

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**January 21, 2025**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Blackmer, Robert; Duvall, Nancy (6:40 p.m.); Morse, David; Quinn, Eric; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Susi, Michael; Woodland, Julie  
**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:**  
**GUESTS:** Chris and Heather Casadei

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackmer at 6:31 p.m.

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of November 18, 2024**

**MOTION:** (Quinn/Morse) To approve the minutes of November 18, 2024.  
Unanimous

**4. Academy Building Restoration Project Closeout**

Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Susi and Head of School Sandford provided the final figures for the Academy Building Restoration Project. Issues included correcting an overcharge, charges from Venture, and attaching a value to the cost/impact of project delays. All agreed the final numbers seemed fair.

**5. Forestry Proposal**

Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Susi introduced Chris Casadei, a certified CT forester who shared a detailed map of the 119 acres of Academy-owned property he recently walked/surveyed. Questions were asked and answered as he described the health and condition of various sections of the forest, the likely quality of specific types of trees, and his proposal for “conservative thinning” as a way to maintain forest health. Tree harvesting, lumber pricing, and where the trees might be sold was also discussed. As a general rule, the land should be evaluated, and this type of work should be considered every fifteen years. Trails will be cleared for safety, and wood will be stacked for transport. He anticipates harvesting a mix of black oak, ash, and red oak, which would likely result in \$12-15k to The Academy. He described what the area might look like immediately after the harvest and then after several years. Mr. Casadei provided references and was asked to check behind Bentley Field for another opportunity.

Mr. and Ms. Casadei exited the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

**MOTION:** (Quinn/Morse) To accept Mr. Casadei’s proposal as discussed.  
Unanimous

**6. Spring Project Update/Plan**

Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Susi provided additional information about necessary spring projects.

- Leaking roofs in the Loos Center need to be addressed. Materials and labor are in place. Much of the funding is coming from the endowment.
- Air Conditioning in the Loos Center is on hold. Replacement is costly, and one of the two units is still hanging on. Right now, there is neither heat nor AC in the lobby space.
- Repairs/improvements to the roof, windows, paint, doors, landscaping, and plumbing at the Cutler House will continue into the spring.
- After consulting with the town and local Board of Health, a recent plumbing issue on South Campus was discovered and corrected over the weekend.
- Efforts are still underway to secure more funding for the parking lot project.

## 7. Other

- Committee Chair Blackmer asked the administration to explore the cost of expanding the current sprinkler systems on South Campus.
- Head of School Sanford will notify the Executive Committee of B&G's decision regarding the forestry proposal.

## 8. Adjournment

**MOTION:** (Morse/Quinn) To adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.  
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Woodland*

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Board Clerk

*The Woodstock Academy prepares all students by providing diverse opportunities through a rigorous curriculum and a variety of programs in order to cultivate the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and global citizens.*