

# TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

**March 22, 2017 -Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Name	Town	3/23/17	2/22/17	1/25/17	1/18/17	12/14/16	10/26/16
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X		X
Carl Russell	Bethel	X	X			X	
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X		X		X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X			X		
Malcolm Fitzpatrick	Braintree (Alt)						
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	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	X
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X	X	X	X
Richard Waddell	Hartland (Alt)						
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury		X	X	X		X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich	X				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
Vacant	Rochester						
David Brandau	Royalton	X					
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X	X		X	X
Peter Anderson	Sharon	X		X	X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge				X		
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X		X	X	X	X
Jim Masland	Thetford						
Jim Bulger	Topsham			X	X		X
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X		X	X	X	X
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X		X		X	
Don Bourdon	Woodstock			X		X	X
UVLSRPC	At-Large						
Jennifer Colby	At-Large		X	X			
Ken Alton	At-Large	X		X	X		X
Andrew Winter	At-Large						X

**Staff:** Chris Damiani, Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish, Lorelee Morrow, Rita Seto, Mike Storage, Ben Wood

**Guests:** Murray Evans - Brookfield

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments. Jerry Fredrickson requested an addition to the agenda to discuss and approve the moving of TRORC offices.

**2. Approval of February TRORC Board Minutes:**

A motion was made by Anne Brown and seconded by Nancy Jones to approve the February TRORC Board minutes. Approved unanimously.

**3. Acceptance of the February, 2017 TRORC Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Mark Belisle to accept the February financial reports. Dee Gish noted that February was a quiet financial month, but that there was some buyout activity. The accounts receivables are in good shape. Accepted.

**4. TRORC Transportation Projects Prioritization for FY19:**

Rita Seto noted that VTrans provides a list of priorities to the RPCs to get their priority rankings. Regional input is important. Rita makes a preliminary ranking and then sends it to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), selectboards and road foremen, where any changes are made to the ranking. The TAC approves the list for TRORC discussion. Rita gave a power point presentation of the individual projects in the TRORC region.

Rita will check on Commissioner concerns including the Bradford bridge closure in September and road resurfacing in Brookfield. Rita asked that for details on construction updates and closures, please contact her and she will put you in contact with the VTrans project public information officer.

Rita also described regional paving projects and shared Park and Ride project plans for Sharon, Royalton and Theftord. Rita also announced that she prepared the applications for 20 TRORC towns that have submitted applications for Better Roads grants, for a total of 36 projects. The TRORC region has by far the largest number of applications in to the state for Better Roads projects.

A motion to approve the TAC recommended capital transportation project priorities was made by Dee Montie and seconded by Nancy Jones. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Mark Belisle to approve the town highway bridge pre-candidate priorities. Approved unanimously.

**5. Facilitating Economic Development in Villages and Downtowns:**

Loralee Morrow gave a power point presentation on Economic Development in Villages and Downtowns. RPCs are required by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) to provide these educational presentations. Loralee distributed a survey to Commissioners to gather feedback for ACCD regarding the helpfulness of the presentation. The presentation will also be posted on the TRORC website.

**6. Update on role of RPCs in expediting water quality project delivery:**

Michael Storage announced an increased effort by TRORC to enhance the relationship with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to help prioritize and develop water quality projects. The TRORC Clean Water Advisory Committee will be working on this effort as well. These water quality projects will overlap with municipal roads and culvert projects.

**7. TRORC office move discussion:**

Jerry Fredrickson noted that he has been working on looking for an alternative office space for TRORC since 2013. TRORC staff were asked to create of checklist of what to look for in a new office location. So far, Jerry has looked at between 6-8 different locations. Last Friday, TRORC staff and some Commissioners toured an office space at the Billings Farm complex in Wilder.

Jerry made a motion that the Board accept the consensus recommendation of the Executive Committee that TRORC move its office space to a building located at 205 Billings Farm Road, Suite 6B, White River Junction, Vermont; that Bill Emmons and Peter Gregory sign a lease for the space; and that a check for \$4,000 will be drawn as a deposit for said space. Bushrod Powers seconded the motion. Jerry noted that occupancy of the new space would be July 1.

Discussion ensued as to whether an added agenda item could be voted on. Bill Emmons noted that he wanted to provide full transparency to Commissioners regarding a potential move. Carl Russell noted that since there is a quorum of voting members, then Roberts Rules say that an added agenda item can be voted on, but felt that the issue should be warned so that the facts and figures can be presented.

Dee Montie made an amendment to the motion to delay the vote until a future meeting. Peter Berger seconded the motion. The motion failed to pass. Discussion continued.

Jerry presented the financial estimates of a move to the Wilder location as well as other pros/cons of the move. Jerry noted that monthly rent would be \$2,000 more and with an additional \$1,000 per month in property taxes. Jerry thought that increases in costs could likely be covered through the building reserve fund and TRORC indirect cost rate which is applied to most TRORC federal and state grants. Kevin noted that the indirect rate is already high and a concern to funding agencies. Jerry noted the proposed space is larger than the King Farm, has many positive amenities such as air conditioning and a central location in

the TRORC region that would reduce mileage for staff and Commissioners. Bill asked that staff weigh in on the proposal.

Concerns from staff and Commissioners included: the expense of the move and the higher rent at the proposed location; feelings that the Wilder location represents "sprawl", or at least the type development that TRORC plans try to avoid; federal funding is bleak and future revenues are declining; very heavy staff workload and disruption causing lack of billable time; and personal situations of staff making the current moment a particularly bad time to add the stress of a move. Kevin Geiger noted that Peter Gregory did not expect the potential move to be discussed tonight, but at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting and the April Board meeting. Kevin noted that he and Peter realize that the decision will be made by the Commissioners and staff would execute any decision.

Dee Montie made a motion to call the question. Tim O'Dell seconded the motion. Commissioners voted no and debate continued.

Other Commissioner suggestions included encouraging the Vermont Land Trust to partner with TRORC to improve the King Farm building; moving Commission meetings around to different locations each month to make commuting more fair for Commissioners and to support other venues; and looking for a new office location in a central downtown that is in need of re-development.

Nancy Jones made an amendment to the motion to postpone the vote until the Executive Committee meets again. There was no second to the amendment. The question was called by David Brandau and seconded by Tim O'Dell and 2/3 voted to call the question and cease debate. Jerry noted that he purposely worded the motion to say the "consensus of the Executive Committee" because there wasn't a formal vote. The majority of Commissioners voted no to the motion to move TRORC office spaces to 205 Billings Farm Road.

## **8. Staff/Commissioner Updates**

Kevin Geiger noted the Valley News article regarding an Act 250 study committee. Kevin reported that the energy planning funding has made it out of the House Appropriations Committee. Kevin reported on the Water Quality legislation to provide \$1 million to RPCs to administer projects statewide.

## **9. Adjournment – 9:35 pm:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Charles Jeffries. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26 at the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – March 23, 2017.