

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

April 26, 2017 -Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	4/26/17	3/23/17	2/22/17	1/25/17	1/18/17	12/14/16
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	
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt)	X					X
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X	X			X	
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X	X	X	X	X	
Peter Berger	Fairlee		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	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
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield						
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X	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
Vacant	Rochester						
David Brandau	Royalton		X				
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X	X	X		X
Peter Anderson	Sharon		X		X	X	X
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge	X				X	
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X		X	X	X
Jim Masland	Thetford						
Jim Bulger	Topsham				X	X	
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge		X		X	X	X
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee		X		X		X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X			X		X
Steve Schneider	At-Large	X					
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X		X	X		
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X		X	X	
Andrew Winter	At-Large						

Staff: Chris Damiani, Kevin Geiger, Lorelee Morrow

Guests: Melanie Sheehan- Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Sandi Knowlton-Soho- ACO Clinical Consultant, Meg Emmons

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments. Tim O'Dell requested an addition to the agenda to discuss strategies around effective town surveys.

2. Approval of March TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Bill Edgerton to approve the March TRORC Board minutes. Approved unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Bushrod Powers to accept the March financial reports. Kevin Geiger gave an overview of the funds and noted that we are three quarters of the way through the fiscal year. Accepted.

4. Vermont Department of Health 3-4-50 Initiative:

Loralee Morrow introduced Melanie Sheehan and Sandi Knowlton-Soho to the Board.

Sandi introduced One Care VT. She spoke to the general idea of how to create better places to live in healthier communities. Sandi gave an overview of the Community Collaborative core elements and the different types of organizations that make up the group such as Area Agencies on Aging, Housing Providers, Hospitals, etc. She talked about one of the first initiatives to focus was implementing projects around the 3-4-50 VT Dept. of Health Initiative (this relates to addressing the top 3 behaviors that lead to 4 diseases that cause 50% of premature deaths <http://www.healthvermont.gov/3-4-50>). She also discussed tips for municipalities, businesses, schools, and childcare providers to help promote healthier lifestyles.

Melanie Sheehan passed out two pre-addressed cards to each individual. One to answer "What you are doing to support healthy living?" And the second card is to give to a friend or family member and have them fill out a card to be sent to Jill at Mt. Ascutney. The comments will be posted on the 3-4-50 website.

Bushrod Powers asked whether they felt that all the ads on TV for prescription drugs are helping health or deteriorating health? Sandi replied that it does contribute to the notion that people feel that if they take a drug it will make everything better in their lives and that changing behaviors is really needed.

Melanie Sheehan noted that all of the Board members have a position in town that can make an impact in everyone's community. She pointed out the *Supporting Healthy Communities: What Towns Can Do*, policy guide of how to implement healthy initiatives in our communities.

A motion was made by Don Bourdon to support and encourage the Regional Commission's implementation of the Vermont Department of Health 3-4-50 initiative in TRORC communities. Lynne Bertram seconded the motion. Nancy Jones noted that one impediment to getting people outside is ticks. Steve Campbell stated that the Complete Streets efforts should be focused on village centers as it would cost far too much to implement on all roads. Bill Emmons

emphasized that there needs to be more awareness between all modes of transportation that share the road. Lori Hirshfield encouraged the Board members to work with Melanie and invite her to town-level meetings to discuss with community members the healthy initiatives that towns can take. Approved unanimously.

5. TRORC Regional Plan:

Kevin Geiger gave an overview of the public hearings that occurred in Bethel and Thetford, and the memo that was mailed out about changes that were made to the Plan as well as the schedule for an adoption date in June. Kevin started the discussion around Energy planning and Act 174 in relation to substantial deference vs. due consideration. Lori Hirshfield asked if we have to identify specific locations where the renewable energy generation will go. Kevin explained that neither towns nor the region have to identify preferred locations but we still have to go through the mapping exercise in the standards, and that this is largely to roughly identify better and worse areas in terms of permitting and energy potential. He also reviewed that the Regional Plan doesn't encourage new hydro construction but emphasizes retrofitting existing hydro facilities with technological updates. Ken Alton noted that out of the three units for the Wilder dam only one is within VT borders and that in terms of MWh of production 40% is in VT and 60% is in NH.

Kevin went over how the Plan splits unsuitable, constraint, prime and preferred areas. Lynne Bertram asked how ridgeline zoning influences the enhanced energy planning. Kevin pointed out that energy generation projects do not go through your zoning, they go through the 248 (Certificate of Public Good) process. The planning guidance wants the same standards applied to like development, so if a town says that a certain area is unsuitable for energy production then it is also unsuitable for all large scale industrial/ commercial, high density residential. A town can't pick one form of development over renewable energy generation.

Lori handed out comments on the regional plan from local Hartford public meeting and discussed the comments. Lori discussed comments about the implementation matrix, projections in the History and Development chapter, and working landscape. She also went over comments on the Definitions chapter, looking at Dwelling Unit, food preparation. A motion was made by Lori Hirshfield to send the Regional Plan amendments to the final public hearing at the next TRORC Board meeting on May 31. Nancy Jones seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

6. TRORC Board Meeting Next Meeting Date:

Kevin reiterated that next Board meeting will be one week later than it usually occurs to make room for the warning period of the Regional Plan. A motion was made by Mark Belisle to move the next board meeting to May 31, 2017. Bushrod Powers seconded the motion. Approved.

7. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

Lori Hirshfield voiced her thanks for the work staff has done, particularly on the elements of the Regional Plan.

Kevin Geiger thanked Lorelee Morrow for her work at TRORC as she will be leaving June 2nd. The Commission wished her well and applauded in recognition of her work.

No Act 250 projects. Kevin noted the recent news of conservation work being done around Exit 4 on I-89.

Legislative Updates: The \$300,000 for enhanced energy work for next year has been put in House and Senate bills. There is language in the capital budget around water quality to do block grants for RPCs and Conservation Districts to implement actual projects.

Kevin mentioned that Michael Storace got two watershed restoration grants for TRORC. Kevin informed the Board on recent presentations with bankers on the brownfield process. Kevin also mentioned that the field work season has begun – specifically on road erosion inventories in Bridgewater, Stockbridge, and Corinth. In addition sidewalk studies are being conducted in the towns that we don't already have that data for.

Bill Emmons asked Commissioners for suggestions on alternate rotating locations for future board meetings. Suggestions included: Hartford Town Hall, Montshire Museum, Hartford High School, Bethel Town Hall, Royalton Academy Building. Please email Bill Emmons with any other suggestions.

8. Town Survey Tips

Tim O'Dell brought up his question as to how towns have done surveys and if they were effective. Lori Hirshfield mentioned they have found them valuable and that it is important to identify the focus of the survey. Nancy Jones mentioned that West Fairlee had conducted a good survey. Bill Edgerton emphasized that using multiple formats is best to get the range of views in town. If there is a well written and statistically valid survey it helps identify directions for the town. He also mentioned that a good survey also allows for cross tabs to see what certain demographics feel about certain subjects. Monica Collins encouraged towns to look at Castleton Polling Institute to help come up with survey questions and do analysis. They are a good resource to come up with unbiased questions, and even if you don't hire out their services they will be happy to give suggestions as well.

9. Adjournment – 8:12 pm:

A motion to adjourn was made by Bushrod Powers. Adjourned at 8:12 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31st at the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock.

Minutes Prepared By Chris Damiani – May 2, 2017.