

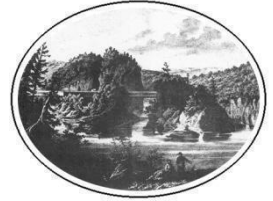


Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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Minutes for April 18, 2023, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The April 18, 2023, meeting began at 4:39 PM. Meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Present (via Zoom): Andrew Gregg (Burlington), Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Jeffery Theis (Essex), George Tyler, (Essex Junction), Reid Willis (Williston), Nick Warner (WVPD Executive Director), Lauren Chicote (WVPD Operations Manager).

Absent: David Crawford (South Burlington), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Winooski representative (seat currently vacant)

Public Comment Period: No members of the public present at time of public comment.

Agenda Changes: No changes to the agenda were made.

Review and Approve Minutes from previous meeting: The board reviewed the March 21, 2023, meeting minutes. George Tyler moved to accept the minutes with minor corrections to typos; seconded by Jeffrey Theis. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Review Financial reports: Lauren Chicote shared the financial report for FY23: July 1 – March 31, 2023. The format of the financial report was updated and now includes supporting documents of the Profit & Loss statement, summary of open grants, and fiscal agent reports for Burlington Wildways and Alnobaiwi. Lauren reviewed the financial report in the new format that more clearly separates WVPD's General Operating budget from other income including grants and fiscal agent budgets. Lauren also reviewed the summary of open grants, and fiscal agent financial reports.

The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum Treasurer Report for March 2023 was shared. Monthly expenses are still more than income due to the Museum being closed and not generating admission income, however, they continue to bring in small amounts of income through special events, online giftshop sales, donations, and memberships. Overall, the Museum is doing well financially, keeping healthy bank balances, and is busy preparing for their spring opening with new exhibitions and events planned. The Museum will open May 1, 2023.

Director's Update and Updates: Nick Warner updated the board on the following:

The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum and Director Angie Grove continue working hard to prepare new exhibits and update the museum space for their May 1 opening date. The board was invited to a special opening event for the new Alnobaiwi Cultural exhibit scheduled for early May.

WVPD is still waiting to hear about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for renovations to the Ethan Allen Homestead Barn roof and improvements to the Allen House.

Tim Larned, Parks Superintendent, is busy getting ready for the park opening season (mid-late April depending on weather and trail conditions) and hiring new maintenance staff for the season. Tim recently celebrated his 20th anniversary working for WVPD – Nick shared a

resolution recognizing this.

On April 18 WVPD in partnership with the Intervale Center hosted a tree planting along the river at the Ethan Allen Homestead. The Intervale Center was awarded a grant from OneTree Planted to support the planting of over 200 native tree and shrub species. The grant also included funds for tubing and staking to protect the trees from animal browse.

Advertising for a new Winooski trustee has been shared with the City with the hopes of recruiting a new trustee soon. WVPD restarted conversations with City staff regarding the management of Memorial Park.

Alternative access locations for the Jacobs parcel in Williston through VELCO or Green Mountain Power properties will not be possible. WVPD is continuing conversations with the Trinity Baptist Church about access.

Discussion on topics being considered for Executive Session: The board discussed the need to enter executive session to continue a discussion from the March 21, 2023 meeting, regarding a lease agreement WVPD will be entering into, which the board previously determined that the premature general public knowledge of would clearly place WVPD at a substantial disadvantage, because the Board of Trustees risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed contract terms in public.

Executive Session: An executive session is anticipated to discuss lease agreement options.

George Tyler motioned that the board enter executive session to continue the discussion commenced in the previous March 21, 2023, meeting on matters of real estate under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Reid Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously; the board entered executive session at 5:24PM.

George Tyler motioned to exit executive session, second by Reid Willis. Motion carried unanimously; the board exited executive session at 5:44PM.

Reid Willis motioned for the Board to authorize Nick Warner to sign the lease with discussed changes in executive session and upon final approval from WVPD's attorney. George Tyler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: Jeffrey Theis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Andrew Gregg/George Tyler. Meeting Adjourned at 5:47PM.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2023, at 4:30pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager