



Source: Jericho Hills Photography

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## IS TRORC BECOMING MORE VALUABLE TO MEMBER TOWNS?

The TRORC Board hopes so. On October 25th, the TRORC Board voted to set in motion changes to the TRORC Bylaws which will enable TRORC to assist interested towns in a whole new way.

As the costs and quality of municipal services continue to be strained, regional planning commissions approached the Legislature in 2015 to obtain enabling language to coordinate shared services and shared purchases among willing communities. The Legislature heard from towns, RPCs, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, state agencies and the Vermont State Treasurer and participants all concluded that this could be a valuable role for Vermont's RPCs.

H. 249 was passed in 2016 and articulates the steps needed to be able to provide this service to municipalities. Following those steps, please stay tuned for a couple of public hearings in the region to review the bylaw language needed to satisfy the law. Once comments and edits are made to the draft bylaw language, TRORC can adopt them at a regular TRORC Board meeting.

**To view this legislation, go to: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/ACTS/ACT089/ACT089%20As%20Enacted.pdf>. If you have any questions about H. 249, or the process, please contact Peter Gregory at [pgregory@trorc.org](mailto:pgregory@trorc.org).**

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## TRORC LOOKING FOR BROWNFIELD SITES

TRORC's Brownfield Program is currently accepting sites and can provide technical assistance for the completion of Environmental Site Assessments, which include Phase I Assessments, Phase II Assessments, and Corrective Action Plans. All inquiries are confidential, if you or anyone you know is thinking about purchasing a potential brownfields site, let us know!

**For more information about this program, please contact Michael Storage at [mstorage@trorc.org](mailto:mstorage@trorc.org).**



## ESSENTIALS OF LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION TRAINING

TRORC will conduct an *Essentials of Land Use Planning and Regulation* training at the Pomfret Town Office (5218 Pomfret Road) on November 30, 2017 from 6 – 8 p.m. This training provides an introduction for members of local planning commissions, zoning and development review boards, Selectboard's and other town officials. The four main areas that will be discussed in this training are:

1. Planning for a Vibrant Sustainable Community
2. Roles and Responsibilities of Various Municipal Boards
3. Ways to Implement the Town Plan
4. Overview of Meetings, Hearings, and Due Process.

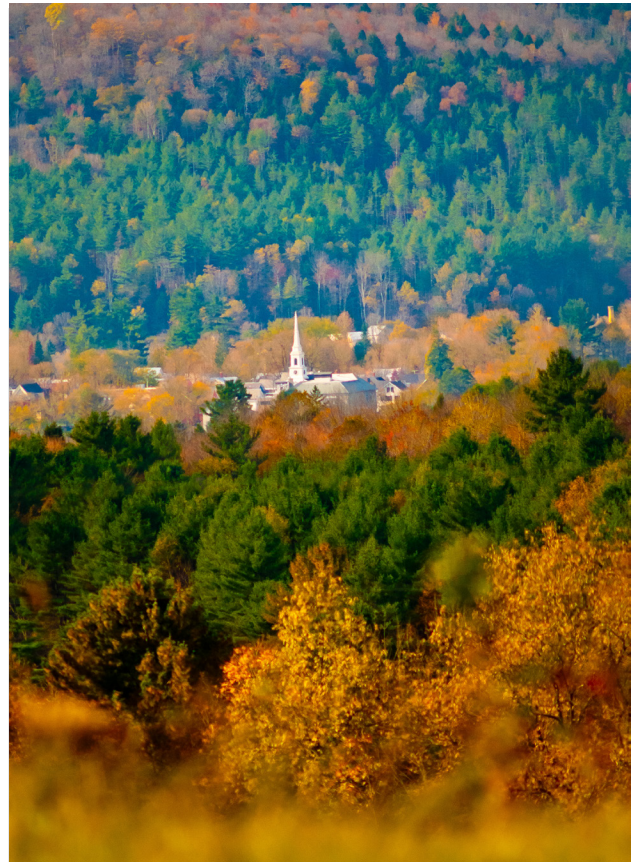
**If you would like more information about this training, or to host one in your own community, please contact Kevin Geiger at [kgeiger@trorc.org](mailto:kgeiger@trorc.org).**

## NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR COURSE BEING HELD IN TRO REGION

The first delivery of the Local Emergency Management Director (EMD) course will be on November 16, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hartford Fire Department. This will be the first of four installments for the course, with the rest being held in December, January, and February. EMDs must complete all four installments to complete the course. An all-day installment will be held on February 10, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Royalton Academy Building.

The main purpose of this course is to prepare the local emergency management director to perform his/her duties through all phases of a local emergency: preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation. Some of the topics that will be discussed during the course include, but are not limited to; the Local Emergency Operations Plan, state resources, interaction with FEMA, desired attributes of an EMD, and designating an emergency operation center.

**To register for one of these courses, log into the state training website at <https://vermont.csod.com> or email the State Training Officer Brittany Marquette for assistance at [brittany.marquette@vermont.gov](mailto:brittany.marquette@vermont.gov).**



*Randolph, Vermont*  
Source | First Light Studios



*Roles of an EMD can include gathering supplies and opening a shelter in their community if a disaster were to hit.*  
Source | TRORC Staff





*Downtown Randolph is a state designated area.  
Source | First Light Studios*

## VILLAGE AND DOWNTOWN DESIGNATIONS

Over half of the TRO Region's communities have a state Village Center designation. This program provides benefits to communities for the purposes of revitalizing and sustaining villages and downtowns. These designations must be renewed every five years by the State Downtown Development Board. Part of the renewal process requires integration of the village designation into the municipal plan. There must be evidence in the Municipal Plan that explains how the designation furthers the goals of the Municipal Plan and there must be an approved Municipal Plan map that depicts the boundary of the designated area. During the renewal process the following communities must include the language and graphics for Municipal Plan integration: Barnard, Fairlee, Hancock, Hartford, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester, and West Fairlee. TRORC continues to offer our assistance to other communities seeking to enter the program.

**For more information on the Village Center Designation program, please contact Chris Damiani at [cdamiani@trorc.org](mailto:cdamiani@trorc.org).**



*Wildlife such as bald eagles use connected forest blocks as sources of shelter and food.  
Source | Rod Chronister*

## FOREST BLOCK AND HABITAT CONNECTORS TRAINING

A series of outreach meetings will be held in the TRO Region this winter on the new statutory requirements surrounding forest blocks and habitat connectors. TRORC is in the process of updating our Regional Plan to include these new requirements and are also revising the Natural Resources Chapter. These meetings are open to the public and all are invited to give their feedback on these elements of the TRORC Regional Plan. The meetings will be at the following dates and locations:

- November 13, 2017: Sharon Town Office 7-8 p.m.
- November 15, 2017: Bradford Academy 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- November 28, 2017: West Fairlee Community Building 7 – 8 p.m.
- January 10, 2018: Bethel Town Hall, time to be determined.

**For more information, please contact Kevin Geiger at [kgeiger@trorc.org](mailto:kgeiger@trorc.org) or go to [trorc.org/calendar](http://trorc.org/calendar).**

## November 2017 News & Notes

### PROTECTING LAND AND WILDLIFE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE FORUM

The Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup, which TRORC is a part of, is holding its fall forum on climate change impacts on November 14, 2017 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Auditorium E, from 5 -8 p.m. This forum will address the issue that as the climate warms species will need to shift with it, upending some traditional conservation strategies and requiring new ones. This workshop is free, but space is limited. A light dinner and refreshments will be served.

**Registration by November 10th is highly recommended by going to our calendar at [www.trorc.org/calendar](http://www.trorc.org/calendar).**



*Tropical Storm Irene over New England in August 2011.*

**TRORC**  
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

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