

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, Vermont

February 28, 2018 – Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	2/28/18	1/24/18	12/13/17	10/25/17	9/27/17	7/12/17
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X		X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel		X	X			
Nancy Jones	Bradford		X	X	X	X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)		X	X	X		
VACANT	Braintree						
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater		X			X	
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield	X	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			
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford		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		X
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X	X	X	X	X
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)		X			X	X
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X	X	X			
David Brandau	Royalton			X	X	X	X
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		X		X	X	
Peter Anderson	Sharon		X	X	X		
Deb Jones	Sharon (Alt)	X				X	
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge						
Steve Campbell	Strafford		X	X	X	X	X
Stuart Rogers	Thetford				X	X	
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X		X		X	
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge		X	X		X	
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X	X	X	X	X	X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock		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
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X	X		X		

Staff: Chris Damiani, Kimberly Gilbert, Dee Gish, Peter Gregory.

Guests: Doon Hinderyckx, Rochester.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call. Doon Hinderyckx, Selectboard Chair from Rochester commented that Rochester's Village Designation had lapsed and wondered whose responsibility is it to keep track of designations. He assumed it was the town. The Rochester Planning Commissions held extra, emergency meetings in an attempt to retain the Designation through a grace period, but then warned a meeting improperly, resulting in a lapse of the Designation and the requirement to go through the application process from the beginning. Doon just wanted to bring this to the Board's attention. No further public comments.

2. Public Hearing – Energy Certification for Braintree Town Plan:

Public Hearing opened at 6:35 pm. There were no public comments. The Public Hearing was officially closed.

3. Approval of Energy Certification for Braintree Town Plan:

A motion was made by Frank Tegethoff and seconded by Jeff Goodrich to approve the Certificate of Energy Compliance for the Braintree Town Plan. Chris Damiani referred to the previously distributed memo that highlighted portions of Braintree's energy chapter and explained the process of certifying energy compliance. Staff recommended approval. Unanimously approved.

4. Approval of January 24, 2018 TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Nancy Malmquist and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to approve the January Board Minutes. Unanimously approved.

5. Acceptance of the January, 2018 TRORC Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Anne Brown to accept the January financial reports. Peter Gregory noted that TRORC has received the third quarter advance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the scholarship program is paying out to the 2017 recipients, the old receivables from Chittenden County RPC will be paid once the quarterly billing cycle is complete, and that the Balance Sheet, reflecting a snapshot reveals a fund balance of roughly \$26,000. Tim O'Dell noted that the percentages of inflows and outflows are only 48% and 44% respectively, wondered if this was due to the slowness of state and federal bureaucracy, and if this would have any effects the Board should be aware of. Peter Gregory responded that the buyout funds are slow to move, especially the last

remaining properties, but that the fiscal health of the TRORC remains strong. Accepted unanimously.

6. Adoption of TRORC Bylaws:

A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Nancy Malmquist to adopt the Bylaws as warned. Jon Binhammer questioned Section 3.5 where it states "possibly enter into municipal service agreements..." Jeff Goodrich explained the language was important so that no one is compelled to enter into agreements. Ramsey Papp noted that under Section 8.6 Vice Chairperson "shall perform all the duties of the TRORC in his or her absence" should be "shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson." Peter noted that this language cannot be changed now due to the proposal to be officially warned, but can be amended later. Unanimously approved.

7. TRORC Regional Plan Natural Resources (part 2) and Historical, Cultural and Scenic Resources Chapters Review discussion:

Kimberly Gilbert led the discussion of the Regional Plan chapters. The only major changes to the second half of the Natural Resources chapter were strike outs of the water related issues, which were moved to the first half of the chapter. Jon Binhammer suggested the following changes: line 7 on page 1 should read "...so the health of one species may indicate the health of all." Jon wondered where the 25 acres and less figure on line 24 came from, and noted that lines 25 and 26 "oak, whose populations have become sparse", with climate change oak population will likely increase. Jenn Colby would like to see footnotes and references for figures cited in the chapter. Tim O'Dell wondered if the use of "large" in places such as line 9 on page 9 should actually have a number of acres tied to it to be more effective planning language. Frank Tegethoff noted that in the Newbury Town Plan, they use deer wintering yards as identified and mapped by the Agency of Natural Resources. Bruce Riddle suggested that the chapter cite the new law for preserving contiguous forests. Jon noted that the Bragdon Preserve, as cited on line 28 on page 2, is now privately owned, so another example should be provided. Jon noted lines 39 and 40 should state "a stable moose population relies on a balance of forest age classes," since clearcutting has actually increased moose populations in some locations. Line 44, page 4 change "deteriorating" to "deleterious." Line 2, page 5 change "irritated" to "anemic." Line 5, page 7 needs a citation of the study on tree migration. Bruce Riddle suggests that policy recommendations should be more aggressive in order to preserve and conserve the wildlife that remains in the region and to push towns and landowners to protect species. Bill Emmons noted that there are conservation organizations that work with private landowners to preserve wildlife. Jon, Bruce and Jerry Fredrickson agreed that a policy recommendation would be to support the establishment of town Conservation Commissions and the importance of those groups working with VTrans and non-profit conservation organizations to maintain wildlife corridors. Jon noted that a permanent barrier to wildlife exists when vehicle travel is greater than 10,000 cars/day on roadways. Frank Tegethoff cautioned using a fixed elevation threshold, as on line 18, page 9, since a majority of species are at lower elevations. Tim O'Dell suggested the TRORC hear from a speaker concerning fragmentation. Tim also noted that on page 11 the section on Carbon Dioxide should mention the value of soil carbon sequestration. Anni

Mackay noted that we should be sensitive to all species and that we are not paying enough attention to wildlife vulnerabilities. Jon wondered why goal #7 on page 12 was crossed out? Peter noted the goal is contained in the Transportation chapter. Tim noted that goal #3 the words "is reduced" should be underlined, not crossed out. Tim also noted that Recommendation #3 on page 13 should read "...should be chipped, left on site in acceptable areas,...". Landfilled should be crossed out. With regard to Mineral Resources on page 13, Tim notes that future extraction of copper and other metals should be done by limiting externalities. Deb Jones noted that the background paragraph seems to favor the public good at the expense of the landowner and Bruce recommended that the chapter contain an inventory of the stone industry in the region.

Kimberly also led the discussion of the Historical, Cultural, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources chapter. Jim Bulger wondered where the list of scenic areas (page 12) came from. They were staff generated from knowledge and local planning documents. Jon noted that the old town hall in Brookfield should be added. Jenn Colby noted that the caption for Photo 19 should read "Dairy barn" not "bar." Bruce Riddle suggested that Local Historic Preservation Methods, from page 6, mention the economic value of preservation, as buildings may be too expensive to preserve. Anni Mackay noted that sometimes historic building preservation can set the tone for the entire town, so there is value to keeping town buildings well maintained. Frank wondered who decides that is "unnecessary destruction" from Policy #3 on page 7. Peter Gregory noted staff will work to make some changes to the language and that, due to time constraints, will pick up with the Archeological Resources discussion at the next meeting, March 28, 2018.

8. Staff/Commissioner Updates:

Peter Gregory noted Act 250 involvement has been quiet, save for a site visit to the Harvey pit in Stockbridge. The third year of energy planning will likely get state funding, but clean water programs have no new funding sources. The TRORF non-profit effort continues as we work with our attorney on the application. The 2018 TRORC scholarship announcement has been sent to area schools.

Jenn Colby reported that she attended the Vermont Tech Committee meeting, where representatives from agriculture and forestry discussed Farm Service Agency (FSA) funding. There was a 2015 language change in the Federal Register resulting in making Vermont ineligible for Conservation Reserve Funding and has placed a hold on all new farm applications.

9. Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.
Minutes prepared by Dee Gish 3/2/18.