

**Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program**

**Viability Advisory Board
Virtual Meeting by Zoom**

**DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, June 8th, 2023**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: Nina Gage (facilitator and chair, sitting in for Alyson Eastman), Colleen Goodridge, Sarah Isham, Isaac Bissell (sitting in for Gus Seelig), Gus Seelig, Paul Frederick (sitting in for Danielle Fitzko), Ali Kosiba (sitting in for Dan Lerner), Jenna Koloski, Joan Goldstein, Ashlyn Bristle, Norah Lake

VHCB staff present: Liz Gleason, Betsy McGavisk, Calley Hastings, Jillian Conner, Trey Martin, Gus Seelig, Isaac Bissell

At 1:03pm, Nina Gage opened the meeting. Brief introductions were made.

At 1:11pm, Sarah Isham moved to approve minutes from 9/21/2022, Joan Goldstein seconded. Ali Kosiba, Paul Frederick and Colleen Goodridge abstained due to absence from September 21st meeting. All were in favor.

Liz Gleason gave a programmatic update, suggesting that she meet with each board member over the course of 6 months to hear everyone's thoughts on the future of this program. She also let the committee members know about two upcoming VHCB events.

Liz then introduced the grant review process. This review committee's role is to provide funding recommendations to the VHCB board chair, David Marvin. The VHCB board chair must review and finalize funding recommendations.

Nina Gage called for a motion to approve the agenda. Joan Goldstein moved to approve the agenda, Ashlyn Bristle seconded. All in favor.

Nina Gage called for public comment at 1:24pm. No public comment was made.

At 1:24pm, Joan Goldstein made a motion to enter executive session to review applications. Jenna Koloski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

At 3:36pm, Nina Gage ended executive session.

At 3:36pm, Isaac Bissell motioned to approve the slate, Sarah Isham seconded. All were in favor. The slate in the table below was approved, with a funding total of \$142,559.59 awarded to 16 farm and forest businesses.

Hunger Moon Farm	Laying Flock Winter Housing	\$ 10,000.00
Mama's Farm	Farm Infrastructure - Slaughterhouse & Hoop Barn	\$ 10,000.00
Cobble Creek Nursery LLC	Brillion Sure Stand Seeder	\$ 10,000.00
Hillside Farm & Pearce's Pastured Poultry	Chicken Pasturing, Turkey Brooding Upgrade & Farm Store Setup	\$ 6,787.00
The Goat Project	Milking System Upgrade and Cheese Education	\$ 9,301.00
Dorset Peak Jerseys	Dairy to Sheep Infrastructure Retrofit	\$ 10,000.00
Levy Lamb LLC	Sheep Handling System	\$ 10,000.00
Maple Cedar View Farm	Dairy Parlor & Loose Storage	\$ 10,000.00
Leaping Bear Farm	Poultry Processing Equipment	\$ 10,000.00
Gevry Firewood LLC	Firewood Processor Electronification	\$ 10,000.00
Keck Wine Enterprises, LLC / Stella 14 Wines	Wine Processing Infrastructure	\$ 9,621.59
Endless Tracks, LLC	Log Grapple	\$ 5,834.00

VT Vineyards	Vineyard Efficiency Equipment	\$ 8,074.00
Trout Lily Forestry Services LLC	Maple Tubing Install	\$ 6,794.00
Fort Waite Farm	Feed Bunk Efficiency	\$ 8,074.00
Dhaurali Goats	Chicken Slaughter Facility Repair	\$ 8,074.00

At 3:40pm Nina moves to adjourn, Colleen Goodridge seconds. All in favor.

Notes submitted by Betsy McGavisk and Jillian Conner.