

November 2023 Meeting Minutes for Green Mountain Self-Advocates

I. Meeting Details

Meeting Leader: Lisa Rudiakov, Board President

Date: **November 27, 2023**, Time: 10:00 AM EST Location: on Zoom

Background Information: GMSA Officers and GMSA staff met virtually on November 26, 2023, for 90 minutes to prepare the agenda and meeting slides.

As accommodation for board members with a disability, **notes are recorded live on Google Slides by Max Barrows and Karen Topper and displayed on a shared screen by GMSA Staff.** [Click here to review the Google slides used for November 26, 2023.](#) Staff monitor the chat and read comments from board members who prefer to type to communicate.

II. Members Present

We had a Quorum with the following 12 members in attendance:

1. Christopher Dubeau
2. Erik Johnson
3. Gary Vyhnak
4. Heather Raymond
5. Jennifer Rainville
6. Levi Gardner, Vice-President
7. Lisa Rudiakov, President
8. Marjorie Burns
9. Skye Peebles
10. Taylor Terry
11. Tesha Thibodeau
12. Whitley Draper

III. Absent

- Lehana Guyette (excused);
- Ocean Streater (unexcused);
- Nicole Villemaire, Secretary (unexcused);
- Chad Cleverly, Treasurer (excused).

IV. Call to Order

The meeting was started by President Lisa Rudiakov at 10:00 AM EST.

Everyone introduced themselves and provided an update on local group activities.

The meeting agenda was shared on screen and read by Lisa R. [Click here to see the agenda on slide #1](#) of the GMSA Board Meeting 11.27.23 slide document. The board members approved the agenda without any changes.

V. Old Business

2023 Gala: On November 9th, GMSA had an event called a Freedom Dance Party. We celebrated Brandon Training School has been closed for 30 Years. It was held at the ZenBarn in Waterbury Vermont. We held this event instead of our annual fall Gala. Our Gala at the Capitol Plaza had to be canceled because the hotel was flooded and severely damaged during the summer.

- [Click here to see a program for the Freedom Dance Party.](#)
- [Click here to see a poster GMSA created about Brandon Training School.](#)
- Board members provided feedback about the event. [The comments and suggestions shared during the discussion are on slide #3](#) of the GMSA Board Meeting 11.27.23 slide document.

Voices and Choices Conference Committee: Lisa R. reminded board members that our conference committee meets the second Monday of each month from 10:30 to 12:00. Use the GMSA link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/905238684>

VI. New Business

Conflict of Interest Policy: The board reviewed the GMSA Conflict of Interest Policy. It was read line-by-line. Board members demonstrated they understood the policy by providing examples in their own words. The discussion included a few formatting suggestions to make the policy easier to understand. [Click here to](#)

[read the GMSA Conflict of Interest Policy](#). The policy with the updated format changes will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

New Case Management System: The state will release the next round of recommendations for setting up the new case management agencies by December 15. Public Comments will be open through January 26. There will be general feedback virtual forums on January 16 and 18. There will be 4 in-person forums (like last time) the week of January 22. The state offered to plan a jointly hosted virtual forum for only self-advocates. **The board discussed and unanimously approved co-hosting a virtual forum on January 17th.**

VII. Other Items

The board discussed and unanimously approved holding our next meeting on December 18th from 10:00 to 12:00.

VIII. Meeting Ends

President Lisa Rudiakov adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM EST