

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT

May 31, 2017 -Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	5/31/17	4/26/17	3/23/17	2/22/17	1/25/17	1/18/17
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	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
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield	X	X				
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea		X	X			X
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peter Berger	Fairlee			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	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich	X		X			
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield	X					
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X	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
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				X
Steve Campbell	Strafford		X	X		X	X
Stuart Rogers	Theftord	X					
Jim Bulger	Topsham					X	X
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge			X		X	X
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X		X		X	
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X	X			X	
Steve Schneider	At-Large	X	X				
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X	X		X	X	
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X	X		X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large						

Staff: Chris Damiani, Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish, Michael Storace

Guests: Brian Shupe, Vermont Natural Resources Council

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

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was declared. There were no public comments.

2. Public Hearing – TRORC Regional Plan Amendments:

Kevin Geiger referred to the memo explaining the minor changes to the Regional Plan since the last draft. There is nothing new, with a few changes due to Commissioner suggestions on the Definitions chapter. Kevin thanked Chris Damiani for all of his work on the Energy Implementation Plan and Dee Gish for outreach efforts. No comments were received, so the Regional Plan will move forward to a vote at the June Annual Meeting.

3. Public Hearing – Town Plan Approvals for West Fairlee and Hartland:

Jon Binhammer noted that in the Hartland Town Plan Review, under #9D, the Plan does not mention sound forest and agricultural management practices, but that it is not listed as needed in future versions of the Plan. Kevin Geiger responded that this will be added. Tim O'Dell mentioned that #9C of the Hartland Town Plan for encouraging locally-grown foods is absent, and not mentioned as needed in future versions either. Chairman Emmons closed the hearing.

4. Public Hearing – Confirmation Action per 24 VSA, §4350 for West Fairlee and Hartland:

There were no public comments. Chairman Emmons closed the hearing.

Before voting on approval for the West Fairlee and Hartland Town Plans, Chairman Emmons made a change in the agenda to accommodate the guest speakers, Brian Shupe and Steve Schneider.

5. Discussion of the I-89, Exit 4 Conservation proposals:

Brian Shupe, Executive Director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) presented a brief biography and history of VNRC. Brian noted that VNRC focuses on four major areas: Forests and Wildlife; Water; Energy & Climate Action; and Sustainable Communities. With regards to the Exit 4 proposed development, VNRC was concerned about an “iconic gateway” to Vermont communities, agricultural soils, the possibility of primary retail, and the lack of detail in the application. The developer withdrew the Act 250 application and is working with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, VNRC and the Conservation Law Foundation to purchase two separate parcels of land to keep them conserved.

6. Discussion with Steve Schneider, Executive Director of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission:

Steve presented a brief biography and reviewed projects and funding at UVLSRPC. Steve also discussed past and future ways UVLSRPC can partner with TRORC.

7. Action on West Fairlee and Hartland Town Plan Approvals:

A motion was made by Bill Edgerton and seconded by Bushrod Powers to approve the West Fairlee Town Plan. Lori Hirshfield requested that the Board hear from the Town representative. Nancy Malmquist noted that the Flood Resilience element had been added to the West Fairlee Town Plan and that the

Town is working with TRORC on a complete overhaul of the Plan. West Fairlee currently has a small but active Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment, but noted that it is difficult to find volunteers willing to serve the Town. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Nancy Jones and seconded by Jenn Colby to approve the Hartland Town Plan with the additions to 9C and 9D of the Town Plan Review. Approved unanimously.

8. Action on Confirmation of planning efforts for West Fairlee and Hartland:

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Bill Edgerton to confirm the planning efforts for West Fairlee and Hartland. Confirmed unanimously.

9. Approval of April, 2017 TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Anne Brown to approve the April, 2017 TRORC Board meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

10. Acceptance of the April, 2017 TRORC Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Mark Belisle to accept the April, 2017 TRORC Financial Reports. Nancy Jones asked about the receivables listed since 2016. Kevin Geiger noted that these are related to the Hartford Bridge and Main CDBG project that will be closing soon, so payment will be forthcoming. Accepted unanimously.

11. TRORC Regional Plan – Action to set vote on adoption for June 28, 2017:

A motion was made by Nancy Jones and seconded by Don Bourdon to vote on the adoption of the TRORC Regional Plan on June 28, 2017. Passed unanimously.

12. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

No Act 250 projects. Kevin Geiger noted that there have been a number of Section 248 proposals coming through.

Kevin noted that TRORC is currently working on Enhanced Energy Planning with five municipalities and that other funding will be coming to work with other towns on energy planning after July 1.

Bill Edgerton asked how President Trump's proposed budget will affect RPCs? Kevin noted that a Continuing Resolution actually passed, so that immediate FFY17 funding is ok. The proposed FFY18 budget does cut all flood mapping funding, CDBG, and the Economic Development Administration, while emergency planning, CEDF, and EPA funding is reduced. If the budget passes as proposed, Vermont would likely lose many state employees.

Lori Hirshfield announced that Hartford will be advertising soon for a full-time Energy Coordinator position.

Bill Emmons noted that Jenn Colby was recently awarded a UVM Alumni Achievement Award. Jenn received a round of applause.

Jon Binhammer urged those that were interested in helping with the Exit 4 conservation effort, to make a donation to the Preservation Trust of VT.

Bruce Riddle asked how the upcoming bridge replacement in Woodstock may affect TRORC? Bill Emmons believes that the bridge outage won't be bad and that there will be a detour. Bruce also asked about TRORC office space and a potential move. Bill noted that TRORC is working with the Vermont Land Trust to cost share some office improvements and that a move is not imminent.

13. Adjournment – 7:56 pm:

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Edgerton. Adjourned at 7:56 pm.

The next Board meeting is the TRORC Annual Meeting, to be held on June 28, 2017, beginning at 5:00 for social hour, at the King Farm in Woodstock.

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – June 7, 2017.