



# Winooski Valley Park District

**Ethan Allen Homestead**

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## Minutes for November 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):** Andrew Gregg (Burlington), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Reid Willis (Williston), Erin Dupuis (Winooski), Nick Warner (WVPD Executive Director), Lauren Chicote (WVPD Operations Manager).

**Absent:** Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Jeffery Theis (Essex), David Crawford (South Burlington).

**Guests:** Phelan Fretz

**Public Comment Period:** No one present from the public. Phelan Fretz is on the for Updates/Discussion on Museum Renovation.

**Agenda Changes:** Added discussion of planning celebration/recognition of WVPD's 50<sup>th</sup> year.

**Review and Approve Minutes from previous meeting:** the board reviewed the September 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and September 28<sup>th</sup> Special meeting. Several minor corrections were made for clarification to the September 20<sup>th</sup> minutes. Erin Dupuis moved to accept the minutes with the corrections. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Review Financial reports:** Lauren Chicote shared the financial report for FY23: July 1 – October 31, 2022. Budget continues to remain on track. WVPD has received member community allocations from Burlington, Colchester, Jericho (1/3, Town pays in installments), South Burlington, Williston, and Winooski as of the date of the report.

Lauren Chicote shared the treasurer report from the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum for the month of September. The museum closed at the end of October for the season. Admissions remained high through a successful and busy fall, and income was more than expenses for the month. The museum will continue to hold monthly Sunday lectures and provide special tours during the off season.

**Welcome/introduction of new Burlington Trustee, Andrew Gregg:** WVPD staff and board welcomed Andrew Gregg as the new Burlington Trustee. Andrew recently moved to the area from Texas and is a chaplain at UVM Medical Center. He wanted to be more involved in the community, and having grown up visiting parks, joining the WVPD seemed like a good fit.

**Updates on Town Budgets and Essex Junction Membership:** WVPD's FY24 Budget and FY22 Town Reports have been shared with all member communities; WVPD staff is scheduling meetings with town/city staff starting in January.

The City of Essex Junction voted in favor of WVPD membership on Election Day (November 8).

**Updates/Discussion on Museum Renovation with Phelan Fretz:** Phelan Fretz, serving as consultant on the Museum Renovation, updated the board that after due diligence review and consultation with contractors, it was determined that funding and space would not be adequate to effectively fulfill the goals of the project in creating display/exhibit space for the Vermont

Indigenous Heritage Center. Alnobaiwi will remain present at the Ethan Allen Homestead, and Phelan will continue to work with Alnobaiwi leadership and WVPD to developing a lease and operations agreement for the site.

**[Added to Agenda] Recognition of WVPD's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** 2022 marked WVPD's 50<sup>th</sup> year of operations – being established in June of 1972. The board discussed ways of recognizing and celebrating the anniversary with social media posts, a press release, and a small gathering of board members, staff, and supporters. Celebration will likely take place next year – WVPD will start to plan and coordinate with the board.

**Executive Session:** Erin Dupuis motioned to move into executive session to discuss matters of real estate matters that the premature disclosure of could potentially damage WVPD. Reid Willis seconded. The Board entered executive session at 6:18 PM. Erin Dupuis moved to exit executive session; Reid Willis seconded. The Board left executive session at 6:22 PM.

**Adjourn:** Erin Dupuis moved to adjourn, seconded by Andrew Gregg. Meeting Adjourned at 6:29PM.

**Next Meeting:** The date for the next meeting will be either December 13 or December 20 at 4:30pm. With several board members absent and the holidays, WVPD staff will poll the board as to the best date for the December meeting. Meeting date will be warned in advance.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

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Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager