



# Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead  
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## Minutes for October 15, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:35 PM.

**Present:** David Crawford (South Burlington), Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), John Nittler (Williston), Aaron Keech (Burlington), Nick Warner (WVPD Executive Director), Lauren Chicote (Programs Director), Rachel Proctor (Environmental Educator and Resource Specialist).

**Absent:** Erin Dupuis (Winooski), Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), “To be Named” Essex Trustee.

**September Meeting Minutes at 4:40 PM:** Minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board without change.

**Public Comment Period at 4:45 PM:** There was no Public present.

**Agenda Changes at 4:45 PM:** No changes were made in the agenda.

**Financial Reports for EAHM and WVPD at 4:45 PM:** The financial report from the WVPD was presented and discussed. Similar to the September 18, 2019 meeting report, the current report indicated a negative balance to date (\$99,430.11) given the fact that member Towns have yet to make their contributions. This is expected to change over the next two months as Town contributions are received. The FY2021 budget was subsequently reviewed as it was revised downward from the amount presented in the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at the request of the Trustees to limit the increase in requests to member Towns. It now represents a 2.6% increase over the FY2020 budget. The budget was approved by the Trustees.

The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum financial statements—the profit and loss statement for January-September 2019 and the balance sheet as of September 30, 2019 were reviewed and approved.

**Discussions/updates on Town reports and FY21 funding requests at 5:00 PM:** WVPD Executive Director reported that member Town packages have been distributed detailing WVPD’s budget for FY2021 and the corresponding contribution requests to all towns except for Jericho. Jericho has a special format and their package will go out over the next few days. Initial meetings with Town Managers are taking place and meetings with the individual Select Boards/City Councils are being scheduled. All meetings will be completed by the end of November. Winooski’s lack of payment of their total amount was discussed in detail and the Trustees requested that the WVPD Executive Director press them to meet the payments as programmed or at the very least give WVPD priority for any excess budgetary funds they may

have available at the end of the year.

The Trustees also requested an analysis of camp expenses versus revenues and the WVPD staff reported that they planned on doing during this year's off-season. The Trustees noted the importance and intrinsic value of the camps and overall environmental education program as core to the services that WVPD offers to member Towns.

**Update on Derway Park development, the Jacobs Parcel and others at 5:15 PM:** Bid packages for the demolition work as Derway Park have been completed, as has the applications and paperwork for FEMA support. Lake Champlain Land Trust, partner on the park development, also received \$1,500 from Outdoor Gear Exchange to support this effort. The demolition work is scheduled to take place this fall and the renaturalization work in the spring of 2020. The Trustees commended the WVPD staff for securing the financial support to complete the important development of the Derway Park.

Advances on the Jacob's Parcel in Williston were reported and are moving forward. The walk through of the land took place in September and was well attended by approximately 20 concerned parties, including members of Williston's Conservation Committee and local residents, among others. It was an important step in garnering support for the project and responding to local residents' concerns. Next steps include further discussions with the church to address parking either through an easement, license or other mechanism.

Advances on the Wolcott Family Natural Area continue. Problems with the width of the access occurred and the entrance needs further work prior to opening of the Area. It is expected to open in early 2020.

The specific language on the easement for the Stitzel property as discussed in the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting is being developed and should be available for Trustee review and approval in a future meeting.

The growing interest in and success of the EAHM's indigenous people's activities was noted. A meeting between WVPD Trustees and EAHM is to be arranged in the near future to discuss the WVPD and EAHM relationship and further program development.

**Executive Session for Real Estate at 5:35.**

**Other Business at 5:50:** Trustee Aaron Keech presented the need for improved traffic control given the increased activities at the EAHM and in general and requested that the WVPD Executive Director research different options to address this ongoing and growing problem.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

**Next Meeting:** The date for the next meeting will be November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

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John Nittler: WVPD Trustee-Williston