



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday July 11, 2019
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT, 9:30am – 11:00am

Meeting Summary

Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present
Barnard	Jerry Fredrickson		Hancock	Monica Collins	X	Royalton	Rose Hemond	
Bethel	Bill Hall	X	Hartford	Hannah Tyler Matt Osborn	X	Sharon	Deb Jones	X
Bradford	Nancy Jones Phil Page		Hartland	Dave Ormiston		Stockbridge	-	
Braintree	Bob Moyer	X	Newbury	Bob Beaulieu		Strafford	Jon Mackinnon	
Bridgewater	Randy Kennedy		Norwich	Larry Wiggins Herb Durfee	X	Thetford	Stuart Rogers	X
Brookfield			Pittsfield	George Deblon		Topsham	Jim Bulger	
Chelsea	Kent Gilman	X	Plymouth	-		Tunbridge	Michael Sacca	
Corinth	Joe Blodgett		Pomfret	Frank Perron		Vershire	-	
Fairlee	Smith Reed		Randolph	Bill Morgan	X	West Fairlee	-	
Granville	-		Rochester	Doon Hinderyckx		Woodstock	Michael Brands	
At-Large Members								
Advance Transit	Van Chesnut			VTrans		Sommer Bucossi		
Stagecoach	Jim Moulton			VTrans D4 VTrans D7		Chris Bump/Mike Blakslee Shauna Clifford		
Vital Communities	Bethany Fleishman Paige Heverly			Vermont Local Roads		Todd Eaton		

Guests: Toni Pippy, Strafford Selectboard; Frank Rogers, Sharon Road Foreman; Margy Becker, Sharon Selectboard Assistant; Pam Thurber, VTrans Asset Mgmt

- 1. Introductions** – Kent called meeting to order 9:32am.
- 2. Annual Chair/Vice Chair appointments**
Deb Jones nominates the current slate of Kent Gilman to remain as Chair. Bob Moyer 2nd. All Approved. Bill Hall nominates the current slate of Deb Jones, Vice Chair. Bob Moyer, 2nd. All approved.
- 3. Review/adoption of TRORC TAC Bylaws.**
Rita noted there are no current changes but since the last adoption date was in 2015 she felt it would be good for the TAC to review and freshen the adoption. TAC reviewed and had no new changes to add. Bill Hall moved to adopt current TAC bylaws as presented. Kent Gilman 2nd. All approved.



4. **Approval of May 9 Minutes** – Deb Jones moved to approve. Bill Hall 2nd. All approved.
5. **Municipal Bridge Maintenance & Management – Pam Thurber, VTrans Asset Management**
Rita introduced Pam to the TAC group. Pam reviewed overview of VTrans Town Highway Bridge Program, bridge inspection reports (what to look for), a town's legal management responsibility, safety related to bridge maintenance and how routine maintenance could save a town money in the long run. Pam also clarified the length of bridge span (20ft or greater from inside abutment to abutment) to be eligible for the Town Highway Bridge program. Structures between 6ft and 19.9ft are not eligible (considered Short Structures). Discussion on overweight permits with bridges (load posting) by towns, load rating on dirt roads/amount of gravel on the deck (# of inches of dead load for removal) and also historic stone structures.

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/environmental-manual/permitting/historical>

VTrans Historic Preservation – Judith Ehrlich is the contact for any questions related to historic bridge structures - Judith Ehrlich, Historic Preservation Officer

judith.ehrlich@vermont.gov - (802) 595-3744

Rita asked on behalf of towns – many towns are upsizing their short structures with new hydraulics requiring longer spans. If towns have a replacement that will bump it to be longer than 20ft, how do towns get that into the Town Highway Bridge program? Pam clarified that the construction of the new bridge that is greater than 20ft will THEN be eligible (not before, FHWA does not allow VTrans to allocate construction funds to structures before they are 20ft). Once construction completed, please email the set of plans to Pam Thurber or the VTrans Districts to get entered into the program. The structure will then be eligible for bridge inspection every 2 years and for future funding.

Town highway bridges that have been closed/inactive on repairs for 5 years (the town is deferring any maintenance) will be removed from the VTrans Town Highway Bridge program (ineligible for bridge inspection and FHWA funding).

Please contact Pam Thurber if you have any questions. Pam.Thurber@vermont.gov.

6. Other business
 - EAB follow up on how Detroit/NY is doing
Rita recapped that after the first wave of ash tree deaths within 10 years, the impacts to towns are minimal as many of the large ash trees will no longer exist. EAB will continue to feed on little ash-lings and have a little population spike but impacts are minimal.
 - Better Road awards summary



Rita recapped that of the 28 grant applications submitted from region, 24 were funded resulting in nearly \$500,000 of projects. Rita is working with towns on identifying upcoming project scopes for the fall.

- VTrans Bike Ped Grant project application summary – Rita presented on these applications that were submitted.
 - Barnard Village Scoping
 - Bradford Goshen Road Scoping
 - Hartland 3 Corners Pedestrian Construction
 - Norwich Beaver Meadow Road Scoping
 - Royalton Chelsea Street Block Construction

7. Meeting adjourned 11:18am

Next meeting:

Thursday Sept. 12, 2019 – 9:30am at Hartford Town Hall, Conference Rm 2