

TRORC Board Meeting February 27, 2019 – Board Meeting Minutes

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, Vermont

Attendance:

Name	Town	2/27/19	12/19/18	10/31/18	9/25/18	6/27/18	5/23/18
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carl Russell	Bethel	X	X	X	X		
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X	X	X	X		
VACANT	Braintree						
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater		X	X		X	
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield		X		X	X	
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea				X	X	X
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peter Berger	Fairlee		X	X	X	X	X
Mark Belisle	Granville	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
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich	X					
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield				X	X	
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X		X	X		
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Phil Dechert	Pomfret (Alt)	X	X	X	X		
Ramsey Papp	Randolph		X	X	X	X	
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)					X	
Anni Mackay	Rochester		X	X	X	X	X
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)		X	X	X	X	X
David Brandau	Royalton			X		X	
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		X	X	X	X	X
Peter Anderson	Sharon	X	X	X	X	X	
Deb Jones	Sharon (Alt)						
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge						
John Echeverria	Strafford	X	X			X	X
Stuart Rogers	Thetford	X			X		
Jim Bulger	Topsham	X			X		
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X				X	X
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)		X	X	X		
Bill Baylis	Vershire					X	
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	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	
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X	X	X	X
Kent McFarland	At-Large				X	X	
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X			X	X	X

Staff: Kevin Geiger, Kim Gilbert, Dee Gish

Guests: Rod Francis - Norwich, Maura Adams – Northern Forest Center

1. Call to Order and Public Comments:

Chair Jerry Fredrickson convened the Board Meeting at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call. There were no public comments.

2. Approval of December 19, 2018 TRORC Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Nancy Malmquist and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to approve the December minutes. Approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of December, 2018 and January, 2019 TRORC Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Bill Emmons and seconded by Stuart Rogers to accept the December and January financial reports. Dee Gish reported that the oldest receivables have been paid and the Disaster Recovery 1 buyout account has been closed. Financial reports were unanimously accepted.

4. Northern Forest Center presentation:

Maura Adams, Program Director from the Northern Forest Center described NFC's programs. Programs include community forests, destination tourism such as mountain biking, wood product manufacturing, advanced wood heating and community revitalization. The NFC is funded in equal parts by donations, foundations and public funds. Dee Gish will forward the slide show and other referenced information from Maura's presentation to Commissioners.

5. Regional Plan Housing Chapter review:

Kevin Geiger and Kimberly Gilbert led the discussion on the Housing chapter updates. Please send grammatical corrections to Kim.

Bruce Riddle made several suggestions including acknowledging staff authors at the end of each RP chapter, helping towns develop design review for housing aesthetics, the practicality of "going up" with multi-story buildings to provide more housing, the need for a discussion on healthy houses, a specific heading should be given to scattered development, and the need for better housing data. Jeff Goodrich opined that the Housing chapter should mention NH and that regulatory and Act 250 process is very rigorous and towns need to accommodate housing across the spectrum. Frank Tegethoff suggested a mention of "under the radar" public shared services, such as when neighbors share water and septic services, but are outside municipal systems. Jim Bulger voiced concern that putting all housing near growth centers ill drain rural areas. John Echeverria reported recent increases in the number of tiny houses that may not be subject to public review and building codes, nor categorized as permanent housing for listing purposes. Michael Sacca mentioned an example from Bellingham Washington where a Land Trust has purchased land and built affordable housing on the conserved parcel. Michael also asked about the impact of Airbnb's on rental and other housing units. Rod Francis asked about Policy #3 "Public housing assistance funds

shall be allocated on the basis of local housing of fair share needs..." Andrew Winter reported there is no role for towns to allocate federal funds and Kevin agreed to remove the policy from the chapter. Rod also mentioned that many of the tables and charts contained in the chapter were not specifically referred to in the text. Rod also voiced concern regarding how towns would be evaluated on meeting housing needs (Policy #1) and that metrics should be provided with specific goals for towns. John Echeverria wondered about the possibility of different housing language and strategies to apply to small towns versus larger towns. Michael Sacca would like more reference to siting homes for energy efficiency as part of Goal 2 and Policy 2f. Dee mentioned that the Energy chapter revisions include recommendations for energy efficient home siting.

Kevin and Kim will take these comments and suggestions into consideration.

6. TRORC Strategic Plan update discussion:

Jerry Fredrickson and Bill Emmons asked for volunteers to help staff develop a proposal for Strategic Plan updates. Jeff Goodrich and Phil Dechert volunteered to help.

7. TRORF update:

Jerry Fredrickson reported that last week the TRORF Board met for their organizational meeting to try to identify goals and begin strategic planning. Nancy Malmquist invited Cate Homicki from Dartmouth College Foundation Relations to provide ideas and suggestions on fundraising strategies. For information only.

8. Staff/Commissioner updates:

Peter Anderson worked with TRORC and Vermont Emergency Management to create an emergency planning resource for citizens. Peter distributed the Resilience Resource handout for the town of Sharon that will be distributed at town meeting, and will provide the template, should other towns wish to create something similar. Carl Russell reported that Bethel has created a Citizens Plus team for emergency coordination.

Kevin Geiger reported that Tory Littlefield will be working to update Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) after town meeting and will be providing Incident Command training in April. Emergency Table Top exercises have been scheduled for Royalton and Norwich. Kevin also reported that the EPA Brownfield application was successfully submitted.

Frank Tegethoff thanked TRORC and Springfield Regional Development for spearheading efforts on the Vermont Creative Economy. He noted that many other regions are now working to promote their respective creative economies.

Michael Sacca announced the on-going 4-Town Future forums sponsored by Vermont Council on Rural Development. These forums focus on Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge, but many of the topics are applicable to other towns. The meetings are open to the public and are scheduled for March 14, 21 and 28th.

Don Bourdon asked about progress on Act 250. Jerry reported that the preliminary report has been released.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th at the Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock.

Adjourn:

Jeff Goodrich made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dee Gish February 28, 2019.