

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

January 18, 2017 -Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	1/18/17	12/14/16	10/26/16	9/28/16	7/27/16	6/22/16
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X		X	X		X
Carl Russell	Bethel		X		X		X
Nancy Jones	Bradford		X	X		X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X					
Mark Bannon	Braintree				X	X	
Malcolm Fitzpatrick	Braintree (Alt)				X		
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater	X	X	X	X		X
Dee Montie	Brookfield	X		X	X		X
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt)		X				
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X		X	X		X
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X					
Peter Berger	Fairlee		X	X	X		X
Mark Belisle	Granville		X	X	X	X	X
Monica Collins	Hancock						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
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich		X				
Matt Corron	Pittsfield						
Anne Brown	Plymouth	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	X	X	X	X
Larry Straus	Rochester				X		
David Brandau	Royalton						X
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		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
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)						X
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X		X			
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X	X	X	X		X
Bill Baylis	Vershire						X
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee		X				X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock		X	X	X	X	X
UVLSRPC	At-Large						X
Jennifer Colby	At-Large				X		X
Ken Alton	At-Large	X		X	X	X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large			X			

Staff: Chris Damiani, Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish

Guests: none

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments. Dee Gish distributed Commissioner handbooks to those in attendance who had not yet received one.

2. Approval of December TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Dee Montie and seconded by Peter Anderson to approve the December TRORC Board minutes. Lori Hirshfield requested some modifications to the December Board minutes on page 4, second paragraph. Lori requested that the second sentence be changed to read "Lori asked who decided not to extend the Regional Plan approval date, given the discussion at the October Board meeting to allow more time for comment and review." Lori also requested to strike the next sentence: "The board had not previously directed a delay in adoption." Lori also requested the addition of the following sentences after the fourth paragraph: "Lori suggested a motion to slow the adoption process of the Regional Plan Land Use sections. Chairman Bill Emmons responded that a motion was not necessary since the sentiment of the group was to allow more time for the Board and Town Commissions to work on the Land Use sections and to slow the public hearing and adoption process." The motion was amended to include Lori's requested changes to the December minutes. Approved with the following members, who were absent from the December meeting abstaining: Tim O'Dell, Frank Tegethoff, Anne Brown, Carl Pepperman, Jim Bulger, Ken Alton, Jerry Fredrickson, Dee Montie.

3. TRORC Regional Plan chapter Review – Rural Areas and Conservation and Resource Areas sections of the Land Use Chapter:

Kevin Geiger distributed a handout titled "Resource Conservation Areas – Why should TRORC change them?" Maps were also posted in the meeting room illustrating the importance of the forest blocks and wildlife corridors in the eastern part of the region as this area and the Green Mountains are the two main north-south connectors in the state. Kevin noted that unlike the previous meeting in which an attempt was made to modify the maps and remove some areas, the plan now is to use the data as given for the high and highest priority areas for interior forest blocks and habitat connectors. Kevin indicated that the combination of the highest priority forest blocks and connectivity blocks, as well as those blocks that have high values in both categories, will be the initial cut for the Resource and Conservation Areas. Then, that will be modified with local input as towns and groups may stress one area over another.

A general discussion followed on the tension between achieving conservation goals and other goals, such as providing much needed housing, and balancing landowner desires. Kevin noted that the policies would have effect primarily under Act 250 and that there were no policies banning all development. Rather,

the aim was to try to achieve development that preserves forest or fields and also results in value for the landowners.

Kevin and the Commissioners then worked through the draft policies for the Rural Areas. All of the policies for that section were reviewed and the following changes will be made or issues noted:

- Policy 1 needs work around the intended meaning.
- Policies 2, 6 and 12-18 had no major issues.
- Policy 3 had differing views on if the acreage should be clearly stated, and that in some areas 1 acre/unit was appropriate. This will continue to be worked on.
- Policy 4 was struck.
- Policy 5 was unclear to some as to the meaning and was noted as awkward. This will continue to be worked on.
- Policy 8 will be reworded slightly.
- In Policy 9, "adjacent" was suggested to be changed to "adjunct", the list of uses will likely be expanded, and the use of the word "may" was discussed but the overall aim of the policy was endorsed.
- In Policy 10, the use of the word "may" was discussed and perhaps should be a "should", "higher densities" was found to be vague, but again, the overall aim of the policy was endorsed.
- Policy 11 needs to ensure a reasonable leeway on sites that could not be developed due to site peculiarities.

Kevin noted the aim is to have this section ready for the end of the year when the new forest block requirements for regional plans kicks in. This section can be reviewed and discussed again at a later date.

Kevin noted the time (8:22) and recommended that Commissioners take up the Conservation and Resource Areas policies at a later meeting. In response to Bruce Riddle's question as to what section of the Regional Plan to discuss wildlife bridges and culvert crossings, Kevin responded that he will make a note of it. Lori Hirshfield asked if towns can get overlay maps. Kevin instructed Commissioners to email Pete Fellows to request map overlays.

4. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

Kevin Geiger quickly noted that Rita Seto is back at work. Kevin also reported that TRORC will be working with the Thompson Senior center on disaster preparedness.

5. Adjournment – 8:25 pm:

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Edgerton. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th at the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock. Commissioners will be notified of additional meeting times and places.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – January 19, 2017.