Consensus among individuals members of the network?
  ○ How do we avoid ending up with as many work groups as there are people?
  ○ This kind of thing happens when an arts organization asks for feedback from its audience members - we can’t possibly support them all
  ○ Creating high-level goals for the network by building consensus for what’s important among the greatest number of network members (or zone members)

Tad Cooke zone report (Chittenden)
  ○ Diverse group
  ○ Clear demarcation between Burlington and anyone who isn’t in Burlington
    ■ Issues relevant in Burlington may be completely irrelevant to those outside the city limits
    ■ Zone demographics and geography are foci
  ○ Understanding the representation of the group - who is part of this zone now, and how do we efficiently and thoughtfully bring together other people who can represent the zone as well?
  ○ Timing of group - easy to meet once a quarter, but what is the optimum timing to stay connected?

Robert McBride (taking over for Steve Stettler)
  ○ Director of Rockingham Arts Museum Project
  ○ Southern Vermont Creative Network
  ○ Have met 3 times
  ○ At last meeting identified action steps
    ■ Hosting programs about the arts on local action TV stations
    ■ Hosting a series of artist town meetings
    ■ Make sure that when town plans get rewritten, creative economy language is included
  ○ Last met in mid-October, due for another meeting soon

Jody Fried (NEK)
  ○ Have met 3 times
  ○ Everyone in room was collaborating closely - this is the nature of the NEK
  ○ In the NEK, there is a collective awareness that at the heart of almost all issues in the region is the issue of poverty
  ○ Have joined up with a health and human services project interested in expanding collective impact efforts to address poverty in NEK
    ■ They are primarily interested in education, but are approaching the issue from a multi-disciplinary perspective
    ■ They have submitted a multi-million dollar proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  ○ Working on reviewing town plans to make sure creative economy language is included
○ The main focus of this zone is alignment between the zone and other projects in the region
● Michael Zabrowski (central swath of 4 counties north of Montpelier up and west)
  ○ Having a meeting right now
  ○ Their leadership team started off with 10 people on it
  ○ Very similar to other zones in that there are people from planning districts, from arts organizations, libraries, and individual artists/entrepreneurs
● Culture Funders meeting planned for March
  ○ VAC working with VCF and USDA to identify possible culture funders (people who have funded arts & culture to the tune of $30,000 and up)
  ○ Could be important to look at private funders/investors - loans and seed money
    ■ F2P has the Food Funders Network, but they also have a working group focused on identifying all avenues for funding/financing of the sector
  ○ Will they be familiarized with systems thinking? This seems like it would be a crucial philosophical framework within which to operate in terms of funding the sector
  ○ Private funding - could come to the table to investing in experimenting with Vermont as a model for other community development efforts
● How are we using the study Michael Kane did?
  ○ Can he do similar studies for each of the regions?
  ○ Attach the executive summary of the study to the VCN
  ○ Incorporate actions/outcomes/goals as appropriate
● Friday, February 3 is the Vermont Arts Council's advocacy day