



TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE

William B. Emmons, III, Chairman
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

REGIONAL COMMISSION

TRORC Board Meeting

The King Farm, Woodstock, VT
March 26, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Jerry Frederickson – Barnard, Mark Bannon – Braintree, Lynne Bertram – Bridgewater, Dee Montie – Brookfield, Carl Pepperman – Chelsea, Peter Berger - Fairlee, Lori Hirshfield – Hartford, Bruce Riddle – Hartford (Alt.), Charles Jeffries - Hartland, Frank Tegethoff - Newbury, Jerry Drugonis – Pittsfield, Bill Emmons – Pomfret, Del Thompson - Randolph, Paul Haskell – Sharon, Bill Edgerton – Stockbridge, Steve Campbell – Strafford, Tara Bamford – Thetford, Ken Alton – At-Large member, Andrew Winter – At-Large member.

Staff: Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish, Lorelee Morrow, Chris Sargent, Rita Seto.

Guests: Murray Evans, Dan Potter – Southern Windsor County RPC, Michael Caduto and Chip Lewis-Friends of Justin Morrill Homestead

1. Call To Order/Public Comments:

Chairman Bill Emmons convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Emmons closed the public comments.

2. Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Jerry Frederickson and seconded by Jerry Drugonis to approve the February minutes. So moved.

3. Acceptance of February Financial Report:

A motion was made by Jerry Drugonis and seconded by Dee Montie to accept the financial report. So moved. There were no questions from the Board.

4. TRORC Strategic Plan Implementation Update:

Kevin Geiger reported that TRORC is working with the Upper Valley Land Trust to set up a gathering of area non-profits for a summer meeting to foster increased regional understanding and cooperation. In addition, TRORC is looking at different software applications for the regional dashboard.

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5. TRORC Regional Plan Amendments:

A motion was made by Jerry Frederickson and seconded by Jerry Drugonis to accept the Regional Plan amendments and move to formal hearings. Discussion followed on the Flood Resiliency, Housing and Childcare chapters. Kevin Geiger noted that written comments will be accepted and that changes to the chapters will continue. So moved.

6. Supplemental Signs on I-89:

Rita Seto presented information on VTrans proposed changes to signage along I-89 from the New Hampshire border to Exit 3. VTrans was looking for regional input from stakeholders regarding the signs and Rita presented the regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations. Questions and discussion followed. The main discussion centered on the Exit 2 Strafford – VT Law School signage. State Historic Preservation and Legislators push to promote the Justin Morrill Homestead. Board members asked for a compromise not to eliminate Strafford. Rita will ask for options. The Board recommended replacing Rutland – VT Law School south bound Exit 3 sign with Killington – Rutland. Lynne Bertram asked if VT 12 could be added to sign #10. Rita will follow up with to see the eligibility of the proposed changes.

A motion was made by Dee Montie and seconded by Jerry Drugonis to accept the TAC recommendations and forward suggested changes in addition to VTrans by April 1st.

7. TRORC Transportation Capital Projects Priority List:

Rita Seto presented information regarding the capital projects priorities. Comments were voiced about the poor quality of some of the road resurfacing and repairs lately. Questions were asked about specific projects. Jerry Drugonis pointed out that the Pittsfield project will be delayed as the bridge recently fell into the river. Poor paving quality on US302/US5 in Newbury was noted. A suggestion was made to have a VTrans engineer present at a future board meeting. A motion was made by Paul Haskell and seconded by Jerry Frederickson to accept and move the priority list to VTrans by April 1st.

8. East Central Vermont HUD Plan chapter updates:

Chris Sargent presented a synopsis of the Reducing Energy Use in the Built Environment chapter and Dan Potter from Southern Windsor County RPC presented a synopsis of the Saving Enough: Regional Habitat Conservation chapter.

9. Commissioner/Executive Director Items:

Kevin Geiger reported on project updates, noting the HUD project and MPGs are moving forward and the buyouts are more than half-way completed. TRORC is still waiting to hear the results of its brownfields application and is looking to work with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Commission on a transportation project. Chris Sargent gave an update on current Act 250 involvement.

10. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Drugonis. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 pm at the King Farm, Woodstock, VT

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – March 27, 2014