



WRC Executive Board

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

**Hybrid Meeting – Remote & In-Person Location at WRC's Office,
139 Main Street, Suite 505, Brattleboro, VT**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Gabby Ciuffreda at 6:00 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Administrative Reports

The Board considered the draft minutes from the May 13, 2025 meeting. Motion by Jim Pinkerton to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Steve Lembke. Motion passed 4-0 unanimously.

Weston Town Plan Approval and Confirmation

Matt provided a summary of the Weston Town Plan update process and the technical planning assistance provided by the WRC. He noted that the required public hearing was held on June 2, 2025 and that no members of the public or representatives from adjacent towns were in attendance. He explained that WRC staff had reviewed the Weston Town Plan for compliance with the statewide planning goals and required Town Plan elements and found that the plan met statute requirements.

Stephan Chait provided the following comments on the Weston Town Plan:

- He noted that the numbering in the Table of Contents needs to be updated. The Education Chapter is listed as page 38, but in the text it is on page 37. The page numbers for each of the following chapters are incorrect after this point.
- He recommended that the table in the Transportation Chapter providing the mileage of State and Town roads in Weston be updated to also include the mileage for all legal trails in town.
- He noted the Transportation Chapter includes policies about retaining existing rights-of-way and requirements for accepting new roads and asked whether these policies would apply to the reuse of trails as roads.
- He commented that given the discussion of forest blocks and corridors in the text of the Natural Resources policy, Natural Resources Land Use Policy #14 could be more assertive about protecting these resource areas.
- He recommended rather than just considering a requirement to protect groundwater in Groundwater Policy #2, it could be a strong requirement to protect it.
- Given all the discussion of the historic village, the report would benefit by providing some photos of the village.

Steve Lembke asked about the attendance at the public meetings for the project. Matt Bachler noted there were approximately 30 people at each of the public meetings, which he considered a strong turnout. Steve Lembke commented on the high rate of second home ownership in Weston. Matt Bachler explained how the community survey was sent to all property owners, including second homeowners,

and that the Town received helpful feedback from both seasonal and year-round residents for updating the Town Plan.

Gabby Ciuffreda requested a motion to approve the Weston Town Plan, with the addition of the following comments from the Executive Board to be provided to the Town with the confirmation of the approval:

1. Consider adding information on the mileage of legal trails in Weston in Table 2 – Weston State and Town Road Mileage in the Transportation Chapter.
2. Given the importance of forest blocks and groundwater protection in the discussion section of the Natural Resources Chapter, the associated policies could be strengthened by using stronger language, such as “shall” or “must” instead of “consider” and “should”
3. Given the amount of discussion about the historic village, the plan would benefit from providing some photographs of the village.

Motion by Stephan Chait. The motion was seconded by Jim Pinkerton. Motion passed 4-0 unanimously.

Motion by Stephan Chait to confirm Weston’s Municipal Planning process. The motion was seconded by Jim Pinkerton. Motion passed 4-0 unanimously.

Committee Appointments

Stephan Chait asked about whether Peter Silverberg, WRC Commissioner for Halifax, has been appointed to any Committees. Gabby Ciuffreda noted she would follow up on this.

Executive Director’s Report

Gabby Ciuffreda noted that the Executive Director’s Report was provided in the meeting packet by email. There was a discussion on WRC’s financial position due to federal funding cuts. The Board requested that this be included as a discussion item on the July meeting agenda.

Committee Chair Reports

Stephan Chait noted the Transportation Committee met on June 10th to discuss improving communications between VTrans and Towns with WRC serving as a facilitator.

Jim Pinkerton noted the Project Review Committee canceled their June meeting and that there has not been a lot of Act 250 activity lately. He mentioned ongoing work related to the solar facility in Vernon.

Steve Lembke commented that he, Gabby, and Chris have been working on nominations for the Executive Board and Special Interest Commissioners. The Nominating Committee will bring a recommendation to the Executive Board and Full Commission in August.

Review of Action Items

The work being done by the Nominating Committee was noted as an action item from the May meeting.

Public Comments

There were no comments from members of the public.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pinkerton, seconded by Steve Lembke. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Bachler, Senior Planner