

CAPITOL COMPLEX COMMISSION – MINUTES

- Date: February 20, 2018

OPENING:

- The meeting of the Capitol Complex Commission was called to order by Chair Shouldice at 11:31 AM on February 20, 2018 in the BGS Boardroom #410, at 133 State Street in Montpelier.

PRESENT:

- **Members:** Heather Shouldice, Chair; Jireh Billings, Rachel Feldman, Paul Carnahan and Christopher Cole, Executive Secretary to the Capitol Complex Commission
- **Also Present:** David Schutz, Jack Zeilenga, James Duggan
- **Minutes transcriber:** Judy Bruneau, Department of Buildings and General Services

PRIOR MINUTES APPROVAL:

- Item #1 – Paul Carnahan made a motion to accept the February 6, 2018 meeting minutes as amended and Rachel Feldman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all.

DISCUSSION:

- Item #2 – Eric Rajendra, homeowner of 1 Hopkins Street, Montpelier
- Roof Replacement
- Eric Rajendra would like to replace his existing asphalt shingle roof with a dark colored standing seam metal roof on the two upper-most slopes of his gambrel roof as well as on the shed-roofed north-facing dormers. Eric, also proposed covering the two lowest slopes of the gambrel roof with red cedar shingles and would also install wood shingles as part of the so-called “eyebrows” above the curved bow windows on the east and west facades of his house. After hearing a report from James Duggan and David Schutz, the commission voted unanimously to accept your proposal for this “hybrid” roofing solution of both standing seam metal and wood shingles. They expressed a desire to keep their response “clean” by not considering any other options, such as the second option Eric offered last week—which proposed using asphalt shingles with standing seam metal instead of wood shingles. It was felt that should Eric choose to replace the entire roof with asphalt shingles again, that option would not require their review nor need their approval.

MOTION:

- Jireh Billings made a motion to accept Eric Rajendra's proposal as presented by David Schutz and James Duggan and Paul Carnahan seconded the motion. It was approved by all.

DISCUSSION:

- Item #3 – Christopher Cole – State House Lighting
- The members reviewed the memorandum on illuminating the State House Dome that Chris Cole shared. (See attached)
- Capitol Complex Commission Members Input:
- Requests for illuminating the State House should be determined by proclamation by the Governor's Office for special causes and no political agendas
- Decisions should be determined by one (1) branch only – Executive Branch
- Illuminations should be no more than six (6) times a year; no more than once a month and ideally every other month
- Suggested illuminating the portico only with colored lighting. They felt there would be better contrast with the white lights and the color wouldn't wash out beyond the State House
- Illumination will be for one (1) evening only
- No illuminations during the holiday tree lighting
- Calendar should be accessible for reviewing

DISCUSSION:

- Item # 4 – Christopher Cole – Ice Rink on the State House Lawn
- There could be a new location closer to the Supreme Court, could be larger?
- There could be plexiglass as a replacement for the fence, like Rockefeller Center
- Repairs that are scheduled for 2020 in the complex and while the State House lawn will already be disturbed; we are hoping to address the slope of the lawn making it easier to place the ice rink
- A cooling unit is being considered to keep the ice frozen during the unexpected winter thaws
- The ice rink could be multi-purpose, if it is a permanent fixture
- Friendly reminder to the City of Montpelier to have a plan when they appear before the commission in May or June.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Chair Shouldice made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jireh Billings seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 PM.

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Agency of Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christopher Cole, Jennifer Fitch

FROM: Erik Filkorn

DATE: February 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Illuminating State House Dome

The Governor is interested in supporting worthwhile causes of importance to the State of Vermont. These may be in conjunction with national awareness days or weeks or issues of importance or awareness in Vermont. He is especially interested in supporting awareness campaigns for the interests of those most vulnerable Vermonters. There would be no political illumination of the Statehouse.

Soon it will be technically feasible to alter the illumination color of the statehouse dome. In anticipation of this we have surveyed 49 other States, results are attached, to learn what their practices and policies are. Generally, states that do change colors do so via proclamation.

Of the states that do allow it, several are still using old style colored gels to change the color of their lighting systems and will either charge a fee or require the requesting organization to provide the gels. States with LED lights generally don't charge to change colors. Generally, states did not have any detailed policy and the process for requesting the action was generally not widely publicized.

Of the New England States, only Rhode Island currently allows for this activity. Several states, including New Jersey, do illuminate the Governor's Mansion, but not the Capitol.

For Vermont, we see illuminating the Statehouse as follows:

1. For the act itself to have impact, it should be rare. We are proposing no more than six times a year and the illumination would be for a single evening. We are also recommending avoiding the period when the holiday tree is lit.
2. Requests should be reviewed through the proclamation process and authorization to illuminate the Statehouse granted via proclamation by the Governor.
3. Consider requiring sponsorship from Legislators or an Executive Branch Secretary to minimize the number of requests needing to be considered at a high level and reducing the risk of having to deal with spurious or malicious requests.

Alabama	NO	
Alaska	NO	
Arizona	YES	Evaluated by State PIO who recommends to Gov. for approval
Arkansas	NO	Ended practice because lighting destroyed their equipment.
California	YES	Joint rules committee decides. Very rare. Once in ten years.
Colorado	NO	
Connecticut	NO	
Delaware	YES	
Florida	NO	
Georgia	NO	
Hawaii	YES	
Idaho	YES	Applicant must provide lights and not interfere with egress.
Illinois	NO	
Indiana	NO	
Iowa	NO	
Kansas	NO	
Kentucky	YES	
Louisiana	NO	
Maine	NO	Will change colors on the Governor's mansion.
Maryland	YES	
Massachusetts	NO	
Michigan	NO	
Minnesota	YES	Requires executive order.
Mississippi	NO	
Missouri	NO	
Montana	YES	
Nebraska	YES	
Nevada	NO	
New Hampshire	NO	
New Jersey	NO	
New Mexico	NO	
New York	NO	
North Carolina	NO	
North Dakota	NO	
Ohio	YES	
Oklahoma	NO	
Oregon	NO	
Pennsylvania	YES	On authority of the Lt. Governor
Rhode Island	YES	1-Week, \$500, no weddings or birthdays
South Carolina	NO	They will hoist commemorative flags
South Dakota	NO	Will change color of floor lighting in rotunda.
Tennessee	YES	On authority of Capitol Commission
Texas	NO	
Utah	NO	
Vermont	N/A	
Virginia	NO	
Washington	NO	
West Virginia	NO	Gave up practice due to gels damaging lighting system
Wisconsin	NO	Lit it up for the Packers, but otherwise a moratorium is in place.
Wyoming	NO	