



Real Estate Commission

Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State

89 Main Street, 3rd Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

<https://sos.vermont.gov>

Unapproved Minutes

Thursday February 22, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Mikail Stein, Paul Harsch, John Marchica, and Paige Farrington

Members absent: Samantha Lefebvre

OPR Staff Present: Judith Roy, Noura Eltabbakh and Lauren Layman

1. Called to Order at 9:43

2. No changes to the agenda

3. Approval of October 26, 2023, Minutes

Paige Farrington motioned to approve the Minutes. John Marchica seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. No Discipline – continued until next meeting for a quorum

9:30 am - Christopher Lagerstedt – Case #2023-158 – Default Hearing

5. Discussion Items

- Exam questions will be reviewed by the office and brought back to the Commission for discussion in executive session at the next meeting.
- Mikail asked how recruitment for empty board positions was going. Counsel explained that the Office has received three broker and one non-realtor broker application. OPR recommendations have gone to the Governor's office for appointment.

6. Education

Real Estate Institute of New England

Vermont Salesperson course for 40 hours

Paige Farrington motioned to approve the 40-hour course. John Marchica seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Comment

Teresa Merelman asked about the two Vermont energy courses that were on the

last agenda. Those courses were both approved through the office.

Teresa also asked about the state exam and whether it was an open book exam. The Office reported that, yes, it is an open book examination.

Jess Peck and Kathy Sweeten of the Vermont Association of Realtors had multiple questions and comments on the Vermont Energy course that is mandatory under 3 V.S.A. § 138 for license renewal and is currently being offered for free by OPR. Lauren Layman explained that Real Estate licensees are one of seven professions that are required to take this course, and the Office will continue for the time being to provide the course for free to ensure all licensees have the course available and the requirement will not be a barrier for renewal. OPR is always open to further discussions with anyone who needs additional information or has questions.

8. Adjourned at 10:23

Next regular meeting following this one is April 25, 2024

Check the [OPR Online Calendar](https://sos.vermont.gov/opr-event-calendar/) (sos.vermont.gov/opr-event-calendar/) for updates.