

# TRORC Board Meeting

Montshire Museum, Norwich, Vermont

## January 24, 2018 - Board Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

Name	Town	1/24/18	12/13/17	10/25/17	9/27/17	7/12/17	6/28/17
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			X
Malcolm Fitzpatrick	Braintree						X
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater	X			X		X
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield	X	X	X		X	
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X		X	X		X
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X		X	X	X	X
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X	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	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich	X					X
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield				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	X	
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X	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
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stuart Rogers	Thetford			X	X		X
Jim Bulger	Topsham		X		X		
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X	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
Ken Alton	At-Large	X			X	X	X
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X		X			X

**Staff:** Chris Damiani, Kevin Geiger, Kimberly Gilbert, Dee Gish, Peter Gregory, Tory Littlefield, Michael Storace.

**Guests:** Marie Caduto, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call. No public comments were received. An item was added to the agenda: to authorize a new certificate of deposit at Northfield Savings Bank.

**2. Public Hearing – Town Plan Approval for Braintree:**

Tory Littlefield reported that the Braintree Town Plan has expired, and this is a quick update. The Plan will be fully updated this year. Nancy Malmquist noted that the Plan review was thorough, but noted that small towns like Braintree do not have the need or capacity to address rail or air travel in the transportation section, so maybe just note it is not relevant to Braintree. Tory noted that this Plan incorporated deficiencies from the previous Plan review.

The Public Hearing was officially closed.

**3. Public Hearing – Confirmation Action for Braintree:**

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

**4. Braintree Town Plan approval and confirmation:**

A motion was made by Don Bourdon and seconded by Bushrod Powers to approve the Town Plan and confirm the planning process of Braintree. Unanimously approved.

**5. Approval of December 13, 2017 TRORC Board Minutes:**

Jon Binhammer noted that on page 7, his name was incorrectly written as Jon Benjamin. Frank Tegethoff noted that he was present at the December meeting, but the attendance roster did not reflect that.

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Mark Belisle to approve the December Board Minutes with corrections. Unanimously approved.

**6. Acceptance of the December, 2017 TRORC Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Nancy Jones to accept the December financial reports. Peter Gregory noted that TRORC is on track for the first six months of the fiscal year. Receivables have largely been received. TRORC has been contracted to do a follow-on Hazard Materials flow study for between \$72,000 and

\$90,000 that was unbudgeted and will be mostly earned this fiscal year. Peter explained the Conservation Fund project, after a question from Jon Binhammer. Accepted unanimously.

**7. Tactical Basin #10 Plan presentation:**

Michael Storace introduced Marie Caduto from the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Michael noted that the basin Plan identifies impairments and stressors and includes a list of projects intended to remediate water quality. Copies of the Basin 10 Plan, both in entirety and an executive summary were made available. The Plans are updated every five years. Marie noted that all of the waters in Vermont need to be fishable and swimmable and her presentation included outlines of how waters are classified according to their uses. Marie also highlighted a new watershed project database that can be accessed online. She also noted that the reclassification of waters goes through the state legislature, after recommendations from ANR. Michael reviewed the main points of the draft comment letter to ANR regarding the Basin Plan, and described how the letter went through multiple drafts after review from TRORC's Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC).

Lori Hirshfield and Jeff Goodrich voiced their concerns that this was the first opportunity to understand the proposed Basin Plan letter and glean information from Marie's presentation. They suggest that in the future, a vote to approve a comment letter could be held at a subsequent meeting from a presentation of the Plan. Peter Gregory responded that the concerns are well-taken and that this is the first time TRORC had been asked to form an opinion of the Basin Plan. Timing was made difficult due to the date the draft was released by ANR and the date by which comments were due. In future reviews, voting will be held at a meeting after the Plan presentation.

Bill Emmons submitted some grammatical corrections to the letter.

There was discussion regarding how implementation projects are prioritized. Marie offered to return at a later date to discuss prioritization and also noted that project success depends on landowner support. Peter noted that the CWAC will be used to further refine the priorities, and can bring their recommendations to the Board.

A motion was made by Nancy Jones and seconded by Jeff Goodrich to approve the comment letter, with corrections. Unanimously approved.

**8. TRORC Regional Plan Emergency Management Chapter Review discussion:**

Kevin Geiger led a discussion on the Emergency Management chapter. Kevin noted the chapter has been reviewed by the Executive Committee with the goal of making the chapter more concise with the removal of extraneous background information.

Lori Hirshfield noted her concern with naming specific companies (policy #11 First Net). Kevin noted that FirstNet is not a vendor, but provides national coverage for emergency telecommunications. Jeff Goodrich voiced his concerns about how the chapter does not address resiliency. He believes it resiliency should be added as a

policy. In addition, policies should encourage communities to use FEMA codes and standards and embrace resiliency practices. Carl Russell agreed that towns need to understand what codes and standards will help them avoid future problems with FEMA payments. Kevin noted that there is also a separate flood resilience chapter. Peter noted that this is a first draft of the Emergency chapter to the Board. There will be more opportunities to comment during public hearings, and that Jeff's recommendations will be included. Bruce Riddle noted that public health emergencies (page 6) deserve more thought and coordination, and that a separate paragraph, rather than just one sentence is warranted. Mark Belisle noted that (line 39, page 2) some town constables are appointed, not elected. Anni Mackay noted that towns would benefit from an emergency preparedness checklist and was wondering why the education was struck out of line 6 in the first paragraph. Kevin will review and edit or clarify. Anni noted that Rochester has formed a business association that includes emergency coordination. Carl Russell noted that a C+ (Citizens Plus) program, such as one in Bethel, can be used as a model.

**9. Making a Determination of Energy Compliance for Municipal Plans:**

Chris Damiani presented the TRORC and statutory process for towns looking for a Determination of Energy Compliance. The TRORC Board will act on the first municipal request (Braintree) in February.

**10. Housing in the Upper Valley:**

Steve Schneider discussed a bi-state effort, that includes Regional Planning Commissions and Twin Pines Housing Trust, to address housing needs in the region. Issues include housing shortages, lack of housing mobility and the relationship between housing and health. Steve will provide reports to the Board.

**11. Authorization of investing in a CD at Northfield Savings Bank:**

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Mark Belisle to authorize an investment at Northfield Savings Bank. Peter reported that the Executive Committee has recommended that TRORC investments be spread among various regional banks. Approved unanimously.

**12. Staff/Commission Updates:**

Peter noted that Downs Rachlin Martin is working on a draft of the application for the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Foundation 501(c)3. Peter reported that the TRORC Bylaw amendment will be voted on at the next Board meeting, on February 28, following the two public hearings, where no members of the public attended. Public comments on the draft Bylaws are due by January 31, 2018.

**12. Adjourn:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.  
Minutes prepared by Dee Gish 1/25/18.