

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Thursday, May 7, 2020, 10:00 – noon (Zoom)

Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women
Marguerite Adelman, Women's International League
for Peace & Freedom

Cyndy Bittinger, Sandra Dooley, Pamela Kraynak, Donna
Smyers Dell McDonough, Linda Radtke

Karin Hanta, Middlebury College, Feminists' Resource Center
Alice Kitchel, Business & Professional Women

Elisa Nelson, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration

Ericka Reil, Vermont Center for Independent Living

League of Women Voters: Barbara Magilaff, Madeleine

Mongan, Lila Richardson, Sonja Schuyler

Christine Smith, Spaulding High School

Vermont Bar Association: Judith Dillon, Teri Corsones

Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society

Joy Worland, Department of Libraries

* **Presiding:** Sue Racanelli, League of Women Voters

* **Recording:** Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women

Regrets

Susan Dineen, Karen Madden, Rachel Siegal, Yvonne

Strauss

Parade & Suffragefest: Sue Racanelli

The Executive Committee met via tele-conference on April 2 and May 4 and reached the unanimous decision to postpone the August 22 Parade and SuffrageFest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Scope of the virus could compromise safety of participants and we don't know if people will be comfortable about congregating in August to attend a parade. The Committee had to make the decision now as there is a lot of work to be done in organizing a parade – contracts with vendors, security, staging, staffing, etc. Moreover, we have to raise around \$30,000 for the parade and this is not the time to be asking for money; funders have pivoted to prioritizing human needs, creating additional challenges for the fundraising needed to make an event of this scale happen. Also, the Vermont Legislature is projecting a budget shortfall of \$430 million and it is not appropriate to approach them regarding the \$20,000 allocation. At this time, we ask that you not share information on the postponement as we need to inform potential funders of the decision and issue a press release. Our goal is to have this done by May 15. The Executive Committee also decided that, except for the play, we would continue with other events and projects as scheduled.

Comments

Alice Kitchel. Either postpone indefinitely or tag it onto another celebration in the future.

Dell McDonough. Make the anniversary day, August 26, 2020 the beginning of a year-long celebration.

Sue: there is the possibility of doing something in February with the Vermont ratification date or joining with Montpelier Alive for July 4th parade in 2021, using suffrage-era concepts that Dell and Vivienne developed as floats in the parade.

Judith Dillon. Has Annette Gordon Reed, keynote speaker been notified? Would she consider working with us in the future?

Sue: Rachel Onuf has been in contact with Annette Gordon Reed. She is open to working with us.

Elisa Nelson. Effect on grant funding for events.

Sue: the only grant-funded event was the traveling exhibit

Pamela Kraynak. Seven Days would like to revamp voting question for Citizen's Challenge next year.



REPORTS

Budget: Sue Racanelli

As of April 30, 2020, VSCA has a balance of \$15,381.03. Outstanding bills of \$680 not including insurance. A sponsor donation of \$1,500 was received from Vermont Women's Fund. As of May 7, balance is \$16,201.04.

Fundraising: Sandy Dooley

The Fundraising Committee met twice and we echo the challenge that the pandemic is causing. We received a \$1,500 grant from Vermont Women's Foundation and \$2,000 commitment from Cabot plus all the cheese and whipped cream we want! Maddie Motta is talking with Donna Smyers about cheese contribution for the 5K. There are additional pending fundraising requests. All members of the Executive Committee have made a donation to VSCA. Putting two emails together to funders and potential funders about the postponement.

EVENTS & PROJECTS

Lilly Talbert: May 16. Women's Symposium, One Event, Many Perspectives.

Debuting live Saturday, May 16th at 2 PM, www.ethanallenhomestead.org/suffragesymposium, and available thereafter. Speaker presentations will be recorded so people can watch later at their leisure.

Donna Smyers: August 15. Suffrage Scramble 5K Run/Walk.

Decided to go ahead with the race, paying attention to social distancing and following procedures. Registration is online, saving interaction. Race bibs and T-shirts can be picked up. Yesterday, Governor announced Vermonters can gather for outdoor recreation in small gatherings of 10. Central Vermont Runners is familiar with how to change race plans to respond to COVID-19.

- Racers in six lines based on last name alpha, in delineated lines, socially distant; spread out start to multiple waves. Sensor can tell folks when to time race.
- Masks available for race, at food and finish line. All volunteers to wear masks and gloves. Perhaps a giveaway: facemasks printed with Women VOTE!
- Food offerings must comply with COVID-19 provisions. Cabot is offering donation of cheese and whipped cream.
- Awards Ceremony can be contactless. Spread out awards on a table
- Possible additional expenses: hand sanitizers by registration and different stations, food, and port-o-lets.

Marguerite Adelman: October 21-24. Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner: Women's Suffrage-the rest of the story. Schedule mostly complete – mix of school and college venues with public welcome at college events. Pop-up dinner likely to follow in Burlington area – details TBD. Do have a plan in place to pivot to a virtual event if schools are not back in session.

10/21: AM, Montpelier High School. PM, Twinfield High School. Evening, St. Mikes

10/22: AM, Burlington High School. PM, Winooski High School. Evening, UVM

10/23 PM, Randolph

10/24: Suffrage Movement is topic in PM at State House

Schools can select one of three topics from Dr. Roesch Wagner. All host schools commit to pre-lesson on suffrage and post-lesson on voter suppression. WILPF prepares materials. Focus heavily on videos. Also,

an evaluation sheet. Biggest concern is grant funding; although we have raised some funds, many foundations now have changing priorities. WILPF has to raise \$11,000.

Comments

Christine Smith. Can we ask if the six committed schools would be interested in hosting the traveling exhibit? Can we include materials about the exhibit with the WILPF invitation?

Marguerite. In schools, these programs take the form of multi-classroom presentations; not sure how it would work out. Could work with the public programs at the colleges. Presentations will also be recorded by CCTV and be available to watch.

Karin Hanta. We would welcome this program at Middlebury College. We have funding. Friday 23rd AM? *Lilly Talbert will put Marguerite in touch with Christine and Karin.*

Pamela. Please circulate teacher lessons

Sandy Dooley: The Suffragists' Reenactment Society Play

The play will not be held this fall in venues around the state due to pandemic concerns and the fact that, with the reopening of the state, there will be an onslaught of performances and activities rescheduled to the fall. Playwright Mary Beth McNulty is in Norway and will return home in June. She is going to do an adaptation of the play to make it compatible for a virtual presentation in October. What we now have to do is find the money to make this happen.

Sandy, Sue and Cary Brown (Executive Director, Vermont Commission on Women) had a conversation with Governor Madeline Kunin, who is very supportive of VSCA efforts. They invited her to be guest of honor at the world premiere of The Suffragists' Reenactment Society play; she was pleased and requested and received the script; and will keep in touch. The script had also been sent to Kim Bent of Lost Nation Theater who was very positive about it.

Ericka Reil: Comic Booklet, Center for Cartoon Studies.

Comic book contract signed with Andi Santagata and agent Moe Ferrara. Twelve-page booklet including covers features eight suffragists. First draft due May 22. Should be completed by August 8th and will be available on VSCA website. Project not affected by pandemic.

Sue Racanelli: Because of Women Like Her Traveling Exhibit

Thanks to Lyn Blackwell, Rachel Onuf, Christine Smith, Amanda Gustin, Victoria Hughes for all their help. The exhibit consists of five panels; Designer Maya Smith has made it very aesthetically exciting. Christine brought it to our attention that a google search would bring up the Rochester exhibit of the same title (we asked to borrow their title). So the curriculum guide will be *Because of Vermont Women Like Her*. Design is near-completion; minor tweaks and, per conditions of the grant, will be sent to Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, for review. Heather Kralik, Project Coordinator, will contact schools for a fall-winter tours. We have all six high schools identified - Burlington, Champlain Union, Essex, Fair Haven, Otter Valley, Poultney. Special thanks to Marguerite Adelman and Christine Smith. Such a great resource that can be shared with others once the tour is complete

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites Trail Marker Program

Sue reporting for Laura Daudelin. Clarina Howard Nichols has been added to the trail, but since then the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT) has hired a Project Manager. With this came a new and more involved procedure and checklist for submitting new names. Do we want to get names on the trail but opt out of the Pomeroy markers and just apply for State markers with a small NVWT sticker tag with a QR code added to the marker?

Other Business

Sandy. The National Women's History Alliance in California is encouraging that centennial activities be carried through to 2021. February 2021 is important in Vermont because that's when we ratified the 19th Amendment. Edna Beard, Vermont's first woman legislator ran in November 1920 and took her seat in January 1921.

Alice. Thank you for Exec Committee for being nimble in decision making.

Sue. There was a severe pandemic back in suffrage times – the 1918 influenza pandemic infecting about 500 million people and resulting in at least 50 million deaths worldwide.

Christine and Ericka. Requested materials on the pandemic and suffrage be sent to them.

Amanda Gustin. Vermont History Day Awards on Friday, May 8 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Student winners, including Best Suffrage Centennial themed project for the Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize sponsored by Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation, will be honored in a virtual awards ceremony live streamed on [Vermont Historical Society's Facebook page](#).

Vivienne Adair. Open to ideas about events. Paul Heller's article on April 21st tells of the 400 women who marched from School to State Street in 1920. Article is Right to Vote Made Law – mentions women. Explains more of VT Governor Clement's lack of engagement.

Pamela. Is the League planning to make a statement in support of mail-in voting?

Sue – Yes, League supports mail-in voting and is working with 14 other organizations headed by VPIRG. Secretary of State is in favor. Governor is concerned with expense.

Special thanks to Amanda Gustin of the Vermont Historical Society for arranging and monitoring this meeting via Zoom.

Next Meeting: June 23 | 1:30 p.m.

2020 Meetings

July 28. 10 a.m.

August 13. 1:30 p.m.