

Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont

First meeting agenda

Friday, September 17, 2021 at 10 AM

Teams Meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Working Group Members Present: Tom McMurdo, Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Maria Avery, Meg Allison, Kelly McCagg, Andy Kolovos

VTLIB staff members: April Shaw, Josh Muse, Janette Shaffer

Absent: Adriene Katz, Denise Hersey

Meeting called to order at 10:09am

1. Reading of Act No. 66/S.115 Section 1 (bill text here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT066/ACT066%20As%20Enacted.pdf>)

Discussion:

- Bill is basically divided into two themes. A good place to start is with current status.
- Kelly suggested looking at programming and then how it relates to the various sections, e.g. how does programming relate to diversity and inclusion, economic development, impact of COVID-19 etc.
- Deb Granquist (BOL member) suggested we go beyond programming and not miss the bigger picture. Kelly suggests we collect the information and then move to the bigger picture.
- Andy asked whether there is a legal requirement that we accept testimony at every meeting. It would be feasible to reserve some of the time for the working group. Breaks down nicely into 5 topics (for 5 meetings).
- Tom suggests if we devote five meetings to the topics, allow three for testimony, which would leave two for writing.

Tom moves that the next five meetings follow the schedule by the topics in the order that they are listed in the bill. Seconded by Kelly. All in favor.

November meeting will be devoted to "Programming." Kelly suggested having public send testimony to Google doc. Members will read with sufficient time to invite potential verbal testimony. VTLIB will set up a structure. Tom agreed.

Andy suggested exploring whether or not anonymous testimony is allowable under public meeting law. VTLIB will research.

2. Introductions of Working Group Committee members.

3. Structural discussion including:

- a. [Library Working Group Roster form](#)
- b. Appointments yet to be made
 - Meg Allison still has two VSLA appointments to be made.
 - Tom hopes to make public library appointments soon.
- c. Schedule for remaining 11 meetings
 - Tom suggested meeting every other month. The committee agreed. Future meetings will be longer to accommodate the work. Plan is to have 2 hour meetings. The more those can be scheduled ahead of time, the better.
 - Tom will work on scheduling between now and the next meeting.
- d. Topics and testimony
 - Tom moved to open a given meeting for a specific topic or set of topics and solicit testimony in advance and the invite selected people who have submitted testimony to provide verbal / virtual testimony. All testimony will be included in the report.

Second: Meg

Discussion: Meg suggested position a schedule in advance of topics that will be discussed to help gather testimony in advance.

All in favor. No opposed, abstention.

- Christopher agrees with this as a general plan. Suggests making a working plan on leaving enough time to write the plan as well.
- VTLIB has a fair amount of data that can supplement this work. The library annual report can be found here
https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/news/public_statistics

4. Other business

Andy asked for clarification on whether this group is subject to open meeting law. This group is subject to public meeting laws and thus precludes members from communicating outside of public meetings.

5. Close meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.