

**VERMONT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, September 25, 2020 at 10:55 a.m. The meeting was held via remote conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tristan Toleno, Vice Chair Shap Smith, Secretary John Bartholomew, Kevin “Coach” Christie, Johannah Donovan, Carol Ode, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Curt McCormack

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Director of Federal and State Relations Wendy Koenig

Chair Tristan Toleno called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Approval of minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2020 meeting.

Legislative update

Chair Toleno and Director of State and Federal Relations Wendy Koenig discussed the major policy initiatives related to higher education in the upcoming legislative session. Director Koenig mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated revenue losses to the state of Vermont would be of paramount concern in the upcoming legislative session. Trustee Shap Smith reminded the group that convening with the Governor and his administration prior to December would be critical in the upcoming state budget negotiations.

2020 Legislative summit

The board discussed how to proceed with the annual legislative summit during the COVID-19 pandemic. All trustees agreed that proceeding with a virtual event sometime during the legislative session was prudent. Director Koenig agreed to discuss the timing with Speaker Johnson and see if a Caucus of the Whole would be possible to accommodate this event. She also committed to working with Vice President of Research Dombrowski to solidify a topic and potential format and agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bartholomew, Secretary