

TRORC Board Meeting - King Farm, Woodstock, Vermont

April 22, 2020 – Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Town	2/26/20	3/25/20	4/22/20			
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X			
Paul Vallee	Bethel			X			
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X			
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X	X				
Vacant	Braintree						
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater						
Gwynn Zakov	Brookfield	X		X			
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt.)						
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea			X			
Tim O’Dell	Corinth	X	X	X			
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X	X	X			
Mark Belisle	Granville	X	X				
Monica Collins	Hancock		X				
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford		X	X			
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X	X	X			
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X			
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X			
Rod Francis	Norwich		X	X			
Jeff Lubell	Norwich	X		X			
Sarah Gallagher	Pittsfield		X	X			
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X	X				
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X			
Phil Dechert	Pomfret (Alt)	X					
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X	X			
Gary Dir	Randolph (Alt)		X	X			
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X	X	X			
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)	X		X			
David Brandau	Royalton			X			
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		X				
Peter Anderson	Sharon		X	X			
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge						
John Echeverria	Strafford		X	X			
Jesse Anderson	Thetford		X				
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)						
Jim Bulger	Topsham						
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge		X				
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)	X	X	X			
Bill Baylis	Vershire						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X	X	X			
Don Bourdon	Woodstock			X			
Steve Schneider	At-Large	X					
Meghan Butts	At-Large			X			
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X	X				
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X			
Vacant - Conservation	At-Large						
Beth Long	At-Large	X	X	X			
Meg Emmons	At-Large		X				

Staff: Peter Gregory, Pete Fellows, Lori Kay
Guest: Jaci Allen, Norwich Planning Commission Cahir

1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Introductions, and Public Comments:

Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda. The virtual meeting opened at 6:32 p.m. A quorum after roll call was declared. No changes to the agenda were made.

2. Public Hearing on Town Plan Approval and Confirmation of Planning Efforts for Norwich:

No members of the Public were present to comment on the Plan. No comments were offered during the Public Hearing for the Town Plan Approval. Nor were there any comments offered during the public hearing regarding confirmation of the Planning Efforts for Norwich.

3. Action on Town Plan Approval and Confirmation for Norwich:

On a motion made by Commissioner Malmquist, seconded by Commissioner William Emmons, the Plan was approved and the Confirmation was approved unanimously.

Commissioners Malmquist and Hirschfield individually commented that the Town of Norwich and TRORC worked very well together on the review and recommendations for approving Norwich's Town Plan. Gregory also noted that the new Town Plan addressed all the housing issues and land use issues from the previous Town Plan review.

4. Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2020

On a motion made by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner William Emmons, the Minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Acceptance of the March 2020 TRORC Financial Reports:

On a motion made by Commissioner William Emmons, and seconded by Commissioner Vallee, the March Reports were accepted unanimously.

Gregory noted that the March financial reports reflected the purchase of computer equipment needed for staff so that they could work from home. However, there will likely be a savings in the budget for office expenses. The Accounts Receivable is low and billing is happening in a timely fashion. TRORC will be signing two new contracts for work not previously anticipated - \$19,000 for a Corinth Library project and \$10,000 for assisting Bridgewater with their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

6. Updates:

Regional Energy Coordinator – Gregory noted that an interlocal agreement between the supporting Towns and TRORC has been drafted. A scope of work will be reviewed soon with the communities. The draft agreement will be on the agenda at the next Executive Committee and Board meetings in May. The start date for this position is July 1 with a search for candidates soon after.

Regional Plan – Gregory has received Hartford's proposed language change around Quechee Gorge and will be reviewing them with the Staff. Discussions with the Towns of Topsham and Bradford have

already taken place. Next steps are for staff to write up their recommendation and share it with the Executive Committee. The staff recommendation will be on the agenda for the May Board meeting as well. If the staff recommendation is approved by the Board, TRORC will schedule a public hearing 35 days out. If no further changes are contemplated, then the Regional Plan will go forward for a vote either at the June meeting or through a mail-in ballot in July. (No Board meetings are scheduled for July or August.)

COVID-19 – TRORC is disseminating information to towns through the TRORC.org. Staff have reached out to different agencies to offer services with some good success. ACCD has included TRORC in their proposal to coordinate Economic Development Block grants for the northern half of Vermont.

TRORC is anticipating funding cuts from Federal and State agencies and is seeking other work and funding sources to replace those cuts.

Boardchair Frederickson noted that he has been reviewing the TRORC financials and will be meeting with Commissioner (and Treasurer) Jones to develop a six-month financial forecast.

Gregory announced that the Annual Board meeting in June will not be a dinner meeting this year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Jones, and second by Commissioner Vallee.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Lori Kay, Finance Manager, April 25, 2020