



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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Minutes for April 16, 2024, 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), George Tyler, (Essex Junction), Jeffery Theis (Essex), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Larry Kupferman (South Burlington), Reid Willis (Williston), Bridget O'Brien (Winooski), Nick Warner (Executive Director) (in person at WVPD office), Lauren Chicote (Operations Manager). **Absent:** Andrew Gregg (Burlington).

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

Agenda Changes: Susan Gilfillan requested to add a discussion of the timeline and plan for progress on the conservation and presentation for the City of Winooski regarding under payment of member community annual appropriation. It was decided this discussion would come after the Final Reports and before the Projects Update agenda items.

Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings: The Board reviewed the March minutes. Jeffery Theis moved to accept the February minutes with corrections to the date, seconded by Reid Willis. The March minutes were unanimously accepted.

Review and Accept Financial Reports: Lauren Chicote presented the July 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, financial report for current fiscal year, FY2024. The budget continues to remain on track. The board asked clarifying questions about various line items including salaries and contracted parks maintenance. Larry Kupferman moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Reid Willis. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

Winooski Discussion: The board discussed the issue of under payment from the City of Winooski, and strategized approach for engaging with city staff and city council over the next few months. This will include the preparation of a report by WVPD summarizing the history of the city and WVPD, including payment history. A draft report will be shared with the WVPD Board for review by the July Board of Trustees meeting with the goal of a final report to be share with the city by the fall.

Projects, Grants, and Operations Updates: Nick Warner updated the board on grant applications and projects; progress on the Allen House and Education Center roofing projects at the Ethan Allen Homestead; eclipse response at the Ethan Allen Homestead and park system; seasonal staff updates; and other operational updates.

Executive Session: Nick Warner requested the board enter Executive Session to discuss real estate matters involving a property that is privately owned and has not been discussed in the public domain before. The board discussed the need to enter Executive Session based on this information. Reid Willis moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding this real estate matter would clearly place the WVPD and/or other parties at a substantial disadvantage, because the Board of Trustees risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed property in public; seconded by Larry Kupferman. Susan Gilfillan 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/George Tyler. The motion was unanimously approved. The board entered Executive Session at 5:28pm.

Larry Kupferman moved to exit Executive Session; seconded by Susan Gilfillan. The motion was unanimously approved. The board exited Executive Session at 5:47pm.

Adjourn: Susan Gilfillan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Reid Willis. The meeting adjourned at 5:48pm.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2023, at 4:30pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager