

# TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center

Woodstock, VT

February 24, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

Name	Town	2/24/16	1/20/16	12/9/15	10/28/15	9/23/15
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel			X		
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X		X		X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)			X	X	
Mark Bannon	Braintree		X			
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater		X	X	X	
Dee Montie	Brookfield		X	X	X	X
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea		X	X	X	
Frank Roderick	Corinth	X	X	X	X	
Peter Berger	Fairlee			X	X	X
Mark Belisle	Granville		X	X	X	
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford	X		X		
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X		X		X
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X		X
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury		X	X	X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich		X	X	X	X
Matt Corron	Pittsfield				X	
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X	X	X	X	X
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X	X	X	X
Larry Straus	Rochester				X	
David Brandau	Royalton				X	
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		X	X	X	X
Paul Haskell	Sharon	X	X	X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge		X		X	X
Steve Campbell	Strafford			X	X	
Mark McElroy	Thetford	X	X	X	X	
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)		X	X		
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X		X	X	
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge			X		
Bill Baylis	Vershire		X	X		X
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee			X	X	X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X	X	X		X
Nate Miller	At-Large	X			X	
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X	X	X	X	X
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X	X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large			X	X	

**Staff:** Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish, Chris Sargent, Rita Seto, Michael Storace.

**Guests:** none

**1. Call To Order/Agenda Changes/Public Comments:**

Chairman Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:38 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments. Chris Sargent requested a fourth item to the Staff/Commissioner Updates: d. Energy.

**2. Approval of January 2016 Minutes:**

A motion was made by Paul Haskell and seconded by Anne Brown to approve the January minutes. So moved.

**3. Acceptance of January Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Paul Haskell and seconded by Frank Roderick to accept the January Financial Reports. Dee Gish noted that the East Central Vermont EDD grant will be paid in two halves – the first half has just been received and deposited. So moved.

**4. TRORC Public Comment Procedure:**

A motion was made by Lori Hirshfield and seconded by Jerry Frederickson to approve the TRORC Public Comment Procedure with the following edits: Bill Emmons proposed changing procedure number 2 to read:

2. Members of the public will identify themselves during the introductions portion of the agenda by stating their name and identify the topic upon which they wish to comment.

Lori Hirshfield proposed changing procedure number 3 to read:

3. The Chair will rule if the topic pertains to an item warned on the meeting agenda and will take such public comments after the approval of the agenda or later in the meeting, at the discretion of the chair.

So moved.

**5. Clean Water Act (Act 64) presentation:**

Kevin Geiger led the presentation on Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act. Michael Storace presented TRORC's involvement in Basin Plan work, which is going on now for Basin 10 (Ottawaquechee & Black Rivers). TRORC also covers Basin 9 (White) and 14. Rita Seto presented information concerning Municipal Roadway General Permits. The PowerPoint presentations and links to existing Basin Plans will be posted on the TRORC website.

Lori Hirshfield suggested that the TAC and towns provide comments to ANR and VTrans regarding water quality projects. Lori also suggested using the TAC as part of the Clean Water Advisory Committee. Bruce Riddle suggested involving river conservation 501(c)3s as partners in TRORC's clean water efforts. Jim Bulger

commented that for small towns with small budgets and narrow, winding roadways, compliance may be a problem. Rita Seto advised that towns should prepare to allocate \$2,400 in their 2018 budgets to cover the cost of the expected annual Municipal Roadway General Permit, and the initial one-time fee.

#### **6. Clean Water Advisory Committee:**

A motion was made by Paul Haskell and seconded by Jerry Frederickson to convene a TRORC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) to be appointed by the Chairman and with the following edits to the Charge of the CWAC: In the paragraph beginning with "Municipal participation," remove the word "appointed" from the second sentence. In the paragraph beginning "CWAC members," change the words "his or her" to "their" in both instances. Activity 1.f. should read "Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) processes." Activity 3 should have the words "as appropriate" and "as needed to" removed. So moved.

#### **7. Staff/Commissioner Updates:**

Chris Sargent reported on the Milne Act 250 case. Briefs for the appeal are due on March 11 and oral arguments should begin in July. In Randolph, the applicant pulled their pre-file application hearing for 9B and 10 for the Exit 4 Act 250 application and will likely refile the application after negotiations with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC). Chris also reported on the Limlaw pulpwood Act 250 application in Topsham where a pulpwood manufacturer built a berm to mitigate dust and noise from their production. ANR objected to the berm saying that it was in a river corridor. TRORC submitted an opinion stating that due to the location of a current bridge, the river corridor would not include the berm. Chris also reported that he will be attending an Act 250 hearing on Phase 2 of the Gifford Medical Center Assisted Living Facility in Randolph.

Chris then reported on the progress of the Regional Plan updates. Chris has met with six towns so far to review the Regional Plan Land Use maps. Chris has a goal of a Land Use chapter draft in October. Lorelee and Tory are working on the Health chapter and will have a draft in October or November.

Chris reviewed some recent decisions and draft legislation regarding energy. The Public Service Board (PSB) recently denied a Certificate of Public Good for a 2.2 mW solar project in Bennington, siting clear written standards in the Bennington Town Plan. Chris has prepared a white paper on this ruling and posted it on the TRORC website. Last week, the PSB issued a second draft rule on Net Metering, which contained more transparent examples of how the PSB evaluates aesthetics using the Quechee Test. Finally, the Vermont Senate has issued a draft bill S230 focusing on revisions to Section 248 proceedings regarding renewable energy systems and land use. If the bill is passed, Regional and Town Plans will be required to produce maps illustrating potential areas for renewable energy development and there will be a certification process for Plans to grant Towns and RPCs greater standing in Section 248 proceedings.

Kevin Geiger distributed copies of House bill H.249 regarding Intermunicipal Service Agreements. This was originally the Council of Governments (COG) bill, and will now move on to the Senate. The bill now enables RPCs to provide additional services without becoming a COG, but requires Town votes to do so.

Kevin Geiger informed the Board of the departure of Bob Ennis from TRORC staff and thanked Bob for his essential and thorough leadership of the FEMA buyout program.

**8. Adjournment – 8:26 pm:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Frank Roderick. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23 at the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – February 25, 2016.