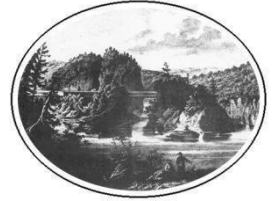




# Winooski Valley Park District

**Ethan Allen Homestead**  
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## Minutes for January 13, 2026, 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:** Catherine Bock (Burlington), Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), 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:** Jeffery Theis (Essex). **Guests:** Carolyn Felix

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

**Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings:** The Board reviewed the minutes from the December 9, 2025, meeting. Reid Willis noted several typos/corrections. Larry Kupferman moved to accept the December minutes as corrected, seconded by George Tyler. The December minutes were unanimously accepted.

**Review and Accept Financial Reports:** Lauren Chicote presented the financial reports for July - December 2025 for FY2026. It is now halfway through the fiscal year. Lauren reported that the budget remains on track for this time in the fiscal year. The Board discussed follow up to a previous discussion on putting some funds into higher yield savings accounts or CDs. A subcommittee of Larry Kupferman and Reid Willis will meet with WVPD staff to discuss options. Lauren Chicote also raised concerns about WVPD bank accounts and FDIC limits – the subcommittee will also discuss this when they meet. Larry Kupferman moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Reid Willis. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

**Staff Updates:** Nick Warner updated the Board on several topics including a proposal to the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (GLFC); submission of application to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the City of Burlington for improvements to the Ethan Allen Homestead museum barn building; conservation with Katherine King from VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) about the Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WSPR) as a potential funding source for shoreline restoration projects; update on the Derway Cove/Mayes Landing shoreline erosion project and upcoming site visit with project engineer; May 1 Trees for Streams tree planting happening at the Ethan Allen Homestead; and the receipt of several large year donations.

The Board express their condolences to the family and friends of Dave Crawford, who passed away at the end of December. Dave served on the WVPD board for several years, served as treasurer, and was deeply committed to regional conservation and public service.

**Executive Session:** The Board discussed the need to enter Executive Session and deemed it necessary as the discussion topic is related to three separate real estate/acquisition matters that have not been previously discussed in the public domain. Bridget O'Brien motioned to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the three 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. The motion was seconded by George Tyler and unanimously accepted. Susan Gilfillan then motioned that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the three real estate matters under the provisions of Title 1, V.S.A. Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. The motion was seconded by George Tyler and unanimously approved. The board entered Executive Session at 4:54pm.

The Board exited Executive Session at 5:20pm with a motion from Susan Gilfillan, seconded by Larry Kupferman. No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Due to technical difficulties with Zoom, all participants left the meeting after exiting the Executive Session and then re-joined the meeting to see if that would help fix the issues. The meeting resumed at 5:22pm and guest Carolyn Felix joined to provide an update on the Strategic Plan.

**Feedback on Strategic Plan with Carolyn Felix:** Carolyn Felix provided an update on the Strategic Planning process and next steps. The Board provided feedback and discussed several sections, including the process around potential future acquisitions. The Board also discussed the goals of the plan and how the plan will be implemented over the next five years.

**Adjourn:** Susan Gilfillan motioned to adjourn, seconded by George Tyler. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

**Next Meeting:** February 10, 2025, at 4:30pm.

**Meeting Minutes prepared by:** Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager, January 16, 2026.

**Minutes Approved by WVPD Board of Trustees:** February 10, 2026