

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT



May 25, 2016 -Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	5/25/16	4/27/16	3/23/16	2/24/16	1/20/16	12/9/15
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel		X	X			X
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X		X		X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)			X			X
Mark Bannon	Braintree		X			X	
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater			X		X	X
Dee Montie	Brookfield			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		X
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X	X	X	X		X
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X	X	X	X
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X		X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich			X		X	X
Matt Corron	Pittsfield						
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X			X	X	X
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph			X	X	X	X
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)	X	X				
Larry Straus	Rochester		X				
David Brandau	Royalton						
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X	X		X	X
Peter Anderson	Sharon	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge		X	X		X	
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X	X			X
Mark McElroy	Theftord		X	X	X	X	X
Jim Masland	Theftord (Alt)					X	X
Jim Bulger	Topsham		X		X		X
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge		X	X			X
Bill Baylis	Vershire		X			X	X
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee						X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X	X		X	X	X
Nate Miller	At-Large				X		
Jennifer Colby	At-Large				X	X	X
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X			X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large						X

128 King Farm Rd.
Woodstock, VT 05091
802-457-3188
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 ~ Theftord
Topsham ~ Tunbridge ~ Vershire ~ West Fairlee ~ Woodstock

Staff: Peter Gregory, Dee Gish

Guests: John Moore, Pomfret

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was declared (6). There were no public comments. Guest John Moore of Pomfret introduced himself.

2. Approval of April 2016 Minutes:

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Anne Brown to approve the April minutes. Lori Hirshfield asked about the procedure for accepting and retaining comments, and referenced Bruce Riddle's comments on the Regional Energy Implementation Plan. Peter Gregory answered that all comments are considered and kept in the respective file records. So moved.

3. Acceptance of April Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Frank Roderick and seconded by Mark Belisle to accept the April Financial Reports. Peter Gregory noted that copies of the balance sheet should have been included in the Board mailing and will be sent out via email. Peter noted some billing is invoiced on a quarterly basis, and from memory, the Balance Sheet noted a -\$17,000 net income. The FY17 budget is getting finalized and will be put before the Executive Committee one last time in early June and then adopted by the full Board at the Annual Meeting in June. So moved.

4. TRORC Auditor Selection:

Board Treasurer Jerry Fredrickson reported on the Audit Request For Proposal process for the FY16-FY18 term. After examining the six proposals received, the Executive Committee recommends staying with RHR Smith & Co., with the provision that the audit team is led by a different CPA to give a fresh look at TRORC procedures and accounting. A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Mark Belisle to retain RHR Smith & Co. as auditor for the next three years. Peter Gregory noted that, from a Commissioner request, this is the first time that the full Board has voted on the selection of auditor. So moved.

5. TRORC Procurement Procedures policy:

Peter noted that it is good practice to regularly review and update the administrative procedures of the Commission and also that towns should do so as well. Dee Gish reviewed the changes and updates to the Procurement Procedures to reflect changes in Vermont and Federal guidelines. Lori Hirshfield noted that on page 8 of the draft, section vi. (e) a word seems to be missing in the last sentence. A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Jerry Fredrickson to approve the Procurement Procedures after the minor modification noted by Lori. So moved.

6. Election of Officer Replacements:

Don Bourdon, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that due to the Town of Sharon appointing a new Commissioner, there is a vacancy in an Officer position. (Vice Chair.) To fill the vacancy for one month until a new slate of officers will be presented at the Annual Meeting, Don recommended electing Jerry Fredrickson as Vice Chair, Nancy Jones as Treasurer, and David Brandau as Secretary. Additional slots had to be filled as vacancies occurred when the Committee made the Vice-Chair recommendation. A motion was made by Peter Berger and seconded by Frank Roderick to approve the officer replacements until the Annual Meeting. So moved.

7. TRORC Executive Committee authority to act between meetings of the full TRORC Board:

Bill Emmons reported that the Town of Woodstock has a pending Town Plan approval that is critical to retaining their Village Designation. The approval is time sensitive and will occur during the summer when TRORC meetings are not scheduled. Options to approve the Woodstock Town Plan over the summer include calling a special meeting, having the Executive Committee act on behalf of the Board, or using an email or postal vote. Peter Gregory read from the Bylaws which authorize the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board "only when immediate action is required and the Regional Commission voting membership is unable to take the necessary action in time." Peter noted that the updates to Woodstock's Town Plan were to include the now required Flood Resilience element and the language needed for the reauthorization of the Village Designation. Board discussion highlighted the opinion that face-to-face meetings and reviews of Town Plans are important discussions and that a special meeting should be called. Peter will therefore send out a draft Woodstock Town Plan for review for a special meeting on July 27th. Summer meeting attendance may be an issue, so quorum numbers will need to be monitored.

8. Private Well Testing discussion:

Commissioners discussed the possibility of TRORC assistance in getting private wells tested for contaminants. It was noted that water testing kits are expensive, complicated and time sensitive. There is a need for regional contamination data and collaboration with TRORC, ANR and the Department of Health on this issue. Peter Gregory suggested that TRORC can help with educational efforts through newsletters, public service advertisements and a meeting speaker from ANR.

9. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

Act 250: Peter Gregory reported that the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the Quechee Highlands case on Tuesday, June 21st at 2:30. The

NewVista developer will be visiting Vermont in early June and has scheduled meetings with VLS and TRORC. David Hall has hired Kevin Ellis for public relations and will meet with the TRORC staff and a few Executive Committee members on June 2nd.

Legislative: Peter reported that bill H249 for Intermunicipal Services has passed. Some RPCs are now amending their bylaws to incorporate the new provisions. TRORC will initiate discussions on whether to do the same. The Forestry bill has passed by may be vetoed by the Governor. The Energy Siting bill, S230, likewise passed by may also be vetoed. The Planning provisions contained in S230 would give substantial deference to towns in Section 248 proceedings. If Commissioners support these bills, Peter urged them to call the Governor's hotline at 828-3333 and let the Governor know. Peter also note that the \$300,000 in funding for RPCs to assist towns in energy planning was inadvertently left out of S230. If the bill is not vetoed, the Department of Public Service has said they would fund the RPCs.

Projects: Peter reported that year two of clean water funding has been approved by ANR. Better Roads grants will be awarded next month. TRORC's towns have taken advantage of many of these grants and TRORC has written most of the applications for funding.

10. Adjournment - 7:45 pm:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Fredrickson. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

The next Board meeting, the Annual Meeting, will be held Wednesday, June 22th at the King Farm in Woodstock.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish - May 26, 2016.