

# TRORC Board Meeting April 24, 2019 – Board Meeting Minutes

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, Vermont

## Attendance:

Name	Town	4/24/19	3/27/19	2/27/19	12/19/18	10/31/18	9/25/18
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	
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield	X	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
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	X
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X	X	X	X
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X		X	X
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich	X	X	X			
Herb Kuendig	Pittsfield	X	X				X
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X	X	X		X	X
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X	X
Phil Dechert	Pomfret (Alt)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X		X	X	X
Winston Sadoo	Randolph (Alt)						
Anni Mackay	Rochester				X	X	X
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)				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	X
Deb Jones	Sharon (Alt)						
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge	X					
John Echeverria	Strafford	X	X	X	X		
Stuart Rogers	Thetford	X	X	X			X
Jim Bulger	Topsham			X			X
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge	X	X	X			
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)	X	X		X	X	X
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
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
Vacant	At-Large						X
Andrew Winter	At-Large		X	X			X

**Staff:** Pete Fellows, Kevin Geiger, Kimberly Gilbert, Dee Gish, Paige Greenfield, Peter Gregory, Tory Littlefield, Rita Seto, Sarah Wraight

**Guests:** None

**1. Call to Order and Public Comments:**

Chair Jerry Fredrickson convened the Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was declared after roll call. There were no public comments. Jerry thanked TRORC staff for the pizza party and project presentations prior to the meeting and asked Commissioners for feedback. Lori Hirshfield asked if the project posters could be available on the TRORC website. Commissioners enjoyed the time getting to know staff and learning about their projects.

**2. Approval of March 27, 2019 TRORC Board Minutes:**

A motion was made by Bill Emmons and seconded by Bushrod Powers to approve the March minutes. Approved unanimously.

**3. Acceptance of March, 2019 TRORC Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Nancy Jones and seconded by Frank Tegethoff to accept the March financial reports. Peter Gregory noted that receivables are under control and that a lot of quarterly billing was conducted in early April. Some new Transportation Alternative grants have been awarded for Bridgewater, Granville and Norwich. TRORC will be hired by these towns for project management. Financial reports were unanimously accepted.

**4. Regional Plan Land Use Chapter Review:**

Kevin Geiger reviewed the Forest-Based Resource Areas map and gave a power point presentation on the Future Land Use changes in the chapter. Pete Fellows and Kevin described the map legend and the process for determining the new delineations. Pete can provide an online map on request. Per TRORC policy for towns with changes to Regional Centers, Downtowns, Villages or Hamlet areas, the maps with descriptions of changes will be sent to towns 30 days before the adoption hearing and will be sent both to Selectboard and Planning Commission Chairs. A suggestion was made to not use the blue color, as normally it is representative of water bodies. Pete suggested Commissioners can also contact Vermont Conservation Design (<https://anr.vermont.gov/node/1182>) for data. Some Commissioners voiced concerns over removing in-holdings from development and having the ability to tweak the maps after field checking. Bill Emmons would like the species list (from the power point presentation) included with the maps.

Peter Gregory asked the Board if they would like to stick with the data for a strict interpretation of the maps, or use the maps that staff have presented. Generally, Commissioners noted that the maps were an improvement over previous versions and appreciated what staff proposed.

Kevin Geiger described the major changes to the text of the Land Use chapter and asked Commissioners for policy comments. Grammatical edits can be emailed to

Kevin. John Echeverria and Lori Hirshfield noted the changes in retail shopping and patterns of development and wondered if this Plan could support development that is out of town centers. Peter Gregory appreciated the recognition of changing retail but noted RPCs are required to focus development in compact village centers. Peter reported that staff will send boundary changes to Commissioners, and they will be up for discussion at the May meeting, at which time the Board will decide if the Plan is ready for a public hearing. Kevin noted that all goals are written as desired future conditions and that the Introduction in the Regional Plan defines what goals are. Don Bourdon suggests always using the word "shall" instead of alternating between "shall" and "must." Frank Tegethoff had a question on Policy 8 on page 11 and Policy 7 on page 13. Are the policies consistent when one says "must be compatible" and the other says "reasonably compatible?" Peter responded that staff will add "reasonably" to Policy 8 on page 11. Lori asked what criteria is used to determine compatibility. Jeff Goodrich wondered what the definition of "human capital" was on page 10, line 14 and if it were a policy to have people living and working within five miles, in step with sustainability principles. Kevin Rose noted confusion with where the third paragraph of Background Issues on page 1 was heading. Kevin Geiger noted that the overall Land Use goals on page 6 that relate to the Kevin Rose's question, have been moved. Jon Binhammer noted that in addition to retail changes, EC Fiber may allow more people to work from home, and that we should be anticipating climate refugees and keep planning for potential dramatic changes. Bruce Riddle noted there are no policies for flood plain retention and also believes there should be mention of tax burdens, perhaps with a table on property taxes. Kevin Geiger noted that flood resilience may be addressed elsewhere. Lori wondered why some interchange areas were removed. Pete Fellows noted that three interchange areas were kept, while others moved to industrial areas.

TRORC staff will take these comments and suggestions into consideration.

Peter Gregory reminded Commissioners that interchanges will be discussed at the May meeting and there will be a public hearing on the Regional Plan, so further comments can be suggested at those times.

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

Jen Colby announced a series of workshop and programs at her Howling Wolf Farm and distributed a flyer.

Peter Gregory reported that the Act 250 bill will not pass this year as Legislators are still taking testimony. Bill S.96 Water bill on water quality implementation will give RPCs a potential role. The bill is moving to the House Ways and Means Committee. The TRORC Board will decide if TRORC can act as a regional service provider to pass through funds to subcontractors. Anyone with questions on the Water bill, please contact Peter. Paige Greenfield announced the May 9 TRORC Mediation Workshop. She will be sending out email invitations.

Peter thanked Commissioners for coming early and meeting with staff.

## **Adjourn:**

Frank Tegethoff made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dee Gish April 25, 2019.