

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

February 22, 2017 -Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	2/22/17	1/25/17	1/18/17	12/14/16	10/26/16	9/28/16
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X		X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel	X			X		X
Nancy Jones	Bradford		X		X	X	
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)			X			
Mark Bannon	Braintree						X
Malcolm Fitzpatrick	Braintree (Alt)						X
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater		X	X	X	X	X
Dee Montie	Brookfield	X	X	X		X	X
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt)				X		
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea			X		X	X
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X	X	X			
Peter Berger	Fairlee				X	X	X
Mark Belisle	Granville				X	X	X
Monica Collins	Hancock						
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
Richard Waddell	Hartland (Alt)						
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
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X		X	X	X
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Larry Straus	Rochester						X
David Brandau	Royalton						
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X		X	X	
Peter Anderson	Sharon		X	X	X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge			X			
Steve Campbell	Strafford		X	X	X	X	X
Vacant	Thetford						
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)						
Jim Bulger	Topsham		X	X		X	
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge		X	X	X	X	X
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee		X		X		
Don Bourdon	Woodstock		X		X	X	X
UVLSRPC	At-Large						
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X	X				X
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X		X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large					X	

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

Guests: John Echeverria - Strafford

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.

2. Approval of January 18 and January 25 TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Frank Tegethoff and seconded by Winston Sadoo to approve the January 18 and 25 TRORC Board minutes. Approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of the January, 2017 TRORC Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Anne Brown to accept the January financial reports. Dee Gish explained that we should be seeing more activity on the buyouts and Brownfields income and related expenses and that the accounts receivables are in good shape. Accepted.

4. TRORC Regional Plan chapter Review and Sign-off – Working Landscape-Agriculture and Forestry and Implementation:

Chris Sargent led the discussion on the Working Lands Chapter. The following suggested changes will be incorporated:

- Page 3 – mention current use in the Land and Taxation paragraph.
- Page 5 – if there is data, add a column to the Current Use enrollment by Town chart showing 5 or 10 year history of current use. Mention that a key concept is how little agricultural use is per town. It was noted that enrolling in agricultural current use is difficult and carries a stigma. A more intense study should be done concerning land taxation and the pressure against current use.
- Page 6 – Under Forestry first paragraph, change “environmental services” to “ecosystem services.” Add a paragraph on regenerative farming, since not all value added is to the product, value can be added to soils.
- Page 7 – Under CNT description, change acres from 60,000 to 50,000+.
- Page 8 – Forest fragmentation first paragraph, add an “s” to create, interrupt, and impact and change “smaller pieces of forest” to “smaller forest parcels.”
- Page 9 – under Challenges to Maintaining and Enhancing Our Forestlands, Chris will add a paragraph regarding an ecological approach to forestry with a more holistic understanding of forest management, and mention the changing forest ecology due to climate change, invasive species and biological pollution.
- Page 10 – under Solutions, mention education of soil conservation programs and ecological approaches to forest management.
- Page 11 – add a Goal to improve education on ecological forestry advocating for state funding of soil conservation programs.
- Page 12 – first paragraph - add “(RAP)” after “Required Agricultural Practices.” Make “Loggers” and “Farmers” lower case.

- Page 12 – add an action item for TRORC to help towns interpret RAP
- Page 12 – line 41 – remove “with history of planned harvesting”.
- Page 13 – line 7 – add comma after “sewage”.
- Page 14 beginning at line 1 – check font size.
- Bruce Riddle submitted written suggestions to Chris Sargent, and they will be considered.

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Dee Montie to move the Working Landscape amendments forward to public hearing, pending above mentioned changes. Motion carried.

Chris led the discussion of the Implementation Matrix and noted that the action items were compiled from chapters in the Regional Plan and that the three columns: Estimated Cost, Timeline and Priority, were added from a VAPDA suggestion for uniformity. The matrix will be reformatted by Lorelee along with the entire Regional Plan. The following changes to the Implementation Matrix were suggested:

- Rank the Action Items from high to low priority
- Add a goal to encourage forestry stewardship

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Bushrod Powers to move the Implementation Matrix amendments forward to public hearing, pending changes. Motion carried.

Chris Sargent led the discussion of the New and Revised Definitions memo that was distributed to Commissioners at the meeting. A definition for “accessory dwelling” will be added.

5. Board Authorization to initiate formal Hearings on Regional Plan:

A motion was made by Carl Russell and seconded by Jerry Fredrickson to move the Regional Plan amendments at the last Board meeting and the Regional Plan amendments just discussed, forward toward Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Sargent reviewed the timeline for public hearings. Kevin Geiger noted that comments will be taken from now, through the hearings, up until the April 26th Board meeting. Due to time constraints of the thirty days' notice requirement, the May meeting will likely need to be changed to May 31st. Jerry Fredrickson noted that the May meeting date will be set at the April Board meeting.

6. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

Kevin Geiger noted that the Brownfields project includes three sites: Wilder, Randolph and Royalton. The Bettis buyout property in Hancock is moving toward a Corrective Action Plan. Several CDBG DR projects, including the Woodstock Snow Dump, Hancock Churchville Culvert, and Barnard Mt. Hunger are nearing completion. Peter Gregory has been busy in Montpelier with legislative movement on increasing a water quality role for RPCs similar to our role in transportation. At the March Board meeting, water quality may be an

agenda item, as well as transportation priority projects. Kevin also noted a FEMA statement calling for permits for planting trees in floodways, but the Vermont Legislature has said that no permits are required for planting trees in floodways. In the State's budget, our TPI contract will see a 3% increase, while ACCD funding is proposed by the Governor to remain level. Future energy planning funding for Town technical assistance was left out of the Governor's budget but Peter and others are working to get it back in.

Chairman Emmons thanked and recognized Chris Sargent for his 17 years of service to TRORC and wished him well in his future endeavors. Chris said he was grateful to Peter and the Executive Committee for the opportunity to work for TRORC and noted it has been a pleasure to work with the staff and Board of the TRORC.

Carl Russell voiced his thanks for the Commissioners in January working through the Regional Plan amendments.

7. Adjournment – 7:50 pm:

A motion to adjourn was made by Carl Russell. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22 at the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock. Commissioners will be notified of additional meeting times and places.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – February 23, 2017.