

**TRORC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**King Farm
Woodstock VT**

February 8, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Jerry Fredrickson, Chair; Bill Emmons, Vice Chair; Nancy Jones, Treasurer; Bill Edgerton, Peter Gregory, Executive Director, Kevin Geiger, Lori Kay. Absent: David Brandau, Secretary; Nancy Malmquist.

1. Call to Order/Changes to Agenda:

Chair Fredrickson convened the meeting at 3:11 p.m. A quorum was declared by the Chair. No changes were made to the Agenda.

2. Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

3. Approval of the January 11, 2023, Minutes:

On a motion made by Jones and seconded by Emmons, the Minutes of January 11, 2023, were approved.

4. Acceptance of the unaudited January 2023 Financial Reports:

The unaudited January 2023 Financial Reports were unanimously accepted as presented on a motion made by Jones and seconded by Emmons.

Gregory reviewed the AR Aging report:

ACCD - payment is expected shortly from ACCD

ECV EDD Supplemental – payment is in process

Municipal Energy Resilience Program – initial payment has been received.

TRORC's contract with VHCB for buyouts of properties affected by Hurricane Irene should be closing out soon. The final property buyout is expected to take place within the next few weeks.

5. Land Use Designation Policy proposal:

Executive Committee members continued their review of the updated draft policy document. Comments and suggestions for the next revision included adding definitions and examples to

Gerald Fredrickson, Chair ~ Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
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make the policy language easier to understand; revising the format of the document to make it easier to reference specific sections of the document; adding graphics/maps. Geiger noted that much of the language in the document was pulled from VT State statutes (which did not include definitions and/or examples).

Geiger will modify the document and share the updated version at the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. FY23 Scholarship Program and Program Announcement:

Kay provided a brief overview of the draft Scholarship announcement. She offered to work with Nancy Jones to review the announcement to ensure it reflects TRORC's Resolution on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. On a motion from Emmons, which was seconded by Edgerton, the Executive Committee voted to increase the monetary value of each scholarship awarded in 2023. TRORC will offer up to 10 scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each in 2023.

7. TRORC Strategic Plan implementation:

TRORC and its partners in Keys to the Valley have submitted two grant applications to help fund the Keys to the Valley initiative. Geiger is assisting the planning of a Housing Expo, set for May 6, 2023, at the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center (HATCH).

8. CD Renewal:

Gregory reported that rates for short-term CDs are currently higher than for longer-term CDs. A recent renewal of a CD provided a 3.5% return for a nine-month period. A second CD is set for renewal in early March and Gregory will review the rates/terms again at that time.

9. Nominating Committee

Due to expected turnover in the Executive Committee, a Nominating Committee will be needed to identify Board members to serve on the Executive Committee. Gregory will reach out to potential Board members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Gregory will also check with the Board's "at large" members to see if they want to continue serving in their roles.

10. Act 250 Update

Vermont's District #3 Environmental Commission is expected to make its decisions regarding the Act 250 filings in Royalton and Hartland in February or March 2023.

11. Staff and Project Updates

Jeff Grout, Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC), has joined TRORC as of February 6, 2023.

Gregory is working with the House Appropriations Committee on obtaining more funds for Brownfields assessment activities. Vermont's Governor Phil Scott has begun an initiative to provide funds to help Towns apply for and administer grant awards. Gregory is working to have the Governor's investment in Towns pass through Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) given

their experience with securing and administering grant funds.

Vermont's RPCs are seeking full funding through the statutory formula. This would yield a substantial increase to meet our Towns' needs. Gregory will send a letter to Executive Committee members to sign so that can provided to the Legislature next week (February 13-24, 2023).

Other likely new funds for Vermont's RPCs would allow each RPC to hire a natural resource planner for a period of three years. Based on the likelihood of securing funds for each of the opportunities, on a motion from Emmons, and seconded by Jones, the Committee approved an additional professional planner hire.

TRORC is continuing its investigation into expanding shared services to its Towns, currently focusing on administrative assistance and energy coordination.

12. February Board Meeting

There will be no February board meeting. The next board meeting will take place on March 22, 2023.

Next meeting will be March 8, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Lori Kay, February 9, 2023