

**TRORC Annual Board Meeting – Zoom Meeting  
September 22, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Name	Town	2/24/21	4/28/21	5/26/21	6/23/21	9/22/21			
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X	X			
Steve Cota	Barnard (Alt)								
Paul Vallee	Bethel	X	X		X	X			
Carl Russell	Bethel (Alt)								
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X	X	X			
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)		X		X				
Vacant	Braintree								
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater								
Gwynn Zakov	Brookfield		X	X	X	X			
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt.)	X							
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X		X	X	X			
Tim O'Dell	Corinth	X	X	X	X	X			
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X	X	X	X	X			
Mark Belisle	Granville				X				
Monica Collins	Hancock	X		X	X	X			
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford		X		X	X			
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X	X	X	X	X			
Charles Jeffries	Hartland		X	X	X	X			
David Ormiston	Hartland		X	X		X			
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X	X	X			
Larry Scott	Newbury (Alt.)								
Rod Francis	Norwich	X	X						
Jeff Lubell	Norwich		X	X	X	X			
Sarah Gallagher	Pittsfield	X	X	X	X	X			
Anne Brown	Plymouth								
Jim Allen	Plymouth (Alt.)								
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X				
Phil Dechert	Pomfret (Alt)		X	X	X				
Ramsey Papp	Randolph	X	X	X	X	X			
Gary Dir	Randolph (Alt)	X	X	X	X				
Anni Mackay	Rochester	X	X	X					
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)	X	X	X					
David Brandau	Royalton	X	X	X	X	X			

Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X	X	X	X				
Ira Clark	Sharon	X	X	X	X	X			
Deborah Jones	Sharon (Alt.)								
Bill Edgerton	Stockbridge								
John Echeverria	Strafford		X	X	X				
Jesse Anderson	Thetford	X	X	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	X	X			
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X		X		X			
Brad Prescott	Woodstock (Alt)					X			
Meghan Butts	At-Large	X	X	X	X	X			
Jennifer Colby	At-Large								
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X		X			
Dan Rudell	At-Large								
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X	X	X		X			
Meg Emmons	At-Large	X	X			X			

**Guests:** None

**Staff:** Peter Gregory, Lori Kay, Kevin Geiger, Pete Fellows, Sarah Wraight

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

The meeting opened at 6:32 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 the Unaudited June, July, August 2021 TRORC Financial Reports**

On a motion made by Commissioner Gary Dir, and seconded by Commissioner David Brandau, the unaudited June, July, and August 2021 Financial Reports were approved unanimously.

Gregory reported that TRORC's June financials will be finalized in October when the FY21 audit is complete. The audit will be shared with the Board at that time. The FY21 financials show an increase in TRORC's fund balance.

The FY22 financials show a higher than usual cash balance. This is due largely to quarterly payments received from ACCD and the annual Municipal dues payments. Also, there were many invoices processed in July that have now been paid.

TRORC continues to stay on top of the Accounts Receivable Aging report. Eight of the invoices have come in since the August report was prepared.

### **3. Keys to the Valley (KTTV) - Implementation**

TRORC and its partners, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, have committed to continuing their efforts into the coming year. Kevin Geiger reported that a significant amount of outreach and media coverage has taken place in the last few months. Housing is a big issue in the media, and KTTV will continue to be a point project and resource for information on the area's housing issues.

Kevin presented proposed upcoming actions (these had been included in the Board mailing) and the Board members provided feedback on the draft implementation plan. Comments included: dropping the land value taxation effort from legislative reforms as it is the most novel and vague part of that agenda; water and wastewater systems are critical to meeting housing needs in a way that helps villages and downtowns; ARPA funds and housing efforts should connect; employers can help projects by guaranteeing some of the units for their employees; waste water rules may need reform; the ADU 'utility' concept has promise; in addition to non-profits, private developers in the region (or attracted to the region) could produce housing at the right price point if enticed with capital and speedier processes; perhaps TRORC could help find land; workforce development is needed for the shortage of labor in the trades; and a steady pipeline of projects would help firms staff up and provide better benefits.

### **4. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Sarah Wraight provided an overview of the local fiscal recovery funding from the ARPA, the first payment of which has already been made to the towns. Detailed information was included in the Board meeting packet already distributed. Sarah noted that more guidance is coming up in planned state training sessions.

Sarah's presentation included a note that we have been tasked to help collect information from towns how they are using their ARPA money, so that TRORC will share that information with the State Legislature.

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

Gregory announced the following staff changes:

Steven Bauer has been hired as a Regional Planner. He will work primarily on energy and zoning issues. Start date will be October 4, 2021.

Kevin Geiger has been promoted to the new position of Director of Planning with a start date of November 1, 2021. Kevin will be focusing on housing and climate issues, as well as staff management. This will free Gregory up to do more legislative work on behalf of the region.

Gregory provided a brief overview of topics expected to be prioritized by the Legislature over the coming year:

- State designation programs – focus to include developing housing in key areas

- Climate and energy – more testimony on these topics is expected

- ARPA-funded programs

- Funding for Regional Planning Commissions which means additional funds to support town transportation, water, etc. projects.

Gregory invited all Board members to contact him directly for status reports on any particular projects.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Lori Kay, Finance Manager, September 27, 2021