

## 2017/18 STEERING COMMITTEE & OFFICER ELECTIONS

September 7, 2017

The Coalition by-laws allow for up to nine people to serve on the Steering Committee. We are fortunate to have six current members willing to continue serving. As a result, there are up to three potential vacancies on the Steering Committee. We are fortunate to have **Anna Herman** from the Champlain Housing Trust willing to serve. That leaves another two potential seats open. Steering Committee members are reaching out to other potential candidates and may have additional nominees by next Wednesday. The by-laws also permit nominations from the floor and call for direct election of officers by the membership.

Until further interested candidates emerge, the Steering Committee recommends that members elect the following slate:

- **Ted Wimpey**, Chair & Director, CVOEO Fair Housing Project
- **Sara Kobylenski**, Treasurer & Executive Director, Upper Valley Haven
- **Cindy Reid**, Secretary & Director of Development, Cathedral Square Corporation
- **Ray Brewster**, At Large Member & Independent Consultant
- **Alison Friedkin**, At Large Member & Director of Real Estate Development, Downstreet Housing & Community Development
- **Patricia Tedesco**, At Large Member & Home Access Program Coordinator, Vermont Center for Independent Living
- **Anna Herman**, At Large Member & Community Relations Specialist, Champlain Housing Trust

### Steering Committee Bios

#### **Ted Wimpey**, *Chair*

Ted has been a Steering Committee Member since 2003. He is currently the Director of the [Fair Housing Project](#) at the [Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity](#) (CVOEO). He previously served as Director of Coordinated Statewide Housing Services, also at CVOEO. Ted started work for CVOEO in 1988 as director of Vermont Tenants (VTI). Ted has a BA degree from the University of Georgia (1986) in Anthropology.

#### **Sara Kobylenski**, *Treasurer*

Sara has been a Steering Committee member since 2012. She has been Executive Director of the [Upper Valley Haven](#) in White River Junction since 2009. She became engaged by the important work of housing as a result of her four years as AHS Field Services Director for the Hartford District, from 2005 through 2009.

For 35 years prior to that Sara worked with families and children in almost every aspect of social services. The issues of poverty and opportunity were always present in that work. She has an MSW from the University of Pennsylvania. In the community Sara serves on the Boards of the Vermont Parent Representation Center and Mascoma Savings Bank. She also serves on Governor Shumlin's Council on Pathways from Poverty and is a former Co-Chair of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness.

#### **Cynthia Reid**, *Secretary*

Cindy has been a Steering Committee member since 2014. She joined [Cathedral Square Corporation](#) as its Director of Development in 2013, where she works to develop, rehab, and preserve service-enriched

housing for seniors and persons with disabilities. Formerly she was the Assistant Director of Development at Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

At VHFA, Ms. Reid worked with communities and developers to create successful affordable housing developments and evaluated development proposals for financing and housing tax credits. Prior to joining VHFA in 1996, she worked at Central Vermont Community Land Trust and Champlain Housing Trust (then Burlington Community Land Trust). She holds an MS in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University and a BA from the University of Vermont. She is certified as a Housing Development Finance Professional by the National Development Council.

**Ray Brewster, At Large Member**

Ray re-joined the Steering Committee member in the fall of 2013. He has worked in affordable housing for twenty years, currently working part-time for RuralEdge in Lyndonville and with a number of housing- and service-related nonprofits in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. For many years he served with the former Rockingham Area Community Land Trust (now Windham and Windsor Housing Trust), and also with the Twin Pines Housing Trust. The majority of his work has been as a project developer and owner representative for affordable housing nonprofits.

Prior to the long stretch in affordable housing development, he worked on renewable energy alternatives for low-income households and mobile homes. Ray has been involved with the Coalition since 1991 and was a past member of the Steering Committee as well. He participates in a number of statewide and regional efforts related to housing, including the Vermont Manufactured Housing Innovations study group and the East Central Vermont Sustainable Communities HUD program. Evenings, he is an assistant to the editor of *Green Energy Times*, a bi-state newspaper on energy and "green" living.

**Alison Friedkin, At Large Member**

Alison is the Director of Real Estate Development at Downstreet Housing and Community Development. She has been with Downstreet for 10 years, working her way up through the organization. Alison has a BS in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont. She also has a project management professional certificate from NeighborWorks America and is a LEED Green Associate. Alison was the driving force behind Downstreet receiving the NeighborWorks Green Organization designation which recognizes NeighborWorks network members who incorporate healthy and sustainable principles into every facet of their operation and throughout their lines of business. Alison is committed to the triple bottom line.

**Patricia Tedesco, At Large Member**

Patricia joined the Steering Committee in the winter of 2017. She is the Home Access Program Coordinator at the [Vermont Center for Independent Living](#). She graduated from Endicott College with a degree in Business Administration and from the State University of New York-Brockport with a degree in Liberal Studies. Patricia has worked at VCIL since 2011, initially hired to work with VCIL's Meals on Wheels program and working with Home Access since 2014. Prior to joining VCIL, Patricia owned and operated a photography studio for 23 years in the Montpelier area. As a relative newcomer to disability rights and housing, Patricia attends several housing meetings, does research, and has developed relationships with a variety of partners in the housing field to better understand and improve affordable, accessible housing for Vermonters with low incomes.

**Anna Herman, At Large Member**

Anna is the Community Relations Specialist at the [Champlain Housing Trust](#) in Burlington, Vermont. She graduated from the University of Vermont in 2012 with a degree in Community and International

Development and began working at CHT in June of 2014. Through her work at CHT she develops programming and facilitates resident-led initiatives while assisting with advocacy work, grant proposals and event planning. She's excited to be considered as a Steering Committee member.