

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

**Viability Advisory Board
Virtual Meeting by Zoom**

**DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, June 27th, 2025**

Viability Advisory Board Members present: Andy Wood (designee for VEDA), Sarah Isham (VEDA), Alyson Eastman (VAAF), Oliver Pierson (designee for Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation), and Rebecca Madden (designee for Roy Beckford, UVM)

Viability External Grant Review Committee: Amy Mynter (VHCB Board Member & Farmer), Caylen Padua (Cobble Creek Nursery & former Viability Program Participant), David Keck (Stella14 Wines & former Viability Program Participant), Maggie Ericksen (VAAF),

VHCB staff present: Liz Gleason, Betsy McGavisk, Jillian Conner, Mariah Noth (designee for Gus Seelig, VHCB ED)

VHCB Board Chair: David Marvin

At 11:05am, Alyson Eastman opened the meeting. Introductions were made.

At 11:08am, Sarah Isham made a motion to approve minutes from the June 4th, 2025, meeting, Mariah seconds. All in favor with Amy Mynter abstaining due to being absent from the meeting. Motion carries.

Liz then introduced the Implementation Grant and 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. Applications have been reviewed by 2 VHCB staff members and 2 members of this committee.

At 11:19am public comments were solicited. None were made.

At 11:20am Maggie motioned to enter executive session, Sarah seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

At 2:30pm Maggie moves to exit executive session, Sarah seconds. All in favor.

At 2:33pm, Amy motioned to approve the slate, Andy seconded. All were in favor. The slate in the table below was approved, with a funding total of \$198,109.00 awarded to 27 farm and forest businesses. The committee voted to not fund 10 farm and forest businesses. Andy Wood recused himself from Hall & Breen and Solinsky Farm vote. Amy Mynter recused herself from Fieldstone Farm vote. Caylen Padua recused himself from Bear Island LLC and June Farm vote. Oliver Pierson recused him from the Langlais Family Tree Farm. Sarah Isham recused herself from the Houde Farm vote. All in favor.

Best Wood Custom Sawing LLC	Millwork Equipment Relocation	\$8,000.00
Birdsong Farm	Frost-free Waterline and Access Road Improvement	\$8,000.00
Chamberlin's Farm	Picking Equipment	\$6,433.00
Fable Farm Fermentory	Patio Canopy & Wood Fired Oven	\$8,000.00
Field Stone Farm	Refrigerated Merchandiser and Overhead Irrigation	\$5,540.00
Firefly Farm at Burke Hollow	Sheep Housing	\$7,858.00
Flack Family Farm	On Farm Processing Facility - Phase 1	\$8,000.00
FUNJ Shrooming Company LLC	Mushroom Substrate Equipment	\$8,000.00
Green & Gold CSA	Vegetable Production Equipment	\$5,528.00
Hall & Breen Farm LLC	Round Bale Bedding Machine	\$8,000.00
June Farm	Spader	\$8,000.00
Langlais Family Tree Farm	String Baler	\$8,000.00
Lincoln Peak Vineyard	Winery Processing Equipment	\$5,675.00
Mcdonald Farmstand LLC	Farmstand Refrigeration	\$8,000.00
Salvation Farms	Food Processor & Vacuum Sealer	\$8,000.00
Sebastien Latraverse	Heifer Barn Conversion Project	\$8,000.00
Solinsky Farm	Calf Housing	\$5,800.00
Sustainable Solar Grazing	Sheep Handling System	\$8,000.00
Sweet Cow Yogurt	Solar Energy Installation	\$8,000.00
The Choiniere Family Farm, LLC	Bareroot Conservation and Agroforestry Nursery Startup	\$8,000.00
Thornhill Farm, LLC	Industrial Pizza/Bread Oven	\$5,000.00

Understory Farm	Pack Shed	\$5,973.00
Union Brook Farm LLC	Complete Farmstand	\$8,000.00
Vermont Heavy Timber, LLC	Sawmill Yard Improvement	\$8,000.00
von Trapp Farmstead	Walk-In Cooler Expansion	\$8,000.00
Westminster Wagyu Farms	Portable Grain Bin for Bulk Grain	\$6,302.00
Yeoman Joinery	Job Trailer & Equipment Storage	\$8,000.00

At 2:35pm Andy moved to adjourn, Maggie seconded. All in favor.

Notes submitted by Betsy McGavisk and Jillian Conner.