

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

April 27, 2016 -Meeting Minutes



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee
REGIONAL COMMISSION

Attendance:

Name	Town	4/27/16	3/23/16	2/24/16	1/20/16	12/9/15	10/28/15
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel	X	X			X	
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X		X		X	
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)		X			X	X
Mark Bannon	Braintree	X			X		
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater		X		X	X	X
Dee Montie	Brookfield		X		X	X	X
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X			X	X	X
Frank Roderick	Corinth	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X	X			X	X
Mark Belisle	Granville				X	X	X
Monica Collins	Hancock	X					
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford	X		X		X	
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X	X	X		X	
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X	X	X	
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X		X	X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich		X		X	X	X
Matt Corron	Pittsfield						X
Anne Brown	Plymouth			X	X	X	X
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph		X	X	X	X	X
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)	X					
Larry Straus	Rochester	X					X
David Brandau	Royalton						X
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X		X	X	X
Paul Haskell	Sharon	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge	X	X		X		X
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X			X	X
Mark McElroy	Thetford	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)				X	X	
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X		X		X	X
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X	X			X	
Bill Baylis	Vershire	X			X	X	
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee					X	X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X		X	X	X	
Nate Miller	At-Large			X			X
Jennifer Colby	At-Large			X	X	X	X
Ken Alton	At-Large	X			X	X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large					X	X

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trorc.org

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

Barnard ~ Bethel ~ Bradford ~ Braintree ~ Bridgewater ~ Brookfield ~ Chelsea ~ Corinth ~ Fairlee ~ Granville ~ Hancock ~ Hartford ~ Hartland
Newbury ~ Norwich ~ Pittsfield ~ Plymouth ~ Pomfret ~ Randolph ~ Rochester ~ Royalton ~ Sharon ~ Stockbridge ~ Strafford ~ Thetford
Topsham ~ Tunbridge ~ Vershire ~ West Fairlee ~ Woodstock

Staff: Peter Gregory, Dee Gish, Chris Sargent, Rita Seto

Guests: None

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments.

2. Approval of March 2016 Minutes:

A motion was made by Paul Haskell and seconded by Bushrod Powers to approve the March minutes. So moved.

3. Acceptance of March Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Jerry Fredrickson to accept the March Financial Reports. Peter Gregory distributed copies of the balance sheet as of March 31, 2016 that were not included in the Board mailing. Peter noted that the \$66K listed on the accounts receivable report has been paid and that the oldest A/R listings for Tunbridge and Barnard are for CDBG awards that must answer the conditions of awards before payment. So moved.

4. Preliminary Regional Energy Plan draft discussion:

Chris Sargent began by reviewing the timeline for the project. The draft will be forwarded to the Bennington County Regional Commission at the end of May, who will then forward it to the state Public Service Department for comment. Chris is looking for comments, questions and feedback on the draft Plan. There will be opportunities for town Energy Committees, Planning Commissions, Selectboards and the general public to comment during public hearings. TRORC will work directly with interested towns to help identify areas suitable to site renewable energy projects. Commissioner comments included a request to include a table of contents and renewable energy maps, to post the draft on the TRORC website, to include a mention of geothermal energy, and an emphasis on energy conservation. Chris noted these ideas will be included in the draft revision and posted online in May. Bruce Riddle provided two pages of comments on the draft plan for consideration.

5. FY 18 Transportation Capital Projects Prioritization approval:

Rita Seto distributed maps and lists of regional capital projects completed since Tropical Storm Irene. Rita then provided a PowerPoint presentation on the draft priority project list that was approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee. Rita will also provide Commissioners with a list of district leveling priority projects that have been completed since TS Irene. A motion was made by Don Bourdon and seconded by Peter Berger to approve the Capital Project Prioritization list and forward the list to VTrans. So moved.

6. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

Act 250: Peter Gregory reported that TRORC has until May 11th to respond on to the Quechee Highlands project and that oral arguments will be heard this summer. The NewVista idea that has emerged in the towns of Sharon, Royalton, Tunbridge and Strafford, has gotten a good deal of press coverage. TRORC held a public outreach event on Monday April 25 in Royalton to provide information on the Act 250 process, local planning and regulation, and large scale development. Paul Haskell thanked Chris and Kevin for an outstanding job at the meeting and Carl Pepperman noted that the meeting was great outreach by TRORC to help explain to our communities what we do. Chris Sargent appreciated the Commissioners' attendance at the event. Peter noted that the NewVista developer, David Hall has hired a lobbyist, who has reached out to TRORC and would also like to meet with each affected town. This is a good opportunity for towns to see if they are prepared for large scale projects.

Legislative: Peter reported on H.367 which would change Town Plan durations from 5 to 8 years and would include a requirement that towns document implementation of their Plans. Amendments to Town Plans will not re-set the Plan's eight year life. Peter reported that S.230 related to energy siting has passed the House and Senate and will now be reconciled. The bill allows for Town and Regional Plans to have substantial deference in Section 248 proceedings if the Plans are certified by the RPC and PSD, respectively. There was funding attached to the Senate version of the bill for RPCs to help towns attain certification of their energy elements. H.249 Intermunicipal Services has passed the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor's desk. MPGs and Agency of Commerce funding for TRORC has been level funded for the next FY.

Projects: Peter reported that the Creative Economy inventory project, headed by Lorelee Morrow will be moving forward with implementation and action item ideas. Lorelee has sent out a "save the date" notice for the ECV HUD Plan celebration on May 26th. Rita Seto reported on the Better Roads program where TRORC is working with six towns in our region on applications. Peter congratulated Rita on her two recent national awards on the Rochester and Royalton CDBG Disaster Recovery projects. Rita noted that she accepted the awards on behalf of the towns, who deserved the credit. Peter also reported that the Vermont Community Foundation has approached TRORC to collaborate work on childcare issues. Rita noted that she attended a recent meeting with Stagecoach, Advance Transit and VTrans about transportation issues related to childcare. Bill Emmons reported that Frank Roderick will be moving to Maine and thanked him for his many years of service on the Commission.

7. Adjournment – 8:20 pm:

A motion to adjourn was made by Bushrod Powers. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.