



# Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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## Minutes for March 18, 2025, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:30pm. Meeting was held both in person at the WVPD Offices at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington and virtually via Zoom.

**Present: Via zoom:** 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). **Absent:** Andrew Gregg (Burlington).

**Guests:** Eliana Fox and Jason Charest of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC).

**Public Comment Period:** No members of the public present. Guests participated in agenda item 'Discussion of Rt. 127 Scoping Study'.

**Agenda Changes:** The Discussion of Rt.127 Scoping Study was moved ahead of Staff Updates.

**Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings:** The Board reviewed the February 25, 2025, minutes. Larry Kupferman moved to accept the January minutes, seconded by Reid Willis. The February minutes were unanimously accepted.

**Review and Accept Financial Reports:** Lauren Chicote presented the July 1, 2024 – February 35, 2025, financial report for the current fiscal year, FY2025. The report included a projection for where the budget could be at the fiscal year-end. Lauren reported that the budget continues to remain on track expenditure-wise, except for the known overspending under Park Expenses; but is projecting to not receive the anticipated income as budgeted in its Operating Budget. However, the projected deficit in the Operating Budget will be offset by the Non-operating Income from receiving grant payments/reimbursements. WVPD does not include project specific grants in the Operating Budget as they can vary significantly from year to year. This fiscal year, WVPD received reimbursement from the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grant for improvements from Colchester Pond (\$30,000) – expenses for this project occurred in previous fiscal years. George Tyler moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Larry Kupferman. The financial report was unanimously approved.

**Discussion of Rt.127 Scoping Study:** Jason Charest of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) shared background and information on the Rt. 127 Shared Use Path Scoping Study that is currently underway. The path runs through the Ethan Allen Homestead and the study is looking at alternative options for creating an east-west connection to North Avenue, along with other safety improvements that could be made to the path. The board asked questions about the study process and potential impacts from the studies findings on use of the path.

**Staff Updates:** Nick Warner provided updates on several topics including recent minor flooding of parks due to warm temperatures, snowmelt and rain over the past weekend; updates on parks and seasonal staffing from Tim Larned, Parks Superintendent; several grant applications that have been/are being submitted including to the Burlington Conservation Legacy Fund for

shoreline mitigation at Mayes Land and Derway Cover and Lake Champlain Basin Program Organizational Support for website updates; Member community budget results from Town Meeting Day voting; and language for the Designated Fund through the Vermont Community Foundation in donation thank you communications.

**Executive Session:** The Board discussed the need to enter executive session and deemed it necessary as the discussion topic concerned three 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 three 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 three real estate matters in public; the motion was seconded by Larry Kupferman/Reid Willis. The motion was unanimously approved. Susan Gilfillan then moved that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss three real estate matters under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes; seconded by George Tyler/Larry Kupferman. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered Executive Session at 5:29pm.

Susan Gilfillan moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Larry Kupferman. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board exited Executive Session at 5:49pm.

**Adjourn:** Larry Kupferman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Reid Willis. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

**Next Meeting:** April 15, 2025, at 4:30pm.

**Meeting Minutes prepared by:** Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager, March 19, 2025.

**Minutes Approved by WVPD Board of Trustees:**