Full Commission Meeting
March 28, 2017
Newbrook Fire Station

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Tim Arsenault, George Mora, Denis Pinkernell, Piet van Loon, Stephan Chait, Everett Wilson, Lew Sorenson, John Whitman, Priscilla Margola, Kevin Stine, Bill Dunkel, Guy Tanza, Jack Cunningham, Liisa Kissel, Jenepher Burnell, Brad Horn, Charlie Goodwin

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Wendy Harrison, Greg Brown

Guests Present: Michelle Pong, Vernon Town Administrator; Bob Spencer, WSWMD; Pieter van Loon, Marlboro Selectboard; Zeke Goodband, Dummerston Selectboard; Gary Delius, Newfane Selectboard; David Jones, Brookline Selectboard; Johanna Gardner, WSWMD Board; Joe Cook, Dummerston Selectboard; Tristam Johnson, Newfane; Gig Zabory, Whitingham

Staff Present: Chris Campany

Introductions: There was a quorum of 13 towns present.

Convened: 6:00PM

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: On a motion by P. van Loon, seconded by T. Arsenault the minutes from the January meeting were approved with one correction. On a motion by T. Arsenault, seconded by P. van Loon the minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Financial Report: On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by L. Kissell the December, January, and February Finance Reports were approved.

Town Solid Waste Management Responsibilities: Bob Spencer, Executive Director of the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) was invited to speak about what town solid waste management responsibilities are under Vermont statute, the role of the WSWMD, and the future of the WSWMD. Bob explained that the District was established in the 1980s and provided an overview of its history. It is responsible for providing solid waste management and recycling education for member towns, hazardous waste pick up and meeting requirements of Vermont Act 148 under its Solid Waste Implementation Plan.
Hazardous material pickups are currently required 3 times per year, and will increase to 4 next year. Contractors are hired to pick up, sort and dispose of these materials and this can be expensive. All hazardous waste that is picked up is tracked. The WSWMD has struggled to maintain its capacity to pick up, sort and sell recyclables as a result of the value of those materials in the marketplace. As a result it will be closing the materials recycling facility (MRF). Towns will be responsible for contracting out recyclable handling themselves. The District’s organic material composting program has grown and is profitable. The District also generates electricity through the recapture of methane from the closed landfill, is in the process of installing a 5 MW community net-metered solar installation on the closed landfill, and is exploring the feasibility of installing a methane digester, which will also help the region meet the new organics recycling requirements of Act 148, including waste produced by commercial facilities such as supermarkets and C&S. A number of WSWMD board members were in attendance and contributed to the Q&A.

**Weston Town Plan Approval:** The WRC received a request from the Town of Weston 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. P. van Loon made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by J. Cunningham; motion was approved with one abstention. On the confirmation of the town plan and process P. van Loon made a motion, seconded by J. Cunningham; motion was **approved**.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:** Executive Director Chris Campany provided an overview of the proposed sale of Entergy Vermont Yankee to NorthStar for the purpose of decommissioning and site restoration. He also provided a brief staffing update and a brief summary of the implications of the President’s budget for the WRC, explaining that there were so many unknowns that WRC operations are not affected at this time.

**Committee Chair Reports:**
P. van Loon announced that a Planning 101 training and economic development training would be offered in May.

C. Goodwin **moved** to adjourn the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins