Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Sam Battaglino, Tom Buchanan, Tom Consolino, Alan LaCombe, Jane Morano-Purdy, Bill Murray, Eric Stevens, Piet van Loon,
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Lynn Barrett, Greg Brown
Guests Present: Kim Nace & Abraham Noe-Hayes with Rich Earth Institute, Drew Hazelton, Rescue; Liisa Kissel, Grafton Citizen
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins
Introductions: There was not a quorum with only 7 towns present.
Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary's Report: On a motion by P. van Loon, seconded by G. Brown, the January minutes were approved; subject to ratification.
Financial Report: On a motion by B. Murray, seconded by P. van Loon, the Finance Report was approved; subject to ratification.

Rich Earth Institute: Kim Nace and Abraham Noe-Hayes, founders of the Rich Earth Institute, gave a presentation on “Recycling Urine into Fertilizer,” and explained how it is a tool for water quality and watershed protection, and how it can be a source of nutrients in the practice of sustainable agriculture. Abraham compared the nutrient flow cycle on a farm to the new cycle which would reduce or eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers. He explained that there are different scale systems urine-diverting systems, all of which are waterless and odorless. Kim currently has a diversion system in her home that is used as an active demonstration project. They have gone through a series of tests and samplings with applications to pastureland and compared the biomass produced at different rates of application compared with a control and use of conventional fertilizer. Kim and Abraham explained how the contaminants in urine are considerably lower when compared to sewage sludge. The U.S. EPA is funding a two year study on the presence and effects of pharmaceuticals. Rich Earth Institute is collaborating with several colleges and engineers on this study as well. Their next step is to build a mobile urine processing facility, and add more farmers to be the recipient of urine fertilizer. It takes 1,000 gallons of urine to fertilize one acre of land. The goal is to recycle 6,000 gallons of urine a year; one person would account for approximately 100 gallons a year. They are looking for additional urine donors. These systems could be part of the solution to resolving issues
with private septic systems that have failed and/or which are on substandard lots, such as those within our villages.

Committee Chair Reports:
Energy Committee: H. Boyer mentioned the Committee is working on the final edits of the Regional Plan.
Planning Coordination Committee: P. van Loon explained that the Committee has been examining the town plan approval process.
Public Policy & Legislative Committee: T. Consolino summarized the recent Committee meetings with Representatives and Senator Jeanette White. On February 10th Representative Richard Marek spoke to the Committee about two proposed Bills being sponsored by “The Innocence Project,” one which would mandate police interrogations be videotaped, and a second which proposes live line-ups versus photo line-ups. On February 24th Representative Valerie Stuart discussed the Education Committee’s efforts to restructure the education system while maintaining or decreasing costs, while improving output.
VY Study Committee: T. Buchanan mentioned that WRC attended but did not participate in the technical hearings in January. WRC has filed a concluding brief. An order from the Public Service Board is anticipated by the end of March.

Executive Director’s Report:
1. Executive Director Chris Campany noted that at least eight towns in the Windham Region have TransCanada properties in them, and WRC is working with towns to explore options for dealing with TransCanada valuation appeals. These appeals can cost towns tens of thousands of dollars to more than one hundred thousand dollars and require that they defend a valuation that is developed by the state.
2. Chris summarized a meeting with staff from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) and towns within the Emergency Planning Zone. Entergy has informed the state that it believes that as of 2016 there will be no need for the RERP program or Entergy support based upon their understanding of Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements. Entergy also reportedly told DEMHS that all fuel would be out of the spent fuel pool by 2018. The EPZ towns pay their emergency management directors using RERP funds.
3. Chris mentioned that attendance at some committee meetings is an ongoing issue, and suggested that Chairs work with their committee members to see if a change in meeting times would help boost attendance.

B. Murray moved adjournment.
Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins