



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

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Minutes for August 11, 2026, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:30pm. Meeting was held both in person 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). **Guest (via zoom):** Samantha Dunn. **Absent:** Catherine Bock (Burlington).

Public Comment Period: No members of the public participated during the public comment period. Guests in attendance participated in Executive Session discussion.

Changes to the Agenda: WVPD staff requested an item be added to the agenda: Approve Signing Authority for Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Funding. Larry Kupferman moved for the Board to add agenda item: Approve Signing Authority for NRCS Funding. George Tyler seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

Approve Signing Authority for Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Funding: For WVPD to receive funds from the NRCS to support conservation projects, the WVPD Board needs to approve signing authority for Parks Superintendent, Tim Larned, and Executive Director, Nick Warner, per NRCS funding requirements. George Tyler motioned to approve signing authorization for WVPD to receive NRCS funding for Parks Superintendent, Tim Larned, and Executive Director, Nick Warner, for a one-year period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Larry Kupferman seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

Review and Accept Minutes from previous meetings: The Board reviewed the minutes from the July 21, 2026, meeting. Reid Willis noted a typo under, the spelling of Sonja Schuyler's name, under Executive Session. Reid Willis motioned to accept the July 21, 2026, minutes with corrections, seconded by George Tyler. The July 21, 2026, minutes were unanimously accepted.

Review and Accept Financial Reports: Lauren Chicote presented the financial reports for July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027, for new fiscal year FY2027. With the start of the new fiscal year, expenses are higher than income – which is typical for this time in the fiscal year. Lauren Chicote also shared the final financial report the most recently ended Fiscal Year 2026 and show WVPD ended the fiscal year with a surplus, in large part thanks to operational support funding received from the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. A budget report of the GLFC funds will be shared at the next board meeting. Larry Kupferman moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by George Tyler. The financial reports were unanimously accepted.

Staff Updates: Nick Warner shared an updated Staff Report with a new format that follows WVPD's newly adopted Strategic Plan and highlights progress updates for each organization goal within the Strategic Plan. Updated included member communities' invoices for FY27 being sent, Williston contract work, new signage being completed, and NRCS funding grant.

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 three real estate matters that have not been previously discussed in the public domain.

Sonja Schuyler moved 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 Larry Kupferman and unanimously accepted. Larry Kupferman then moved 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 Sonja Schuyler and unanimously approved. The board entered Executive Session at 5:00pm. Guest, Samantha Dunn, was included in the Executive Session discussions.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:02pm with a motion from George Tyler, seconded by Larry Kupferman.

A special meeting for the WVPD Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday August 25, 2026, at 5:00pm.

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

Next Regular Meeting: September 8, 2026, at 4:30pm

A special meeting for the WVPD Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday August 25, 2026, at 5:00pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Lauren Chicote, Operations Manager, August 24, 2026.

Minutes Approved by WVPD Board of Trustees: September 17, 2026