The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE
Matt Mann (staff)          Jennifer Fitch – VTrans          Lew Sorenson - Chair
Rep. Mollie Burke          Lou Bruso                               Jason Cooper
George Mora                Nicolas Wallaert                          

MINUTES APPROVAL
The minutes of July 13, 2015 and September 14 were approved as written.

BUSINESS –

VTrans Accelerated Bridge Program
Jennifer Fitch, Project Manager, VTrans, presented on the existing Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP) and future plans for it. An aging infrastructure, coupled with Tropical Storm Irene set the stage for this Program. The target is to have 25% of all bridge projects in this Program. Projects get into this Program through an initial survey, then a scope is developed (including a public meeting) and then it moves to design and engineering. Jennifer discussed the benefits of the ABP and included: the road closures were short-term, there was no need for a temporary bridge, design costs are less, and construction time is reduced to 28 days.

She stated that there are currently nine bridges in the ABP, in the Windham region (six of these are Emergency Relief). There is one bridge project scheduled in Brattleboro for 2016 and one in Guilford for 2017.

West River Trail
Jason Cooper discussed updates on the West River Trail. Currently the trail begins just north of the Marina and runs along the West River for approximately 3.5 miles, where it intersects with Rice Farm Road. The trail varies in width, being as wide as 10ft and as narrow as 5 ft. The future plans are for the trail to extend to the Nature Conservancy parking lot and then just passed the Iron Truss bridge. Additional future plans include linking to: the Whetestone Restaurant, the
proposed Hinsdale Bridge; crossing over the Connecticut River (on the abandoned rail bridge) and connecting to many miles of trail in New Hampshire.

Meeting adjorned at 6:00pm
Next Meeting: November 16th