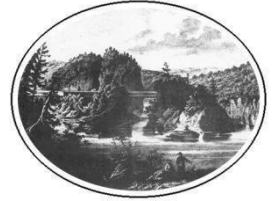




Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead
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DRAFT

Minutes for April 20, 2026, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:33pm. 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), George Tyler (Essex Junction), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Larry Kupferman (South Burlington), Reid Willis (Williston), Lauren Chicote (Operations Manager). **In Person at WVPD Office:** Nick Warner (Executive Director). **Absent:** Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Jeffery Theis (Essex), Bridget O'Brien (Winooski). **Guest:** Rob Couture, Colchester Pond neighbor.

Public Comment Period: Rob Couture, a resident of Colchester Pond Road, asked about the potential donation of land to WVPD from the Wolcott family. This topic was not on the meeting agenda, but WVPD staff will follow up with Mr. Couture on the donation/parcel and will notify him when it will be on the Board's agenda for discussion.

Change to Agenda: No changes to the agenda were made.

Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings: Review and approval of the March 10, 2026, minutes was tabled to the May meeting.

Review and Accept Financial Reports: Lauren Chicote presented the financial reports for July 1, 2025 – March 30, 2026, for FY2026. The financial reports included year-end projections which are currently showing WVPD will end the fiscal year at either a slight surplus or breakeven. WVPD is expected to receive less income than budgeted, but most expense lines are expected to be under budget. Reid Willis moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Catherine Bock. The financial reports were unanimously accepted.

Approve Strategic Plan & Recommendations: Larry Kupferman moved to approve the Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2031 and accompanying recommendations, seconded by George Tyler. The motion was unanimously approved. Larry Kupferman asked about the plan/timeline for the recommendation regarding park user surveys, which will go out to parks later this spring.

Staff Updates: Sonja Schuyler shared that she will be stepping down as Board Chair next month at the Annual Meeting but will remain on the Board. Catherine Bock shared that she will be moving to Oregon in the fall but plans to remain on the Board until then. Nick Warner updated the Board on several topics including the erosion control project at Mayes Landing and Derway Cove and CDS request for the project; Essex Canoe access and Jacob's parcel updates; conservation with M&T Bank about CD's and FDIC insurance; Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) grant submission for acquisition support; and Great Lakes Fisheries Commission funding support. Lauren Chicote shared information on upcoming events WVPD will be participating in/hosting.

Executive Session: The Board discussed the need to enter Executive Session and deemed it necessary as the discussion topic is related to two separate real estate/acquisition matters that

have not been previously discussed in the public domain. George Tyler motioned to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the two 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 Reid Willis and unanimously accepted. George Tyler then motioned that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the two 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 Reid Willis and unanimously approved. The board entered Executive Session at 5:02pm.

The Board exited Executive Session at 5:50pm with a motion from Larry Kupferman, seconded by George Tyler. No action was needed.

Adjourn: Reid Willis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Catherine Bock. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2025, at 4:30pm – Annual Meeting at the Ethan Allen Homestead

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager, April 21, 2026.

Minutes Approved by WVPD Board of Trustees: