



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

Burlington, Vermont 05408

Tel: (802) 863-5744 info@wvvpd.org www.WVPD.org Fax: (802) 865-0647



Minutes for November 28, 2023, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:32 PM. Meeting was held both in person at the WVPD offices at the Ethan Allen Homestead and virtually via Zoom.

Present (via Zoom): Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Jeffery Theis (Essex), George Tyler, (Essex Junction), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Larry Kupferman (South Burlington) (in person at WVPD office), Reid Willis (Williston), Bridget O'Brien (Winooski), Nick Warner (Executive Director) (in person at WVPD office), Lauren Chicote (Operations Manager). **Guests:** Quynh Vo (WVPD/Burlington Wildways AmeriCorps member)

Absent: Andrew Gregg (Burlington)

Public Comment Period: Quynh Vo introduced herself to the board and gave a brief update on some projects she has been working on as part of her AmeriCorps service including collecting wildlife data with the use of wildlife cameras, leading orientations for the Burlington Wildways Trail Steward program, and writing articles for the Burlington Conservation newsletter. Quynh was interested in attending the board meeting to observe how a non-profit board meeting is conducted as part of her professional development as an AmeriCorps member.

Agenda Changes: No changes to the agenda were made.

Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings: The board reviewed the minutes from the October 24 meeting. Reid Willis moved to accept the minutes with typo corrections; George Tyler seconded.

Review and Accept Financial Reports: Lauren Chicote presented the July 1 – October 31, 2023, financial report for current fiscal year, FY24. It is still early in the new fiscal year, where expenses are more than income. WVPD is in the process of sending invoices to member towns for FY24 allocations. Reid Willis moved to accept the financial reports; seconded by George Tyler/Larry Kupferman. The report was unanimously accepted.

Staff Updates: Nick Warner gave brief updates to board on the scheduling of upcoming meetings/presentation with the selectboards/City Councils in Colchester, Essex, Williston, and Winooski – meetings will be held over the next few months into the new year.

WVPD staff the board on current grants and grant applications. WVPD is currently applying for grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) for Operational Support; and Vermont Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (VOREC) for restoration of the Wetlands Walk North at the Ethan Allen Homestead. Updates on open grant projects included Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for repairs to the barn roof and Allen House at the Ethan Allen Homestead.

WVPD staff is engaging in several Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts including consultation from Bruce Willison on programmatic collaborations with other organizations. Lauren Chicote has been accepted to the Vermont Conservation Leaders in Solidarity second Cohort, a year long training with the Center for Whole Communities.

WVPD received a year-end donation from Jane Ewing. The board discussed the continued

support of Ewing family and their appreciations of support from both John and Jane Ewing over the years. Jeffrey Theis motioned for the board to adopt a resolution recognizing the longstanding contributions and generosity of the Ewing family. The board deeply appreciates their longstanding support of WVPD both functionally and financially, and both the board and WVPD express their sincere gratitude. Motion was seconded by Larry Kupferman and was unanimously approved.

Executive Session: The board discussed the need to enter Executive Session to discuss matters of real estate; the properties being discussed have previously been discussed in Executive Session. George Tyler moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding real estate matters 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; seconded by Reid Willis. George Tyler moved to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate matters under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes; seconded by Reid Willis. The motion was unanimously approved. The board entered Executive Session at 5:17pm.

George Tyler moved to exit Executive Session; seconded by Larry Kupferman. The motion was unanimously approved. The board exited Executive Session at 5:25pm.

After Executive Session Susan Gilfillan moved to extend the lease for Alnobaiwi for an additional year as accepted by the board. The board looks forward to continued relationship and revisiting lease for future extension. George Tyler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Susan Gilfillan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by George Tyler. The meeting adjourned at 5:28pm.

Next Meeting: December 19, 2023, at 4:30pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager