



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead
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Minutes January 16, 2018 Board of Trustees Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began 4:35 PM January 16, 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 Dec 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed, and accepted unanimously.

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

Agenda changes: None were requested.

Financial Reports:

EAHM Profit and Loss Jan-Dec 2017, and Balance Sheet Dec 31, 2017 were reviewed. Noted was the total unrestricted donation income of \$16,450.69, which is considerably higher than previous years, and represents successful fundraising of small donations. Total assets Dec were \$45,651.88.

Please see WVPD budget report of Jan 10, 2018. Net operating income was \$99,102.62 for July through Dec 2017. Grant reimbursement of \$6313.10 for work at Wolcott Family Natural Area is pending, as well as reimbursement of \$1300 for Marina appraisal.

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously, to accept the financial reports.

Update on Legislative Request: As discussed with Tim Ashe, Nick will go to state legislature with a request for capital expenses for renovation of Ethan Allen Homestead and grounds, as well as Colchester Pond barn and farmhouse. This should take place in the coming month, as scheduled by Senator Peg Flory.

Update on Survey and Report from Katherine Decarreau: Please see letter dated December 31, 2017, from Katherine Decarreau to Nick Warner, about her work on the project to identify ways to proceed with WVPD's mission in the future. The Castleton survey has, thus far, yielded positive feedback, but from a limited number of respondents. The work of WVPD is not widely known, and we need to inform our member towns more fully, both about land conservation, and about education/promotion of ecological values.

Deac (Katherine Decarreau) pointed out that many changes that challenge our mission are occurring, such as increased scrutiny of tax budgets, changes in leadership personnel at several towns, and increased pressure to develop land for housing and business. She has now retired from her practice, but there are survey results that could be made available to the board soon.

Sonja recommended that a summary of the survey, and a thank-you to survey respondents, be published on our website. Susan recommended that an article detailing our activities be published at least quarterly in the towns' local papers. Tom asked that we make more people aware of our community education activities. As a long-term project, we could explore the possibility of an endowment fund to provide a permanent environmental educator position, beyond the current role that AmeriCorps personnel currently fulfill.

Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate acquisition issues: It was moved to enter executive session at 5:15 PM, in anticipation of need to discuss real estate acquisition and a personnel matter. This was seconded and passed unanimously. At 6:10 PM, the board completed the executive session.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

Adjournment: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 6:12 PM.

Respectfully prepared by,

Rita Dessau
Secretary