



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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Minutes for June 9, 2026, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:32pm. Meeting was held both in person 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).

Absent: Jeffery Theis (Essex), Nick Warner (Executive Director).

Guest (via zoom): Michael Miller

Public Comment Period: No members of the public participated during the public comment period. Michael Miller did not participate in any portion of the meeting.

Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings: The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 12, 2026, Annual Meeting. Sonja Schuyler motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Reid Willis. Susan Gilfillan noted under 'Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meetings' two board members – Larry Kupferman and Reid Willis – were named as making the motion to accept the minutes when only one person should be named. The May minutes were corrected to name Larry Kupferman as motioning to accept the minutes from the previous meetings. Reid Willis moved to accept the minutes with amendments; seconded by George Tyler. Bridget O'Brien abstained as they were not present at the May meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Review and Accept Financial Reports: Lauren Chicote presented the financial reports for July 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026, for FY2026. The financial reports included year-end projections which continue to show WVPD will end the fiscal year with a surplus. Income is still expected to be less than budgeted for, along with expenses being less than expected resulting in the surplus. Lauren also reported that a new zero-turn mower was purchased. Sonja Schuyler asked questions about transferring money to the Money Market and CDs. Reid Willis moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by George Tyler. The financial reports were unanimously accepted.

Staff Updates: Lauren Chicote gave brief updates on the hiring of new parks maintenance staff. Sonja Schuyler asked about WVPD doing contracted work in Essex with the canoe access project.

Executive Session: The Board discussed the need to enter Executive Session and deemed it necessary as the discussion topics are a continuation of previous discussions relating to a real estate matter that has not been previously discussed in the public domain and personnel matters.

Larry Kupferman moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the real estate matter 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. Sonja Schuyler then moved that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the real estate matter 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 4:46pm pm. Michael Miller was removed from the zoom meeting – they did not participate in any discussion during the meeting or identify their reason for joining the meeting.

The Board exited Executive Session at 5:01pm with a motion from George Tyler, seconded by Reid Willis.

Sonja Schuyler moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding personnel matters would clearly place WVPD and/or other parties involved at a substantial disadvantage, because the Board of Trustees risks disclosing confidential information regarding an employee's status with WVPD; seconded by George Tyler. The motion was unanimously approved. Sonja Schuyler then moved to enter that the Board entered Executive Session to discuss (personnel contract, etc.) under the provisions of Title 1, V.S.A. Section 313(a)(2) of the Vermont Statutes; seconded by Reid Willis. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered Executive Session at 5:03pm.

Lauren Chicote left the meeting at 5:08pm after transferring zoom hosting capabilities to Susan Gilfillan to continue the meeting.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:05pm with a motion from George Tyler, seconded by Catherine Bock.

Adjourn: George Tyler motioned to adjourn, seconded by Reid Willis. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Next Meeting: July 14, 2025, at 4:30pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager, June 12, 2026.

Minutes Approved by WVPD Board of Trustees: July 21, 2026