

# TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, Vermont

## April 25, 2018 – Board Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

Name	Town	4/25/18	3/28/18	2/28/18	1/24/18	12/13/17	10/25/17
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X		X
Carl Russell	Bethel				X	X	
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X			X	X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)				X	X	X
VACANT	Braintree						
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater				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	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
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich		X	X	X		
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield	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
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)	X	X		X		
Anni Mackay	Rochester			X	X	X	
David Brandau	Royalton	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						
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X		X	X	X
Stuart Rogers	Thetford	X	X				X
Jim Bulger	Topsham		X	X		X	
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge				X	X	
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee			X	X	X	X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X	X		X	X	
Steve Schneider	At-Large	X	X	X	X		X
Jennifer Colby	At-Large			X		X	
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X		X		
Andrew Winter	At-Large			X	X		X

**Staff:** Kimberly Gilbert, Dee Gish, Peter Gregory, Tory Littlefield.

**Guests:** Joe Mazuko and Joan Sax from the Town of Randolph

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Board meeting at 6:27 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call.

**2. Public comments:**

Joan Sax read a statement outlining resident concerns and provided a copy of the statement regarding the proposed Randolph Center Solar project. Joan and Joe asked if TRORC would re-issue the 45 Day Notice comment letter regarding the project. Peter Gregory and Dee Gish replied that TRORC would likely not re-issue the letter dated February 21 and might wait to issue comments once the full CPG application is filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission. No other public comments were received.

**3. Public Hearing – Town Plan Approval for Rochester:**

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Public Hearing for the Rochester Town Plan. There were no public comments. Chair Emmons closed the hearing.

**4. Public Hearing – Confirmation Action for Rochester per 24 VSA, Section 4350:**

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Public Hearing for the Rochester Confirmation Action. There were no public comments. Chair Emmons closed the hearing.

**5. Action on Rochester Town Plan Approval and Confirmation:**

Kimberly Gilbert reported that the 2013 Rochester Town Plan review recommended some improvements, and that all of those suggestions have been addressed in the 2018 Town Plan. These included improvements to the Transportation, Education and Housing policy sections and the statutorily required sections on Flood Resilience and Forestry. Rochester will be re-applying for a Village Designation. A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Herb Kuendig to approve the Rochester Town Plan. Unanimously approved. A motion was made by Anne Brown and seconded by Bushrod Powers to confirm the Rochester planning process. Unanimously approved.

**6. Approval of March 28, 2018 TRORC Board Minutes:**

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Mark Belisle to approve the March Board Minutes. Tim O'Dell suggested that on page 3, the minutes are corrected to read : "...the words "appropriately scaled" be added to line 9, suggestion **Z** on page 10." Unanimously approved with the suggested change. Bill Emmons noted the importance of having an alternate Board representative for every town and suggested

that Commissioners invite their peers to a Board meeting. Peter Gregory offered to talk with any prospective Board members regarding duties, time commitments, etc.

**7. Acceptance of the March, 2018 TRORC Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Jerry Fredrickson and seconded by Nancy Jones to accept the March financial reports. Peter reported that the accounts receivables are current and that the FY19 budget planning process is underway. Accepted unanimously.

**8. TRORC Regional Plan Utilities, Facilities and Services Chapter Review discussion:**

Tory Littlefield continued the discussion of the Utilities, Facilities and Services chapter of the Regional Plan beginning with the Solid Waste section on page 16.

Bruce Riddle voiced concern over the prohibitive costs of solid waste disposal in the region. Tory said she would add language to the section regarding affordability issues. In the Educational Facilities and Services section, Nancy Jones requested that a link to the data that is available on the Vermont Department of Education be added. Lori Hirshfield noted that the last paragraph on page 22 overlaps with information on page 32, so the two may be able to be consolidated. Bill Emmons asked why the section on homeschooling was removed. Tory will add a mention of homeschooling, but the number of homeschooled children in the region is currently low. Peter Anderson would like a mention of the fact that Vermont ranks either 49<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> of states for funding higher education, while having one of the highest costs per pupil for primary education. Both Lori and Ramsey Papp commented about homelessness and poverty relating to education. Stuart Rogers noted that on the Continuing Education list on page 31, "Dartmouth College" should be changed to "OSHER" at Dartmouth. Lori noted that community colleges offer adult continuing education classes. Similarly, Bill Emmons noted that some high schools offer adult classes. Ramsey noted on page 31, lines 6-11, that Capstone does not have a jobs program at this time, so the reference could be removed. Commissioners voiced concerns over Policy #1 on page 33 and recommended that "shall" be changed to "should." On page 34, Recommendation #5 be changed to "Schools and the private sector..." Recommendation #7 on page 34, Nancy Jones suggested adding a mention that school staff may also have disabilities that require accommodation.

In the Child Care Services section, Frank Tegethoff wondered if there is current data regarding childcare in the region. Peter noted that a draft of this chapter was given to Building Bright Futures, Let's Grow Kids and The Permanent Fund, and hopefully they will provide information. Frank called attention to page 39, line 39 that illustrated a doubling of single head of households in the area. Similarly, Nancy Jones noted line 33 on page 39 illustrated that 13.6% of families are living poverty. Nancy suggests keeping a section on after school programs and summer camps. Peter Berger noted that the Aloha Foundation and Hulbert also have summer programs. Anne Brown suggested including Farm and Wilderness camp. Bruce noted that disabled adults and seniors also need day care facilities. Tory noted that those needs will be mentioned in the Healthy Communities chapter. Tory will keep the mention of "other forms of childcare."

In the Telecommunications section, Lori suggest mentioning that the Public Utility Commission regulates cell towers and include information on how towns can participate in the Section 248 process. Peter Anderson noted that on page 42, Sharon, Randolph and Corinth are served, in part, by EC Fiber. Tory will update the EC Fiber coverage information. Bruce Riddle noted the rapid change in telecommunications technology, including 5G service and suggests including a policy or goal to reflect new, changing technology.

In the Municipal Buildings section beginning on page 50, Nancy Jones suggests adding a mention about the importance of energy efficiency. Lori Hirshfield recommends adding "Municipal buildings" to the start of the sentence on line 32. Frank and Nancy requested that the Cross-Vermont Trail and Cross Rivendell Trails be added to page 52, line 8 and page 54, line 11. Frank brought up concerns over the mention of Class 4 roads as recreational facilities. Steve Campbell agreed and recommended deleting the mention of Class 4 roads. Don Bourdon asked why the section on ATVs was removed. Peter Berger voiced the need for language for ATVs and motor vehicle restrictions and suggested calling towns for information on what are restricted uses. Lori noted that a mention of Town Forest management plans can be helpful. Nancy suggested that Policy #9 on page 54 say "management plan **and** arrangements..." Anne suggested on line 22 using the word "among" instead of "between."

#### **9. TRORF Documents approval:**

Dee reported that the application documents for the TRORF are ready to be mailed if Commissioners approve. A motion was made by David Brandau and seconded by Jerry Fredrickson to approve the application documents and submit the documents to the VT Secretary of State and the IRS. Lori asked if TRORC would have any legal or financial liability with regard to the TRORF. Peter Gregory noted that TRORF would obtain its own liability insurance for Board members. Unanimously approved.

#### **10. Staff/Commissioner Updates:**

Peter reported that gravel pit in Stockbridge Act 250 permit application is in holding. The Randolph Center Solar project may be discussed at a Board meeting once the application is filed with the PUC. Peter reported that the Vermont Law School is hosting a day long program on the "50 Years of Act 250" on Thursday, May 24. The Act 250 Commission, of which Peter is an Advisor to Legislative members, is currently reviewing the statute. The focus is on what should be the correct public policy, not what is politically achievable.

Peter reported that a new legislative provision will allow RPCs to make investments in a similar manner as Towns. Year three energy planning funding is likely to pass and there will likely be level funding for RPCs and MPGs. Water Basin planning funds will likely be reduced 20%.

Peter reported that Michael Storace will be leaving TRORC around June 1 to attend graduate school at the Yale School of Forestry. Jessica Richter, the current TRORC AmeriCorps position, will likely take the vacated position in August.

**11. Adjourn:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.  
Minutes prepared by Dee Gish 4/30/18.