Full Commission Meeting  
May 26, 2015  
Townshend Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Heath Boyer, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Andy Gluss, Alan LaCombe, Ray Mara, Bill Murray, Denis Pinkernell, Steve Skibniowsky, Lew Sorenson, Eric Stevens, Roger Turner, Piet van Loon, Norm Wright  
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Bob Anderson  
Guests Present: Jim Matteau, Sam Battaglino, Bill Schmidt, Paul Schmidt  
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins

Introductions: There was a not a quorum with only 13 towns present.  
Convened: 7:01PM

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: On a motion by T. Consolino, seconded by J. Cunningham the minutes from the April meeting were approved; subject to ratification.  
Financial Report: On a motion by P. van Loon, seconded by T. Consolino the Finance Report was approved; subject to ratification.

50 Years of WRC Engagement with Human Services: Bill Schmidt and Jim Matteau discussed WRC's historical engagement with issues related to human services. In 1968 there were criminal justice issues nationwide, and in the Windham Region, especially related to youth; Windham County had a reputation of being the drug capital in Vermont. A Crime Prevention Committee for the region received a grant from the state to conduct a 3 month planning project to get a handle on the hostility between police and youth in the Windham Region. This was followed by the State Crime Commission awarding an additional grant for a 9 month action plan. Over the next few years grants were awarded for a project to get involved with drug education in high school that included involvement by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and other state agencies that were behind the program. The establishment of the Council on Aging in the 1970's is the longest running human service program that WRC has had a hand in over a 20 year span. Amendments to the Older American's Act in 1972 enacted introduced other programs like Meals on Wheels. WRC has
had involvement in other various programs over the last 50 years including: an enhanced 911 system, mobility and childcare studies, and the Brattleboro Area Farmer's Market.

**Opiate & Alcohol Prevention Activities:** Robin Rieske, Vermont Department of Health was present to discuss opiate and alcohol prevention activities in Windham County. She explained that Lamoille County has put together a planning primer that was funded by a grant; the purpose of the primer is to enhance town engagement through planning to substance abuse prevention. She presented data and statistics from surveyed high school students and young adults aged 18-25, which is the largest age group where a problem exists. Robin outlined the steps to help with recovery including: individual, relationships with family and friends, organizations, and policies and systems. She also discussed how municipalities can play a role in this matter; using smoke free parks, alcohol free events, and education as examples.

**Executive Board:** The Board convened in open session at 7:59 p.m. in between presentations at the Full Commission meeting to vote on regional approval for the Vernon Town Plan. The WRC received a request from the Town of Vernon to review its plan for approval. The panel reviewed the town plan and reported their findings back to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC). The PCC recommended approval of the plan, and confirmation of the town plan and process. J. Cunningham made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by T. Consolino; motion was approved. On the confirmation of the town plan and process N. Wright made a motion, seconded by T. Consolino; motion was approved. Executive Board adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**Wardsboro Town Plan:** The WRC received a request from the Town of Wardsboro to review its plan for approval. This request will be sent to the Executive Board for approval due to the lack of a quorum at the current Full Commission meeting.

**Committee Chair Updates:**
**Brownfields:** N. Wright mentioned that the Committee has applied for two grants for more funding.
**Transportation:** The I-91 Bridge Project has received a design award ranking #1 from the National Bridge Association.
**Energy:** The Windham Region Modern Heating Program is moving forward smoothly.
**Planning Coordination Committee:** There will be training on the basics of planning held on May 28th in Townshend.

**Executive Director:**
Executive Director, Chris Campany provided an update on the 50th Celebration festivities which will take place on June 23rd.

Chris summarized his trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with other agency officials to discuss resiliency planning. He also met with the delegation regarding the NRC policy on decommissioning; and requested that host towns in communities have a voice early on in the process.

Chris gave a brief overview of the tri-state gathering, which was well attended. Possible collaboration discussion for the future was optimistic.

Chris mentioned that there will be no June meeting, due to the 50th celebration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins