

## Marshall, Tanya

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**From:** Gail Carrigan <GCarrigan@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** Marshall, Tanya  
**Subject:** Fw: letter to forward - question

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Hello Tanya,

This letter is from the SGO Committee to interested parties for digitizing land records.

I can send it out to everyone on my list, or you can send it to the people you've been in contact with -- as well as other stakeholders you may have identified.

Not sure which is best, so I am asking you to advise me on how you would like to handle this.

Thanks! Gail

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Gail Carrigan  
Committee Staff  
Senate Government Operations Committee  
[SGO Committee Page](#)

Our agenda and all relevant documents are available on our committee page and are updated as we get new information: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2020/26>

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**From:** Jeanette White <JWhite@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 9:26 AM  
**To:** Gail Carrigan <GCarrigan@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Subject:** letter to forward

Gail, Would you send this to the list of people that were involved with the "digitizing" conversation. Thanks. Jeanette

Dear Interested Parties,  
Over the last number of years there have been multiple attempts to get our land records available electronically. Many of you have put in hours of work and thought. COVID19 had brought this to the

forefront and it is imperative that we plan and implement "Bringing Vermont land records into the 21st century". Thanks for all the time you spent with Senate Government Operations Committee talking about where to go with this issue. The conclusion we came to was that it did not need legislation - rather it needs a commitment of the relevant players to just do it.

We are appointing Tanya Marshall, State Archivist, as the chair of the working group to convene an initial meeting. After that you are on your own. And MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU as you are locked in your virtual room.

Here are the notes that came from the meetings we had and hopefully they will give you some direction. These are not necessarily in order but I tried as much as possible to put them in some order of actions.

First, even though there were a number of people present it was decided that there need to be representatives of not only the clerks but of selectboards and town managers and other folks.

Some action steps:

- 1) distribute the past studies so everyone is up to speed
- 2) review how other states have done it
- 3) Define the goals - we assume this might be having all land records in some kind of system that can be accessed from anywhere.
- 4) short term goals - all land records going forward and back 40 years electronically searchable
- 5) long term goals - all land records electronically searchable.\
- 6) survey all the towns that have already digitized - what system have they used. Compatible with others?
- 7) survey all towns that have not already done it - what are the impediments? identify the obstacles and how to overcome them
- 8) come up with standardized system that can also incorporate towns already done - they all need to be able to speak together.
- 9) how would you devise a public portal?
- 10) who would maintain and be central point
- 11) digitize the preservation system
- 12) Does there need to be a central regulatory body that sets standards, etc. Who, how?
- 13) an estimate of how much it will cost to do this and how to make whole the towns that have already put up money
- 14) any needed legislative changes that would make this possible. Come in January 2021

Thanks for doing this. If you have any questions or need any kind of support please do not hesitate to ask.  
Jeanette White, for the Senate Government Operations Committee