Full Commission Meeting  
May 31, 2016  
Townshend Town Hall

**Commissioners Present:** Jodi French, Chair, Susan Hammond, Katie Buckley, Jack Cunningham, Kevin Stine, Piet van Loon, Bill Dunkel, Tim Arsenault, Steven Dotson, Eric Stevens, Robin Howe, George Mora, John Whitman, Carolyn Partridge, Liisa Kissel, Alan LaCombe, Priscilla Margola

**Citizen Interest Commissioners Present:** Wendy Harrison, Laura Sibilia, Greg Brown

**Guests Present:**

**Introductions:** There was a quorum with 12 towns present. 4 towns (Halifax, Jamaica, Stratton, and Winhall) had no appointed commissioners.

**Convened:** 7:00PM

**Administrative Items & Reports:**

**Secretary’s Report:** On a motion by Piet van Loon, seconded by J. Cunningham the minutes from the March meeting were approved.

**Financial Report:** On a motion by Piet van Loon, seconded by J. Cunningham the financial report was approved.

**Consideration of Increase in Town Assessment Amount for the 2018 Fiscal Year:** WRC Chair Jodi French reviewed a proposal to increase town assessments by 20 percent for FY 2018. The need for the increase is driven by increasing operating costs and level funding of the WRC’s performance-based contract (core funding) from the state. Taking into account inflation alone over the last 10 years, had the WRC been level funded at the 2007 rate of $266,854, we would be down $73,204 in current dollars. Jodi explained that it was important that Commissioners be supportive of such a proposal if the WRC was to go forward with it, and that they feel comfortable advocating for the increase should town officials or residents ask. Questions were asked to clarify that it is the intent of the Commission to institute such an increase one time, and to then return to using the Consumer Price Index as the basis for subsequent increases. Citizen Interest Commissioner Greg Brown expressed the importance
of the Commission not boxing itself in; that while the intent is to return to the CPI basis for future increases, unforeseen circumstances could necessitate more substantial increases in the future. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with the FY 2018 increase as proposed. During discussion of the motion Citizen Interest Commissioner Wendy Harrison asked that the proposal be discussed further at a future meeting. The motion was not amended. A vote was held on the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Legislative Update: Executive Director Chris Campany provided an update about several new acts that had passed, and some of which had yet to be signed into law by the Governor. These included regional and town energy planning and renewable energy siting, shared municipal service agreements, town plan expiration horizon, and forestry in town and regional plans.

Committee Chair Comments:
PRC Committee Chair, Jack Cunningham provided a brief update on the Hermitage Act 250 application.

Executive Director’s Report:
Executive Director Chris Campany outlined the “Director’s Summary,” which was distributed to Commissioners prior to the meeting to summarize his activities since the last meeting. He went into more detail about the collection of opinions and considerations from towns that could be affected by the sale of TransCanada hydropower facilities in the region.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Campany