



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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Minutes for July 17th, 2023, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:32 PM. Meeting was held as a “hybrid” meeting (in-person and online via Zoom), with Nick Warner (Executive Director) in attendance at the WVPD offices at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington. All other attendees participated via zoom.

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

Absent: David Crawford (South Burlington), Winooski representative (seat currently vacant).

Public Comment Period: there were no members of the public at the meeting.

Agenda Changes: No changes to the agenda were made.

Review and Approve Minutes from previous meeting: Tabled to the August meeting as the board did not receive the minutes in advance and were unable to fully review.

Review Financial reports: The Board reviewed financial reports from the WVPD. The budget includes all FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). Final FY23 closeout report will be presented at the August meeting. George Tyler moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Susan Gilfillan. The financial reports were unanimously accepted.

Updates from WVPD Staff on Flood Impacts and Response: Nick Warner updated the board on the impact of flood damage to WVPD parks and trail infrastructure from the July 10-12 flooding and heavy rain event that hit Vermont. While the flooding significantly impacted several WVPD parks including Derway Island Natural Area and Derway Cove, the Ethan Allen Homestead, Macrae Farm Park, Mayes Landing, Salmon Hole, Riverwalk Trail, and Woodside Natural Area, Nick emphasized that WVPD parks are made for these sort of flood events as part of the river’s floodplain. WVPD staff have been and will continue to document and record the impact, taking photographs and assessing damage, to be used for any future funding opportunities for repairs and mitigation. WVPD is also working closely with member communities and partners on flood response, and tracking funding and communication resources. The full extent of the impact will likely not be realized for several days to weeks as rain continues to keep water levels high.

The biggest impact has been to the fields at the Ethan Allen Homestead and the impact on the New Farms for New Americans (NFNA) community garden program. WVPD is working with the program to assess the impact and support them moving forward. Other significant impacts are to the bridges and other trail infrastructure at Macrae Farm Park, Woodside Natural Area, and Riverwalk Trail. Erosion and significant loss of the riverbank/shoreline occurred/is occurring at Derway Cove, Mayes Landing, and the Ethan Allen Homestead. Some areas are still inaccessible due to high water levels and continued flooding including sections of the Ethan Allen Homestead, Riverwalk Trail, Derway Cove, and Macrae Farm Park.

Discussion to Reschedule the 50th Anniversary Celebration: Given the recent flooding events and limited time of WVPD staff it was decided to postpone the 50th Anniversary Celebration originally planned for after this months Trustee meeting. A planning committee of board members was established to plan for the event. The committee includes Sonja Schuyler, George Tyler, and Reid Willis.

Adjourn: Reid Willis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susan Gilfillan. The meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Next Meeting: August 15th, 2023, at 4:30pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager