

**TRORC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**TRORC Offices
Woodstock, VT**

February 21, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Jerry Fredrickson, Chair, Bill Emmons, Vice Chair, Nancy Malmquist, Bill Edgerton, Peter G. Gregory, Executive Director, and Dee Gish, Finance Manager and Special Projects

1. Call to Order:

Chair Fredrickson convened the meeting at 2:06 p.m. A quorum was declared by the Chair. Gregory added two items to the agenda: a discussion of solar electricity for TRORC and a TRORC Volunteer of the Year Award discussion.

2. Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

3. Approval of the January 9, 2019 Minutes:

On a motion made by Emmons, seconded by Edgerton, the Minutes of January 9, 2019 were adopted as drafted.

4. Acceptance of the unaudited January 2019 Financial Reports:

Gregory and Committee members reviewed the details for the month January 2019. Gregory noted that an old invoice from NRPC should be paid soon, that the DR 1 buyout account has been closed. The DR 1 public hearing was held this morning, with no members of the public attending. TRORC is signing three hazard mitigation plan contracts, for Braintree, Granville and Rochester. This is income that was not in the budget. The grants are for \$9,000 each. Fredrickson reported that he and Dee have reconciled the February bank statements. On a motion made by Edgerton seconded by Emmons, the January Financial Reports were accepted as presented.

5. Regional Plan Timeline and Next Steps:

Gregory and Committee members discussed Regional Plan updates. Gregory reported that the Housing chapter will be discussed at the next Board meeting on February 27. Gregory noted that if the Transportation Chapter is ready for review by the March meeting, the chapter could be presented by Rita and Sarah in March, along with the Annual Project Prioritization action. Or, portions of the Land Use Chapter could be

discussed. Gregory will ask the board to maintain the focus of the Land Use chapter, recognizing that some land consumptive uses, such as nurseries, might be better located outside of downtowns. Other than that, there will be no deviations in policy direction from staff. If the Land Use Chapter is not discussed in March, then it will be discussed at the April meeting.

6. TRORC Strategic Plan Update:

Gregory noted that the Chair will be asking for volunteers at the February Board meeting to work with staff on Strategic Plan updates. The Strategic Plan is a ten year plan, so no big changes are expected. Frederickson requested a one page update of the Staff Retreat.

7. TRORC Investment Policy Update:

Gregory is still drafting the RFP for Financial expertise and will keep the Committee informed on progress. The RFP will go out to about six companies, mostly banks.

8. TRORC Audit Services Update:

Gish reported that the RFP for audit services is due February 28 and at this time TRORC has received three proposals. The Executive Committee will be asked to make a selection at the March meeting.

9. February Board Meeting Review:

Gregory noted that the two big agenda items for the February Board meeting were the Housing Chapter review and the guest speaker – Maura Adams, Director of the Northern Forest Center.

10. Legislative Updates:

Gregory reported that he has testified at the Act 250 Commission how quality Regional and Municipal Plans help Act 250 proceedings. Gregory is hoping for more funding for RPCs and towns. Gregory reported that testimony from environmental groups noted that the quality of Regional Plans vary around the state and that Regional Plans should be subject to an independent review. Gregory noted that he supports the idea of an independent panel conducting Regional Plan reviews to make sure that Plans have addressed statutory goals. Gregory reported on the proposed Act 250 exemption for downtowns and villages. This idea is supported by the Administration. It is also supported by environmental groups as long as the exemption is coupled with strengthening regulations in rural areas. Gregory noted that the exemption process is overly rigorous and seems like the efforts are carried by Towns while the benefits go to the private sector. Therefore, he does not see many towns availing themselves of this as currently drafted.

Gregory reported on the proposal to seek funds for the reclassification of the main stem of the White River to outstanding resource water. Jess Richter wrote a Q&A that

Gregory will distribute to the Executive Committee. Please give any thoughts regarding the reclassification to Gregory.

11. TRORC Solar report:

Gish distributed a solar options spreadsheet and reported that she solicited proposals from area solar providers for net-metered community solar participation to cover TRORC's electric usage. She has received two proposals, even after following up with providers she had not heard from. Malmquist will look to Renewable Energy Vermont for more potential bidders.

12. Volunteer of the Year Award discussion:

Gregory distributed a draft of a Volunteer of the Year Award and asked for comments on the draft. The Volunteer Award application will go out to Towns and the award will be announced at the TRORC Annual Meeting in June. On a motion made by Emmons and seconded by Edgerton, the Volunteer of the Year award announcement was approved.

13. Executive Session:

No Executive Session was needed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Dee Gish, Finance Manager February 27, 2019.