The chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

**ATTENDANCE**

Lew Sorenson (Chair)  George Mora
Chuck Wise  Joel Bluming **(Resident)**
Gabrille Ciuffreda  Mollie Burke **(Legislature)**
Prudence MacKinney  Erica Roper **(Staff)**

**BUSINESS**

Introductions

Health and Transportation - Snowshoes in Libraries and Trail Resource

*Report and conversation with Prudence MacKinney*

Prudence reported on the Snowshoes in Libraries collaboration between the district health office and the WRC. The district health office applied for $5,000 to buy 10 pairs of snow shoes which have been placed in 6 libraries. The district health office worked with the WRC to produce two trail fliers.

Criteria for inclusion was that the library needed to be outside of Brattleboro, and be a public library open for at least 4 days a week including at least one weekend day. The six towns which received snow shoes are Whitingham, Dover, Jamaica, Townshend, Westminster West, and Guilford. Newfane and Readsboro have expressed interest. Readsboro is in a different public health district.

This project supports the Department of Health’s 3 → 4 → 50 efforts. Libraries were very receptive and the snow shoes become the property of the libraries once they have been received. The district health office is interested in applying for funds again next year.

Phase 2 is the creation of a trail resource. The document is currently in progress. There are 9 pages, by town and is available on the Windham Regional Commissions web page.
Functional Class Review

WRC staff member Erica Roper reported on VTrans recommended functional class changes in the Windham Region. The proposed changes are mostly in Brattleboro with two small changes in Stratton. The committee reviewed the changes and suggested adding the segment of Ames Hill Road that is listed as a local road to the same Functional class designation (minor collector) as the rest of Ames Hill and Abbot Road. The committee suggested that maybe School St should be a minor collector (Vtrans recommended a downgrade to major collector).

Erica will take the Vtrans and Transportation Committee recommendations to the town for further discussion and to make the final decisions. The Transportation committee reviewed and support VTran’s suggestions with the inclusion of the two additional comments above. No formal motion was made.

How do we make the Transportation Committee more relevant to the Towns?
A short committee discussion revealed the following interests;
More active local reporting of priorities
Interested in how they can help towns coordinate and learn from each other’s experiences.
Interest in guidelines for towns considering speed limit ordinances as well as traffic calming resources. It was noted that these resources exist but are not local government and volunteer committee friendly noted as ‘impenetrable to the lay person.’
The committee members noted that they liked being able to bring something back to their town for example reports of small projects with potential for local application.
Interest in advocacy for towns, specifically noted around bus service on route 30.

The committee expressed interest in reviewing and updating the Transportation Committee purpose and objective statement. Linked below.
http://www.windhamregional.org/images/docs/commission/Commissioner_Manual_Docs/PO/Trans-PO.pdf

It was noted that there is considerable opportunity for advocacy for projects within the planned transportation plan update.
The committee noted that they would like to review town plan transportation sections when feasible.

Copies of the current regional transportation plan were distributed the committee and committee member homework is to read the plan. It was discussed briefly that the committee will help vision and write the updated plan which is likely to be integrated as part of the regional plan with a separate appendix document. A one pager about this process will be distributed shortly to the committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE
What should we plan for the summer?
The committee decided to meet in June and July with the following topics distributed based on VTrans staff availability. The committee will not meet in August
- Rt 30 Corridor Project
- VTrans Long Range Plan
- Transportation Plan Update

Discussion of Planning Commission conflicts with Transportation Commission involving town plan approval. The Transportation Committee is able to meet at 4pm on a case by case basis when there are conflicts.

Moving our meetings to alternate locations ie towns outside of Brattleboro was brought up. Concerns about limited committee attendance were brought up. The committee expressed interest in an annual field trip meeting perhaps in September.

April minutes will be updated to remove Lew’s comment. With that edit George moved for approval, Chuck seconded all voted in favor.

Next Meeting scheduled for **June 11th at 4:30pm at the Windham Regional Commission.**

Meeting adjourned 5:54pm

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Roper
Transportation Planner