

# TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

## October 26, 2016 -Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

Name	Town	10/26/16	9/28/16	7/27/16	6/22/16	5/25/16	4/27/16
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X		X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel		X		X		X
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X		X	X	X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)						
Mark Bannon	Braintree		X	X			X
Malcolm Fitzpatrick	Braintree (Alt)		X				
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater	X	X		X		
Dee Montie	Brookfield	X	X		X		
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X	X		X	X	X
Vacant	Corinth				X	X	X
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X	X		X	X	X
Mark Belisle	Granville	X	X	X	X	X	
Monica Collins	Hancock				X		X
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford	X		X	X	X	X
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X		X	X	X	X
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X			X	X
Richard Waddell	Hartland (Alt)			X			
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich						
Matt Corron	Pittsfield						
Anne Brown	Plymouth		X	X		X	
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X		X		
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Larry Straus	Rochester		X				X
David Brandau	Royalton				X		
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X		X	X	X	X
Peter Anderson	Sharon	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge						X
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X			X	X
Vacant	Thetford			X	X		X
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)				X		
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X					X
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X	X		X		X
Bill Baylis	Vershire				X		X
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee				X		
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X	X	X	X	X	X
UVLSRPC	At-Large				X		
Jennifer Colby	At-Large		X		X		
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X	X	X	X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X					

**Staff:** Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish, Chris Sargent

**Guests:** Amy Bell and Kevin Marshia with VTrans

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:28 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments. Bruce Riddle requested an addition to the agenda to discuss the development of the Land Use chapter in the Regional Plan.

**2. Acceptance of the unaudited September Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Jerry Fredrickson to accept the September Financial reports. Dee Gish noted that the long standing receivables from Tunbridge Orange County Parent Child Center will be coming soon, since state payment has been received by the Town of Tunbridge. The NADO annual membership dues have been paid, so the dues expenses were higher in September. TRORC continues to upgrade computer and software equipment, so expenses will appear on the expense summary. Accepted.

**3. Approval of September TRORC Board Minutes:**

A motion was made by Dee Montie and seconded by Mark Belisle to approve the September TRORC Board Minutes. Dee Montie noted that instead of reading "so moved," minutes should state "approved" or "adopted." Don Bourdon noted that September's meeting was held at the Bethel Town Hall, not in Woodstock. Approved with changes.

**4. Acceptance of TRORC FY 16 Audit:**

A motion was made by Peter Berger and seconded by Dee Montie to accept the TRORC FY 16 audit. Dee Gish noted that the audit was clean with no findings, no material weaknesses and no questioned costs. TRORC saw a fund balance increase of around \$18,000 in FY 16. The audit is posted on the TRORC website and a copy can be mailed if requested. Accepted.

**5. VTrans Presentation:**

Kevin Marshia, Chief Highway Engineer and Amy Bell, Planning Coordinator from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, gave a presentation and answered questions. Handouts were distributed including a statewide map of major crash sites, a brochure titled "Vermont's Clean Water Act and Municipal Transportation," a map and outline of VTrans construction projects in the TRORC region, and a postcard advertising the [vtransparency.vermont.gov](http://vtransparency.vermont.gov) website. Kevin and Amy presented the VTrans mission and vision, safety information, FAST Act funding, project prioritization information, clean water act initiatives and

described the VTransparency website. Board members and VTrans staff had a brief question and answer session.

## **6. TRORC Regional Energy Implementation Plan draft:**

Chris Sargent led a discussion of the current draft of the Regional Energy Implementation Plan, focusing on the Goals and Action Items. Chris will continue to take comments on the Plan through mid-November and is hoping to hear from more Energy Committees. Chris thanked Bruce Riddle and Lori Hirshfield for their emailed and written comments. Chris noted that he is thinking the Regional Energy Implementation Plan will be adopted in June as part of the TRORC Regional Plan by reference. If the Act 174 Standards require significant changes to the current Plan, a new draft will go out to the TRORC Board.

Chris noted that Bruce had suggested striking the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> bullets on page 28 of Transportation Goal #1 and suggested wording changes might be helpful. Lori Hirshfield requested that the definition of "substantial regional impact" be included and also that the "1/8 mile" be changed to "1/4 mile" since that is a commonly accepted distance for walkability. Under Transportation Goal #3 on page 29, Chris suggested adding support for the STRECH goals of Act 250 for EV charging station and Lori suggested working with gas stations to encourage EV charging stations. Bushrod Powers suggested expanding the school bus system for public transportation, while Mark Belisle noted the child safety aspect of having the general public ride with school children. Currently any adult riding school buses with children must pass a background check. Lori also suggested a possible 5<sup>th</sup> Goal for Transportation to include planning for technological changes to transportation including driverless cars, Uber and light rail. Lori then asked about the status of the Plan maps. Chris noted that he is waiting to learn of the final Act 174 Standards. Unless Act 174 requires more specificity to the maps, it is likely the maps will not undergo significant changes. Steve Campbell asked about Appendix C where prime solar within one mile of three-phase power lines are called out. Chris noted that renewable projects are not required to be located within one mile of three-phase power, and that three-phase is not a constraint on the maps. Three-phase could potentially be added as a level 2 constraint. Jim Bulger noted that eyebrows were raised in Topsham as Appendix C revealed that Topsham and Vershire have the largest areas of potential wind in the region. Questions were raised as to the starting date for the renewable energy targets. Chris noted that any renewable energy projects built or permitted by June of 2015 do not count in the current targets. Peter Anderson noted that there seems to be an "early adopter's penalty" in towns like Sharon who have large renewable energy facilities in place already. Lori Hirshfield thanked Chris and Dee for a fabulous job on the Renewable Energy Implementation Plan and for the good public process of review.

Chris noted that VAPDA will be issuing some model guidance in December for energy planning. Dee Gish announced that an information and training session for Act 174 Standards will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> in Bethel. Nancy Jones noted that on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction, there will be a meeting about rail transportation. Nancy will provide information to Chris for publication on the TRORC website.

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

Kevin Geiger reported that the Act 250 decision on the Quechee Highlands was decided by the VT Supreme Court in favor of Regional Planning Commissions. The decision was in unanimous support for the importance and relevance of regional planning. Kevin gave some project updates, noting that there will be funding coming for municipal enhanced energy planning, and a new water quality grant has begun. Kevin noted that Vermont Emergency Management has hired emergency planners for the northern and southern regions of the state, and has filled a position of a state drought taskforce.

### Commissioner and Executive Committee Job Descriptions:

Kevin Geiger described that the job descriptions were intended to be helpful, but were not produced by a directive, nor is there a deadline for approval. Lori Hirshfield noted that having job descriptions was a good suggestion and Jerry Fredrickson noted that they were drawn up from an Executive Committee member suggestion. Steve Campbell noted that the Executive Committee Policy and Procedure bullet #6 states the "Committee shall review and approve major TRORC policies." Steve thought that the full Board was responsible for approvals while the Executive Committee makes recommendations. Lori asked if the job descriptions reflect procedural changes previously agreed upon. Kevin assured that these job descriptions were cross referenced with other policies and that the TRORC bylaws also mention Commissioner responsibilities. A motion was made by Don Bourdon and seconded by Mark Belisle to adopt the Executive Committee and Commissioner job descriptions with the change to the Executive Committee Policy and Procedure bullet #6 to read "Committee shall review and recommend approval of major TRORC policies." Adopted with change.

Kevin then introduced Bruce Riddle to begin discussion on the Land Use chapter. Bruce feels the Land Use chapter is the most substantive chapter of the Regional Plan and will require more work and public input and process so that a June adoption deadline is not possible. Possibly the chapter could be adopted in March or April of 2018. Chris Sargent noted that plans were to release a draft Land Use chapter at the Commission meeting in December, followed by public hearings in March or April of 2017 and coming before the Board at the May meeting for recommendation for approval at the June Annual Meeting. Lori Hirshfield noted that it would be good to take the time to get multiple drafts of the Land Use chapter out into the community before it comes before the Board. Don Bourdon noted that TRORC is not under the gun to get the chapter adopted and that we don't want to be criticized for not having good public process. Chris noted that Regional Plan adoptions occur at the Annual Meeting because a greater majority of Commissioners are present. Bill Emmons noted that the Executive Committee will discuss the timeline for the Land Use chapter revisions.

## **8. Adjournment – 8:32 pm:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Fredrickson. Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14th at the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock. There will be no Board meeting in November.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – October 27, 2016.