

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

**Viability Advisory Board
Virtual Meeting by Zoom**

**DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, June 4th, 2024**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: Whitney Hull (sitting in for Dan Lerner), Sarah Isham, Fred Kenney, Valerie Woodhouse, Will Dunkley, Jenna Koloski, Joan Goldstein

VHCB staff present: Liz Gleason, Betsy McGavisk, Calley Hastings, Jillian Conner, Mariah Noth

At 1:03pm, Liz Gleason opened the meeting. Introductions were made. Jenna Koloski volunteered to sit in for board chair role.

At 1:15pm, Sarah Isham made a motion to approve minutes from the March 11th, 2024 meeting, Jenna seconds. All in favor with Valerie and Will abstaining due to not being at previous meeting.

At 1:16 public comments were solicited. None were made.

Betsy 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.

At 1:21pm Fred Kenney motioned to enter executive session, Jenna seconded. All in favor.

At 3:40 Jenna moves to exit executive session, Valerie seconds all in favor.

At 3:41pm, Jenna motioned to approve the slate, Whitney seconded. All were in favor. The slate in the table below was approved, with a funding total of \$136,119.00 awarded to 18 farm and forest businesses. All in favor.

Ascutney Harvest	Farmstand	\$8,000
Blackbird Organics	Produce Wash & Pack Facility	\$7,940
Blue House Mushroom	Mushroom Grow Room	\$7,762

Grateful Morning Dairy	Creamery Installation	\$8,000
Happy Bird Poultry	Summer Broiler Barn	\$8,000
Hauskaa	Packaging Redesign & Shelving	\$6,500
La Montañuela	Phase One Vineyard Installation	\$8,000
Mayo's Maple Farm	Automatic Pan Washer	\$8,000
Milkweed Farm	Farm Store Infrastructure	\$7,986
Papa John's Sugar Shack	Okemo Forest Expansion	\$8,000
Patrick and Melanie Harrison	Milking Parlor Upgrade	\$8,000
Lazy Dog Farm	Animal Housing Lean-to	\$8,000
The Sole Connection Farm	In-house Mushroom Fruiting Block Production	\$8,000
Waterman Orchards	Outfitting a New Retail and Processing Hub	\$8,000
Wild Earth Farm	Sheep Handling System	\$8,000

Sunday Bell Farm	New Dairy Barn and Milking Parlor	\$6,758
Stitchdown Farm	Flower Sprinkle Dehydrator	\$6,000
New Tradition Farm	Soil Improvement Equipment	\$5,173

At 3:42pm Jenna moved to adjourn, Valerie seconded. All in favor.

Notes submitted by Betsy McGavisk and Jillian Conner.