



# Winooski Valley Park District

**Ethan Allen Homestead**

**Burlington, Vermont 05408**

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## **Minutes for February 25, 2025, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District**

The meeting began at 4:31pm. Meeting was held both in person at the WVPD Offices at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington and virtually via Zoom.

**Present: Via zoom:** Andrew Gregg (Burlington), Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Jeffery Theis (Essex), George Tyler (Essex Junction), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Larry Kupferman (South Burlington), Reid Willis (Williston), Bridget O'Brien (Winooski), Lauren Chicote (Operations Manager); **In Person at WVPD Office:** Nick Warner (Executive Director).

**Public Comment Period:** No members of the public present.

**Agenda Changes:** No changes to the agenda were made.

**Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings:** The Board reviewed the January 21, 2025, minutes. Reid Willis moved to accept the January minutes, seconded by Susan Gilfillan. The January minutes were unanimously accepted.

**Review and Accept Financial Reports:** Lauren Chicote presented the July 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025, financial report for the current fiscal year, FY2025. Lauren reported that overall, the budget continues to remain on track, except for anticipated overspending on the Buildings Maintenance line under Park Expenses due to replacing windows in the Ethan Allen Homestead Education Center/Barn and WVPD office as previously mentioned. Lauren also reported that WVPD has received more year-end donations, with several being larger than normal, this year than in years past. Donations are unsolicited and typically come from park users. The Board discussed potential ways to promote the opportunity for park users/visitors to make donations. Susan Gilfillan moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by George Tyler. The financial report was unanimously approved.

**Discussion of new federal policies and impacts to WVPD:** Nick Warner updated the board on how changes in federal grant funding could impact WVPD operations. WVPD relies on grants to support trail upgrades/improvement projects, some buildings upgrades, and new park acquisitions/development with several grant sources being federally funded. WVPD is exploring several private grant sources and philanthropic/private donor support.

**Executive Session:** The Board discussed the need to enter executive session and deemed it necessary as the discussion topic concerned two real estate matters that have not been discussed in the public domain previously. Susan Gilfillan moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the two real estate matters would clearly place the WVPD at a substantial disadvantage, because the Board of Trustees risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the two real estate matters in public; the motion was seconded by Larry Kupferman. The motion was unanimously approved. Susan Gilfillan then moved that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss two real estate matters under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes; seconded by George Tyler/Reid Willis. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered Executive Session at 5:19pm.

Larry Kupferman moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by George Tyler/Reid Willis. The

motion was unanimously approved. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:00pm.

**Adjourn:** Reid Willis motioned to adjourn, seconded by George Tyler. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

**Next Meeting:** March 18, 2025, at 4:30pm.

**Meeting Minutes prepared by:** Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager, February 27, 2025.

**Minutes Approved by WVPD Board of Trustees:** March 18, 2025