



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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Minutes for March 15th, 2022, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:35 PM. Meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Present (via Zoom): Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Erin Dupuis (Winooski), Aaron Keech (Burlington), Reid Willis (Williston), Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Nick Warner (WVPD Executive Director), Lauren Chicote (WVPD Operations Manager), Kyle Tansley (public), David Crawford (South Burlington) arrived at 4:55.

Absent: Jeffery Theis (Essex)

Agenda Changes: Moved public comment to after the financial reports.

Review and Approve Minutes from previous meeting: Correction of great lakes name, along with a couple grammatical errors. Aaron Keech moves to accept minutes with changes, Reid Willis seconds, all in favor. Minutes unanimously approved.

Review Financial reports: Lauren Chicote reviews Museum financials. Due to the off season, expenses are more than income, yet accounts remain healthy. There is a new executive director of the museum, Angie Grove. Nick and Lauren will meet with her soon. Aaron Keech asks about Shopify cost; Lauren explains its system they have used for at least the last year. Susan asks why the Museum pays Alnobaiwi \$375, Lauren will follow up. Lauren Chicote reviews the WVPD financials. We continue to stay on track. Park expense line may end up over budget this year as it includes utilities and maintenance and with the increased cost of oil/gas, we expect to be over budget. New windows being installed in the first floor at Colchester Pond house, quote from ACME was 13k, 50% deposit was made. Work will start at the beginning of June. Sonja Schuyler asks about potential rebates, Nick Warner stated that it would take a full energy weatherization to qualify for the rebates. Another expense that was a bigger expense was for financial review and preparation of the 990s.

Public Comment Period: Conversation with Kyle Tansley. Kyle is a self-proclaimed naturalist, who lives in New North End. Kyle Started birding over 4 years ago and it has become his passion. Kyle would like to have a trail cam added at Ethan Allen Homestead. He currently has cameras up at private property in Essex and ARMS forest. He would like to gather data to help understand the life cycle of Barred owls and their nesting patterns. Kyle has also been following a fox family in Intervale. Susan Gilfillan stated that WVPD is a municipality and is concerned that people could be caught on camera and considers what our responsibility is to inform the public of such. Aaron Keech states concern for the animals and how research can have a negative effect on wildlife. Sonya Schuyler has shared concerns about the animals. Kyle Tansley uses a cellular camera program currently that is less invasive than a typical camera and plans to use a camera where he could watch from afar and perhaps even monitor folks not obeying leash laws, etc. Sonja asks if Kyle has a mentor: he states does not but is taking this hobby very seriously. Aaron states again that he does have concern about the animals and is curious about a partnership with schools or on the state level. Nick Warner states that there are pros and cons to the concept. Susan states that if we are going to have a policy where it is allowed, what are the

parameters and at any point are we allowed to revoke permissions. Also concern about trail cams being left behind that becomes trash. Staff will put together something and present at next meeting

Operational Updates from Lauren Chicote and Nick Warner: As stated before, there is a new executive director at the Museum (Angie Grove). Ed Fitzpatrick has put together a sublease for the Forest preschool. We are applying for \$350k in congressional directed funding for Colchester Pond homestead. We retained Bret Engstrom to review the farm area and entire peninsula of New Farms for New Americans lands; it will take 6 months to complete work. Tim has been working on getting the staff in place, Steve is coming back and waiting to hear from others. Some projects will be new windows at Colchester Pond and new trails at Riverwalk at Salmon Hole. Park district staff recommends the parking lot at Salmon Hole closed during the winter due to improper use. The Derway management plan allows cars to be brought onto the land, we plan to start the season with making the gate for pedestrian use only. We are partnered with a State invasive coordinator to have a better understanding of the invasive plants and their life cycle and impact and how the manage/treat, etc.

Update/discussion of Museum Renovation Project: Alnobaiwi MOA- Alnobaiwi and Museum disagree about the allocation of space. There is an opportunity in another area that may be a better fit for Fred Weisman's collection.

Adjourn: Susan Gilfillan moved to Adjourn, David Crawford Seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting will be April 19th, 2022, at 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Erin Dupuis, WVPD Board Secretary