

TRORC Annual Meeting

King Farm, Woodstock, Vermont

June 27, 2018 – Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance:							
Name	Town	6/27/18	5/23/18	4/25/18	3/28/18	2/28/18	1/24/18
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel						X
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X			X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)						X
VACANT	Braintree						
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater	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	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
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich				X	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
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)	X		X	X		X
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X	X			X	X
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)	X	X				
David Brandau	Royalton	X		X			
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X	X	X		X
Peter Anderson	Sharon	X		X			X
Deb Jones	Sharon (Alt)					X	
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge						
Steve Campbell	Strafford	X	X	X	X		X
Stuart Rogers	Thetford			X	X		
Jim Bulger	Topsham				X	X	
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X	X				X
Bill Baylis	Vershire	X					
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee		X			X	X
Don Bourdon	Woodstock		X	X	X		X
Steve Schneider	At-Large	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X				X	
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X	X	X		X
Kent McFarland	At-Large	X					
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X	X	X		X	X

Staff: Pete Fellows, Kevin Geiger, Kimberly Gilbert, Dee Gish, Peter Gregory, Victoria Littlefield, Allyn Ricker, Jess Richter (AmeriCorps), Rita Seto,

Guests: Special guests included Representative Charlie Kimbell; Senator Alison Clarkson; Tom Berry, Assistant to Senator Patrick Leahy; Hartland Town Manager David Ormiston; Vital Communities Director Tom Roberts and guests of Commissioners.

1. Call to Order and Public Comments:

Chair Bill Emmons convened the Annual Meeting at 7:15 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call. Peter Anderson suggested a toast in recognition of a report that David Hall was abandoning his plans for the New Vistas development in the TRORC region. There were no other public comments.

2. Approval of 2017 TRORC Annual Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by David Brandau and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes. Unanimously approved.

3. Acceptance of the May, 2018 TRORC Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Bushrod Powers and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to accept the May financial reports. Accepted unanimously.

4. Approval of TRORC's FY 19 Budget:

A motion was made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Peter Berger to approve TRORC's FY 19 Budget: \$2,190,244 in Income and \$2,211,734 in Expenses. Peter Gregory noted that the proposal is for a deficit budget, owing to an additional staff person requested. The salary of this staff person is proposed to be covered by a combination of reserve funding and future revenues. Jim Masland congratulated Peter that with the current climate of tight budget constraints, this proposed budget is prudent. Approved unanimously.

5. Election of Officers for FY 19:

Ramsey Papp, of the Nominating Committee, read the proposed slate of officers: Jerry Fredrickson, Chair; Bill Emmons, Vice-Chair; Nancy Jones, Treasurer; David Brandau, Secretary; Nancy Malmquist, Member; Bill Edgerton, Member. A motion was made by Peter Berger and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to approve the slate of officers. Unanimously approved. Jerry Fredrickson assumes the TRORC Chair.

6. Vote to Elect At-Large Members for FY 19:

Jerry Fredrickson announced the proposed At-Large members: Jennifer Colby, Agriculture; Ken Alton, Business; Andrew Winter, Housing; Kent McFarland, Conservation; and Steve Schneider, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Jerry

reflected on what a pleasure it is to be serving as TRORC Board Chair and how difficult it is to step into Bill Emmon's fine legacy. A motion was made by David Brandau and seconded by Bill Bayliss to elect the At-Large members. Unanimously approved.

7. Scholarship announcement:

Nancy Jones announced the recipients of the 2018 TRORC Scholarship: Emma Bauer of Strafford, Hannah Davis of Thetford, Ella Farrell-Starr of Thetford, Noah Martel of Fairlee and Mac Sunde of Hartford. Nancy also noted that there were only five applicants this year, but each of the scholarship awards were well deserved.

8. Outgoing Chairman Recognition:

Jerry Fredrickson thanked outgoing Chair Bill Emmons for his many years as TRORC Chair. Bill briefly recalled his long history with haying and cattle farming at the King Farm. Jerry presented a card of thanks from TRORC staff and a photograph of the King Farm taken by Tory Littlefield, that the Commission will have framed for him.

9. Director Remarks:

Peter Gregory thanked B&W Caterers and the Pizza Chef bartending crew for the Annual Meeting's meal and libations. Peter then thanked staff for their hard work this year and noted that Chris Damiani was absent since he is hiking the Long Trail. Peter also thanked the Executive Committee for their dedication and Bill Emmons for his service as dedicated Chair for so many years. Peter also thanked Commissioners for making a difference in their communities and for the Legislators present for their support and accessibility and willingness to listen and participate in policy discussions. Peter mentioned the following highlights:

1. With help from the Legislature, shared services are now a service TRORC can provide.
2. TRORC once again had a clean audit and enjoys a strong financial position
3. Programs:
 - a. Thanks to Kevin Geiger for the home home buyouts which are concluding this December
 - b. Thanks to Tory for her work on the statewide HMEP inventories
 - c. Thanks to Senator Leahy for the Northern Borders Regional Commission work in the Federal farm bill to include the entire state of Vermont
 - d. Thanks to Chris Damiani, Dee Gish and Chris Sargent (past TRORC staff) for their work on the Regional Energy Plan and municipal energy plans
 - e. Thanks to Rita Seto for Municipal Roads grants, the largest portion of state funding secured for towns are in our region
 - f. Thanks to Kimberly for her work on the creative economy and public health initiatives.
 - g. TRORC continues to receive statewide and national recognition for our work

10. Presentation:

Chris Rimmer, Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies gave a brief overview of the Center and talked about his work with the Bicknell's Thrush. The Vermont Center for Ecostudies has been in existence for 11 years with a mission of the science of conservation and a focus on vulnerable populations of birds, amphibians and pollinators. Chris reported that the Bicknell Thrush serves as a "lightning rod" for migratory songbirds and is related to Vermont's state bird, the Hermit Thrush. The Bicknell Thrush is very rare, with a restricted alpine range in Vermont, New Hampshire and New York and winters in the Caribbean. Threats to the bird include habitat loss, air pollution, predators and most importantly, climate change. Chris also described conservation partnerships with the Mountain birdwatch citizen science monitoring group and partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He is hopeful that if we all work together, we can help save the Bicknell's Thrush and other threatened species.

Adjourn:

Bill Emmons made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dee Gish 6/28/18