking naming responsibilities will need additional funding and capacity to do so.

12:05 PM – Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: TBD