



# Winooski Valley Park District

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## **Minutes February 20, 2018 Board of Trustees Winooski Valley Park District**

The meeting began 4:32 PM February 21, 2018.

**Present:** Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), Erin Dupuis (Winooski), David Crawford (South Burlington), Tom Malinowski (Essex), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Nick Warner (Executive Director), Rita Dessau (Williston), Lauren Chicote (Programs Director) Aaron Keech (Burlington).

**Minutes:** Minutes of January 16, 2018 meeting were reviewed, and accepted unanimously.

**Public Comment Period:** No members of general public were present.

**Agenda changes:** Sonja requested that prior to executive session, we add a discussion of publication of WVPD accomplishments. Board members welcomed the additional topic.

**Financial Reports:** EAHM Profit and Loss Jan 2018, and Balance Sheet January 31, 2018 were reviewed. Successful fundraising of small donations continues, even during the winter season. Total assets January were \$46,757.39. Sunday lecture series has been very popular.

Please see WVPD budget summary of Feb 19, 2018, generated by Mary Stuessy. Net operating income is \$90,026. Payments of member towns are starting to be deposited. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously, to accept the financial reports.

**Fay Farm Trail, Jericho:** Sonja stated that the Jericho trails committee has been offered a parcel of land along the river. WVPD has been asked to review how WVPD might be able to assist in creating a park. Nick presented a map of the area. Tim Larned of WVPD might be able to assist Jericho in obtaining appropriate grants for developing the property. The town might also consider using the "fee for service" aspect of WVPD. Jericho does not have money apportioned in its budget this year for the project. Jericho Trails Committee will be planning the conservation project; WVPD will stand by, if our intervention is requested.

**Increasing Public Awareness of WVPD's Work:** Sonja requested discussion of ways to implement greater public awareness. Nick presented a draft for our web page, especially addressing the town of Williston's March Australian Ballot about remaining/withdrawing as a town member of WVPD. Susan recommended a quarterly newsletter to local town papers. Erin and Susan supported using a Champlain College intern to improve the web page. Susan suggested posting some interesting nature information. She also suggested phrases such as "What is WVPD?" and "What does WVPD offer?" Tom asked about YouTube videos. Lauren said there are some videos on our Facebook page. Sonja asked if a photo in a park could be posted on Google Earth. Aaron asked about the status of the public opinion survey. Nick stated that it remains open through this spring, in order to gather more information. Tom asked

about table events; Lauren said that one possibility is to have the public complete an activity in a park, and then get a sticker reward.

Specifically regarding Williston's public referendum, Dave asked if we can do more to support the Williston Conservation Committee. Nick stated that Eric Howe of the committee will be writing a letter to the Williston Observer, which he believes will be a very effective means of increasing public awareness. The committee will meet Feb 21 to plan their approach to the referendum. Dave asked if speaking at the Town Meeting would be a possibility. Rita stated that the moderator sometimes allows this; sometimes not. Dave stated that this is a time when regional efforts are being recognized as an efficient use of funds, and therefore, WVPD should be in a good position as a regional organization.

**Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition issues:** It was moved to enter executive session at 5:45 PM, in anticipation of need to discuss a real estate matter. This was seconded and passed unanimously. At 6:07 PM, the board completed the executive session.

**Adjournment:** It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 6:08 PM.

**Next Meeting:** March 20, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully prepared by,

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Rita Dessau, Secretary