

**TRORC Board Meeting – Zoom Meeting
 May 26, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes
 Attendance:**

Name	Town	2/24/21	4/28/21	5/26/21					
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X					
Steve Cota	Barnard (Alt)								
Paul Vallee	Bethel	X	X						
Carl Russell	Bethel (Alt)								
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X					
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)		X						
Vacant	Braintree								
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater								
Gwynn Zakov	Brookfield		X	X					
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt.)	X							
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X		X					
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X	X	X					
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X	X	X					
Mark Belisle	Granville								
Monica Collins	Hancock	X		X					
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford		X						
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X	X	X					
Charles Jeffries	Hartland		X	X					
David Ormiston	Hartland		X	X					
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X					
Larry Scott	Newbury (Alt.)								
Rod Francis	Norwich	X	X						
Jeff Lubell	Norwich		X	X					
Sarah Gallagher	Pittsfield	X	X	X					
Anne Brown	Plymouth								
Jim Allen	Plymouth (Alt.)								
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X					
Phil Dechert	Pomfret (Alt)		X	X					
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X	X					
Gary Dir	Randolph (Alt)	X	X	X					
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X	X	X					
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)	X	X	X					
David Brandau	Royalton	X	X	X					

Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X	X					
Ira Clark	Sharon	X	X	X					
Deborah Jones	Sharon (Alt.)								
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge								
John Echeverria	Strafford		X	X					
Jesse Anderson	Thetford	X	X	X					
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)			X					
Jim Clark	Topsham								
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge		X	X					
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)			X					
Bill Baylis	Vershire								
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X	X	X					
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X		X					
Brad Prescott	Woodstock (Alt)								
Meghan Butts	At-Large	X	X	X					
Jennifer Colby	At-Large								
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X					
Vacant - Conservation	At-Large								
Beth Long	At-Large	X	X	X					
Meg Emmons	At-Large	X	X						

Guests: Dan Ruddell; Liz York

Staff: Peter Gregory, Lori Kay, Tory Littlefield, Kevin Geiger, Rita Seto

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

The virtual meeting opened at 6:36 p.m. A quorum after roll call was declared. No changes to the agenda were made. There were no comments from the public.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 28, 2021 Meeting

On a motion made by Commissioner Bruce Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Bill Emmons, the April Meeting Minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. Acceptance of the Unaudited April 2021 TRORC Financial Report

On a motion made by Commissioner Nancy Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Bill Emmons, the unaudited April 2021 Financial Report was approved unanimously.

Gregory reported that the last quarterly financial advance from ACCD has been received. The last 5% of the ACCD contract funds will arrive in July. TRORC has completed all its task requirements under this contract.

TRORC's balance sheet report shows a higher balance in the Mascoma Wealth Management line. This increase is a result of closing out two CDs that were close to maturing and depositing those funds into the Mascoma Wealth Management account.

TRORC's Accounts Receivable Aging report is in good shape. The oldest invoices on the April report have been collected.

4. **Keys to the Valley Housing Presentation**

Kevin Geiger reported on the results of the Keys to the Valley housing study that began in January 2019. Geiger started his presentation by noting that the study has not discovered the solution to the Upper Valley's housing crisis, but it has identified several actions that can help.

Discussion following the presentation focused on the development of a "Top five things to advance housing" list to help improve the Upper Valley's housing crisis; difficulties in changing zoning when much of the Town is designated as flood areas or National Forests; working with local employers to develop housing for future employees. TRORC staff will come back to the board with a list of five priority actions.

Gregory noted that the Vermont Legislature has appropriated \$650,000 in next year's budget for zoning modifications related to housing.

A copy of Kevin Geiger's PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.

A video of an earlier housing study presentation is available on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3vJsuRQvi4&list=PLQIz2sXLMDfespqCk7KswXtER4vVnsued>

The housing study's website has received a lot of attention. Tory Littlefield reported that the website has received 2,000 visitors and 335,000 views so far.

<https://www.keystothevalley.com/>

5. **Transportation Projects FY22 Prioritization**

Rita Seta provided an overview of the changes VTrans has made in how it prioritizes its investment in Transportation projects. The new approach is performance based and data driven to a greater degree. Regional Planning Commissions and the Towns are being asked to provide input into the prioritization process. Rita noted that Towns in the TRORC region can start working with her immediately on proposing projects for the next round of prioritization.

Rita also reviewed the list of potential asset driven projects in the TRORC region. It had already been reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and needed TRORC Commissioner approval before it could be submitted to VTrans. On a motion made by Commissioner Bill Emmons, and seconded by Commissioner Nancy Jones, the list of regionally driven potential projects for VTrans; consideration was approved unanimously. Seto will submit the list by May 31, 2021.

6. Allegations of TRORC Code of Conduct violations

Commissioner Michael Sacca opened the discussion and shared a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Commissioner John Echeverria followed, providing comments of his own.

Kevin Geiger interjected with his experience as a moderator, asking each of the two Commissioners to limit their comments to the issue at hand – the allegation of Code of Conduct violations. He noted that as no action had been called for, no motion could be called, and no rebuttal would be allowed.

This agenda item had been allotted 15 minutes of the two-hour meeting. Chair Jerry Fredrickson closed the discussion.

7. Executive Director Updates

As the meeting was running long, Gregory stated that he would hold his updates until the June Board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be the Annual Meeting and will be held on June 23, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Lori Kay, Finance Manager, June 8, 2021