

TRORC Board Meeting

Wild Roots restaurant, Royalton, Vermont

December 13, 2017 – Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	12/13/17	10/25/17	9/27/17	7/12/17	6/28/17	5/31/17
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard		X	X	X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel	X					X
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X	X			X	
Malcolm Fitzpatrick	Braintree					X	
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater			X		X	
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield	X	X		X		X
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea		X	X		X	
Tim O'Dell	Corinth		X	X	X	X	X
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X		X		X	
Mark Belisle	Granville	X	X	X		X	X
Monica Collins	Hancock	X				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	X	X
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury		X	X	X	X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich					X	X
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield			X	X	X	X
Anne Brown	Plymouth		X		X		X
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X	X	X		X
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)			X	X		
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X					
David Brandau	Royalton	X	X	X	X		
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		X	X		X	X
Peter Anderson	Sharon	X	X			X	X
Deb Jones	Sharon (Alt)			X			
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge					X	X
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X	X	X	X	
Stuart Rogers	Thetford		X	X		X	X
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X		X			
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X		X			
Bill Baylis	Vershire					X	
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X	X	X	X	X	X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X		X	X	X	X
Steve Schneider	At-Large		X	X		X	X
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X			X	X	X
Ken Alton	At-Large			X	X	X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large		X			X	

Staff: Chris Damiani, Pete Fellows, Kevin Geiger, Kimberly Gilbert, Dee Gish, Peter Gregory, Tory Littlefield, Rita Seto.

Guests: Chris Sargent, Doon Hinderyckx

1. Call to Order:

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call. No public comments were received.

2. Public Hearing – Town Plan Approvals for Strafford, Tunbridge and Vershire:

Steve Campbell noted that for the Energy and Utilities and Facilities chapters of the Strafford Town Plan, that TRORC staff said that unless cost estimates were included, that future plans will not be approved. Steve noted the difficulty of allocating costs eight years out that estimates would not be completed with integrity. Peter Berger also voiced concern, feeling that cost estimates and allocations would turn the Plans into regulatory documents, not planning documents and recalled a Fairlee project where the Public Utility Commission required estimates before approval. Peter Gregory noted that the cost estimates for energy are new requirements from the state, and the Board can agree or disagree with TRORC staff recommendations. Carl Russell said that the issue speaks to the problem of inattention to implementation. Steve Campbell noted that the Strafford plan was written in consultation with neighboring towns with regard to New Vistas, wildlife connectivity and forest blocks. Nancy Jones noted that on the last page of Strafford's Town Plan Review, "Tunbridge" should be changed to "Strafford" in two instances.

The Public Hearing was officially closed.

A motion was made by Peter Berger and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to approve the Strafford Town Plan. Unanimously approved.

Tory Littlefield noted that Tunbridge continues to work on their Town Plan and it will likely be re-adopted this fall.

A motion was made by David Brandau and seconded by Peter Berger to approve the Tunbridge Town Plan. Unanimously approved.

Bill Emmons noted that in all three Town Plan reviews, the estimates for energy costs were missing. Peter Gregory repeated that this is a new state requirement and as more towns complete capital budgeting, these estimates will improve.

A motion was made by Nancy Jones and seconded by Mark Belisle to approve the Vershire Town Plan. Unanimously approved.

3. Public Hearing – Confirmation Action for Strafford, Tunbridge and Vershire:

No comments were received in the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was officially closed.

A motion was made by Don Bourdon and seconded by Peter Anderson to confirm the planning process of Strafford, Tunbridge and Vershire. Unanimously approved.

4. Approval of October 25, 2017 TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Nancy Jones and seconded by Peter Berger to approve the October Board Minutes. Unanimously approved.

5. Acceptance of the October and November, 2017 TRORC Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Jenn Colby to accept the October and November financial reports. Nancy Jones asked about an outstanding receivable from Chittenden County RPC since June. Peter Gregory explained that for our fiscal year audit, TRORC needed to show time spent on the grant during the fiscal year, but that was not actually invoiced at the time, and the payments are made when the task is completed, not as time is applied. The payment should be received soon. Accepted unanimously.

6. LiDAR technology presentation:

John Adams, Director for Vermont Center for Geographic Information gave a presentation regarding LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) technology that will improve mapping information in Vermont. John noted that LiDAR has a wide range of uses, from archaeology, flood plain mapping, clean water and phosphorus run-off information for farmers, E-911 public safety, renewable energy potential, forestry, and census updates. The LiDAR information requires massive storage requirements. Access to the LiDAR information can be found through Web Services of the Vermont Open Geodata Portal. The ortho imagery will be updated on a five year cycle, while the LiDAR updates are recommended at an eight year cycle.

7. TRORC Regional Plan Natural Resources Chapter Review discussion:

Kevin Geiger led a discussion on the Natural Resources chapter. Nancy Jones indicated concern with the phrasing "should not deplete" found on page 3, #2 and page 7, lines 20 and 21. Nancy understood the meaning of "deplete" to mean "all gone". Kevin noted that the intention is to leave groundwater at a constant level. Jon Benjamin asked if it were realistic that commercial water extraction would result in no groundwater depletion? Kevin gave the example of the artesian water extraction in Stockbridge. Jenn Colby suggest using positive language such as "shall maintain." Nancy also noted that on page 7, line 4, there seemed to be a contradiction on straight pipe systems. Kevin noted that these are "largely" eliminated, not "completely" eliminated. Nancy asked whether on page 6, lines 34-36 if the "outstanding water resources" list were complete? Kevin noted that yes, those listed were the official ones, but said now ones may be listed for the White River and Black River basins. Nancy also raised concerns on page 9 regarding the fluctuation of the CT River, as flooding occurs twice a year on the Bradford golf course, affecting nesting water birds. Carl

noted that there are multiple issues with flooding. Kevin will look into the wildlife impacts of flood events.

Jim Bulger had concerns on page 13, line 30, regarding buffer strips, since towns like Topsham are located in narrow valleys, and many hayfields are within the 100-foot buffer. Bill Emmons noted that agriculture is exempt and Kevin noted that the buffer is for structural development. Jann Colby recommended a change from "limit" to "manage" animal uses. Bill Emmons recommended that on page 14, line 24, change "is" to "are" migratory routes; and condense the sentences on lines 27-31; and change "considered" to "consistent" on page 32, line 2. Bill also recommended defining "run of river." Kevin will add to the definitions. Bill recommended that on page 15, line 25, make two sentences to break up one long sentence, stopping at "humans." On line 32, can add photography to list of uses.

Jenn Colby noted on page 15, line 5, that planned developments are where buffer zones are needed the most. Kevin noted that this refers to existing development, not new. Jim Bulger asked about the tax consequences of buffers, where building is prohibited. Carl noted that there are only a few instances where development is limited by buffers.

Steve Campbell asked if the energy goals are consistent with hydro development. Kevin noted that the proposed increase in hydro power in the energy plan would come from re-purposing and/or improving existing dams and hydro facilities. No new dams are proposed.

Nancy noted that on page 17, forested wetlands feed more than black bears and recommended that "other species" be mentioned as well.

Kevin noted that vernal pools are now regulatable by the state, but are not mapped yet. Jon Binhammer, on page 19, line 24 and 25 wondered if fens and bogs are protected. Kevin will check.

8. TRORC Non-Profit Arm – Implementing Board decision on name and board size:

Peter Gregory reported that the Executive Committee recommended the non-profit be named "Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission Research Foundation" and that the non-profit Board consist of the Executive Committee and one additional TRORC Board member, for a total of seven.

A motion was made by Don Bourdon and seconded by Peter Berger to name the non-profit the "Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Foundation" and for the non-profit Board to consist of the TRORC Executive Committee plus one additional TRORC Board member. Unanimously approved.

9. Staff/Commission Updates:

Peter noted the January Board meeting will be held on January 24th at the Montshire Museum in Norwich where the Ottauquechee/Black River Basin Plan will be reviewed, as will the Braintree Town Plan. There are two public hearings scheduled for the proposed TRORC Bylaws – on January 16th and January 24th. Peter also reported on a Windsor County legislators meeting that was held at the King Farm last week where the Municipal Roads General Permit and water quality issues were the main topics of conversation.

10. Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.
Minutes prepared by Dee Gish 10/27/17.