

TRORC Board Meeting
April 24, 2024 Board Minutes
Attendance:

Name	Town	9/27/23	10/25/23	12/13/23	3/27/24	4/24/24				
Steve Cota	Barnard (Alt)									
Paul Vallee	Bethel (Alt.)		X		X					
Gene Kraus	Bethel	X				X				
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X	X	X				
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X		X	X	X				
Megan O'Toole	Braintree (Alt)	X								
Sandy Vondrasek Cooch	Braintree					X				
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater				X	X				
Gwynn Zakov	Brookfield	X		X						
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt.)									
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X				X				
Steve Devoto	Corinth					X				
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X		X	X	X				
Mark Belisle	Granville			X						
Monica Collins	Hancock	X				X				
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford	X	X			X				
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)		X	X	X	X				
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X	X	X	X				
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury	X	X	X	X	X				
Larry Scott	Newbury (Alt.)									
Brian Loeb	Norwich	X	X							
Jaci Allen	Norwich (Alt.)				X	X				
Vacant	Pittsfield	X								
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X		X		X				
Bill Emmons	Pomfret	X	X	X	X	X				
Regina Lawrence	Pomfret (Alt)									
Chris Sargent	Randolph		X			X				
Patricia Harvey	Rochester	X	X		X	X				
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)									
David Brandau	Royalton		X		X	X				
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)	X				X				

Name	Town	9/27/23	10/25/23	12/13/23	3/27/24	4/24/24				
Ira Clark	Sharon	X	X		X					
Sue Sellew	Sharon (Alt.)					X				
Kevin Travis	Stockbridge									
John Echeverria	Strafford		X	X	X	X				
Angela McCanna	Thetford	X	X		X					
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)									
Jim Clark	Topsham	X								
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge									
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)									
Andrea Herrington	Vershire		X	X		X				
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X	X	X						
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X	X	X		X				
Brad Prescott	Woodstock (Alt)	X			X					
Meghan Butts	At-Large	X	X		X					
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X	X	X		X				
Ken Alton	At-Large	X	X			X				
Dan Rudell	At-Large									
Andrew Winter	At-Large	X				X				
Meg Emmons	At-Large		X	X		X				

Staff: Kevin Geiger, Chief Planner, Geena Baber, Planner, Rita Seto, Senior Planner

Guests: none

1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bill Emmons as Chair. Introductions were made in person and virtually. The Chair asked for any needed changes to the agenda. None were made.

2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

3. Approval of the March 27, 2024 Board Minutes

On a motion made by Commissioner Powers and seconded by Commissioner Bourdon, the minutes were approved with one abstention.

4. Acceptance of unaudited Financial Reports from December 2023 and January and February 2024

Kevin Geiger stated that Mary Olmo had been expected to attend virtually but was not present and he could answer questions as best he could. Kevin stated that numbers looked good. There were no questions. On a motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Sargent, the Financial Reports were accepted.

5. Discussion and Action on draft Transportation Chapter 4 of the Regional Plan

Staff led the Board through a discussion of the draft chapter, and several areas were noted that need clarification/revision in the draft. These included “context-sensitive” in Goal 1, reinstating Goal 12, defining “high density” in Policy 5 and whether this varies by town, defining “large-scale development” in Policy 8 and tying in to substantial regional impact (a reference to where that is covered should be added), e-bikes should be added in the background text, it is difficult to cross the interstate cloverleaves as a pedestrian and this may need a policy, reinstate Policy 21, Policy 18 is too broad (Rita Seto clarified this should have more to do with increasing parking efficiency than just spaces), Commissioner Winter noted that Act 47 parking changes should be mentioned, Policy 32 should come back, something should be added on ADA accessible parking, and a recommendation to interconnect rail/transit stops to destinations should be added. Kevin Geiger noted that given the changes, a revised draft chapter will come back to the Board based on the comments.

6. Discussion and Actions on goals/policies/recommendations on Chapters 2 (Healthy Communities), 6 (Natural Resources), and 7 (Historical, Cultural, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources).

Kevin Geiger noted that the agenda included discussion on three more Regional Plan chapters’ goals/policies/recommendations, but that there was not enough time to do that. Commissioner Riddle noted towns need more time to review plan language since it has effects on them. He also thought that we are not going in the right direction on the draft Chapter 6 of the Regional Plan and needed to be more protective of water quality. There was a short discussion on water supply testing and the issue of PFAS contamination. Kevin discussed the draft schedule for the plan, with the Energy Chapter up next in May. Land use and housing were not being during this revision due to waiting on new materials from the legislature. Commissioner Carver stressed that the Land Use Chapter was needed by towns. To be ready for hearing in the fall for a December adoption of the Plan, forgoing Land Use and Housing, we may need to meet virtually in the summer and the group seemed amenable.

7. Staff and Commissioner Updates: Act 250, Projects, Legislative, Other

Kevin Geiger recapped the RIVER project that TRORC is managing for the state to help hard hit towns in last year’s floods come up with applications for FEMA funding to reduce flood damages. The project has a website <https://riverprojectsvt.org/> that is up. Kevin also mentioned that UVLSRPC was awarded a long-shot USDOT grant, and TRORC will be a subgrantee to them. This grant is a Thriving Communities Grant and will provide capacity funding to help TRORC assist several towns with accessing funds for climate change resilience. It will likely fund a half-time Resilience Coordinator at TRORC starting in the fall.

Chair Emmons noted that the dams on the CT River (Great River Hydro) were in relicensing for dams on the CT River (Wilder dam being in our region) and there is open comment on that now. Kevin responded that we had not planned on commenting. (If people are interested TRORC can provide information on how to access the FERC docket P1892-030). Commissioner Alton noted that dozens of organizations are commenting. Commissioner Kraus noted that the Legislature is looking at the Renewable Energy Standard. Commissioner Hirshfield noted that Hartford has drafted a comment to FERC and will share

that. Nancy Jones stated that on May 4 there would be a ribbon cutting for the new super fast EV charging stations in Bradford.

8. Adjourn

On a motion made by Commissioner Powers and seconded by Commissioner Sargent, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Geiger
April 29, 2024

DRAFT