Full Commission Meeting
October 28, 2014
Townshend Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Jenepher Burnell, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Rod Francis, Charlie Goodwin, Craig Hunt, Alan LaCombe, Ray Mara, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Jane Murano Purdy, Steve Skibniowsky, Lew Sorenson, Eric Stevens, Andrew Toepfer, Piet van Loon, John Whitman, Norm Wright

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Greg Brown, Gretchen Havreluk, Prudence MacKinney

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins

Guests Present: Pamela Corbitt, VT Dept of Health

Introductions: There was a quorum of 14 towns present.

Convened: 7:06PM

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary's Report: On a motion by N. Wright, seconded by P. van Loon the minutes from the September meeting were approved with one abstention.

Financial Report: On a motion by N. Wright, seconded by P. van Loon the Finance Report was approved.

Vermont Department of Health: Prudence MacKinney, the Brattleboro District Director with the VT Department of Health (DOH) and WRC's Citizen Interest Commissioner for Healthy Communities was present to discuss the health issues confronting the Windham Region. Prudence outlined the major goals of the VT DOH including:

1) Reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases; smoking, disease and obesity.
2) Reduce substance abuse and mental illness. VT is ranked 1st in the nation for binge drinking, and opiate use. The Governor's State of the State Address focused on opiate addiction and was followed up with a forum to discuss further options on how to handle the growing problem. Prudence displayed graphs and charts showing the growing trend with heroin incidents and prescription opiate addiction before heroin. She discussed addiction as a lifelong chronic disease, and the VT DOH is working on ways to make a difference with prevention, intervention, and recoveries. She mentioned that law enforcement is working together with health officials to come up with different strategies, including the Lock up Your Meds campaigns, and drug drop off locations.
3) Improve Childhood Immunization Rates. Windham County and Vermont has lower immunization compliance than most states, and rates have been trending downward in VT in recent years. Prudence also discussed more recent health concerns including Ebola and the enterovirus, which was followed by a discussion among Commissioners.

**Bylaw Amendment:**
Commission Chair Jodi French informed the Commissioners that the Board reviewed the terms annual meeting, business meeting, and annual business meeting which are all used to define one specific Commission meeting, and amended the bylaws to consistently refer to this meeting as the "Annual Meeting.” Jodi also explained that the Executive Board proposed to amend the bylaws to reflect that the Board should have authority to take action if it is a timely manner and changed the language to reflect that only towns that have appointed at least one Commissioner will count towards a quorum. The amendment was read in its entirety to the Commission, there was no discussion that followed.

**November & December Commission Meetings:** Due to the regular meeting dates falling on Holiday weeks in November and December the Board discussed having one meeting on December 2nd with WRC staff facilitating a discussion among Commissioners about Commissioner roles, the structure of how Commissioners engage in the work and decision-making of the WRC, and what might be done to facilitate Commissioner engagement.

**Executive Director’s Report:**
- Chris received an invitation to attend a U.S. State Department-sponsored round table discussion with elected officials from Russia on the decommissioning of aging nuclear power facilities. This meeting will take place in Washington D.C. Chris’ travel expenses will be reimbursed.
- Chris met with the Wilmington Selectboard to discuss WRC’s role in the Act 250 process and permit review generally, and gave an overview of the issues that Hermitage has faced in the process. Project Review Committee chair Jack Cunningham also attended the meeting in Wilmington and participated in the meeting recap to the Commission.
- There will be a pre-hearing conference held on October 29th related to Entergy Vermont Yankee’s application for a second spent fuel storage facility.
- In early November WRC Senior Staff will meet with counterparts in Cheshire County, NH and Franklin County, MA to discuss opportunities for greater collaboration.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:02PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins