



# Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

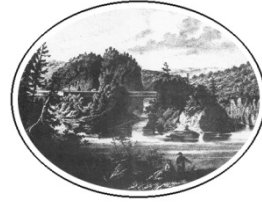
Burlington, Vermont 05408

Tel: (802) 863-5744

info@wvdp.org

www.WVPD.org

Fax: (802) 865-0647



## Minutes for June 16, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:46PM. Meeting was held via conference video call (Zoom) due to the current situation regarding the coronavirus, COVID-19. WVPD offices are closed until further notice.

**Present via conference call:** Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), John Nittler (Williston), Susan Gilfillan (Colchester), David Crawford (South Burlington), Nick Warner (WVPD Executive Director), Lauren Chicote (WVPD Programs Director)

**Absent:** Aaron Keech (Burlington), Erin Dupuis (Winooski), “To be Named” Essex Trustee.

**Public Comment Period:** No public was present at the time.

**Agenda Changes:** No changes were made to the agenda.

**Review and Approve minutes from May 19, 2020 board meeting:** Minutes from the May meeting were approved and accepted unanimously with no changes.

**Financial Reports for WVPD:** Financial reports were reviewed by the board. Nick and Lauren gave updates on financial situation including expected year projections; WVPD’s fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. While WVPD expects to not have a surplus at the end of the fiscal year (FY20), due to decreased revenue from education and camp programs, the overall budget is on track as expected for this time of year. All expected member town payments have been received for FY20. Dave Crawford asked if WVPD would be contracting with South Burlington this season on park maintenance projects for the City. Nick responded that due to factors related to COVID-19 it is unlikely; however, things could change later in the summer and WVPD would assess if it is possible to provide the contracting support if the need arises. Dave also asked if there were any updates or additional information from member towns about anticipated future funding due to COVID-19; Nick responded he has had initial conversations with town officials, and the consensus is there is a lot of unknowns around future budgets/funding with each town being impacted differently. Town budget announcements are due out in the coming week, and Nick will be following up with each town. Dave Crawford moved to accepted the financial report, John Nittler seconded; the financial reports were unanimously approved.

**General Operations and Program Updates:** Nick gave updates on the following projects:

- Derway Cove: WVPD staff along with staff from Lake Champlain Land Trust, project partner, planted 200+ native trees and shrubs on the property earlier this month. A slide show of pictures was shared with before, during, and after of the site.
- Wolcott Family Natural Area: The needed improvements to the driveway entrance have been

made, only waiting on getting a section of the entrance paved before the park can be officially opened. Announcement of opening will happen later this summer.

- Parks Maintenance: Remy Crettol & Tim Larned continue to maintain trails and parks, and are keeping up with needed maintenance despite not having the seasonal crew on board this year. A lift gate for the Park District's new truck has been purchased with grant assistance from Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). The lift will make it easier and safer to load mowing equipment and tools into the back of the truck.
- WISPr Program Grant Funds: WVPD may be able to receive funding through the Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr) through the Department of Environmental Conservation to assist with land acquisition for properties that would improve water quality. Nick will be meeting with Karen Bates to discuss the potential for the Park District to be one of the first recipients of these funds.
- Consultant, Brian Pine: Nick gave an update on progress being made on the financial analysis of the barn building at the Ethan Allen Homestead. VHCB will be funding a portion of Brian's time.
- Burlington Forest Preschool: The preschool started back up at the beginning of June and so far, things are going very well. They have implemented new protocols in accordance with requirements for COVID-19 practices. They have full enrollment with requests for a kindergarten program for the fall; this idea is being explored by the preschool, WVPD and EAHM.
- Ethan Allen Homestead Museum: Is expected to open with modifications to the public on July 1. Elevated board walks are being installed around the Allen House to allow tours with visitors staying outside, looking into the house. Tours will be limited and only offered four days a week.

**Executive Session:** The board moved to enter into executive session at 5:29PM to discuss personnel matters. The board exited executive session at 5:51PM. No motions were made.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:52PM.

**Next Meeting:** The date for the next meeting will be July 21, 2020 at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

---

Lauren Chicote, Programs Director