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

ATTENDANCE
Lew Sorenson - Chair    Matt Mann (staff)
Jane Purdy    Dick Clark
Jackie Cassino

MINUTES APPROVAL
Approval of the minutes of June 9, 2014 were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

BUSINESS

Stronger Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) Program
Jackie Cassino, Planning Coordinator, VTrans, presented the SCBC Program. Smart Growth America met with Vtrans staff last year and discussed improving coordination with Agency of Commerce and Community Development and leveraging FHWA funds for the betterment of transportation and land use. The guiding principles of the Program are from the FHWA Livability Principles: provide more transportation choices, promote equitable, affordable housing, enhance economic competitiveness, support existing communities, coordinate policies and leverage investment, and value communities and neighborhoods. The emphasis is on coordinate policies and leveraging investment principle. The total grant amount this year is $200,000 and can only be used for the planning phase. Potential projects should incorporate either: provide more transportation choices, support Vermont’s historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside, reduce the overall demand and maximize efficiency for multi-modal transportation infrastructure, spur downtown and village economic development and revitalization efforts, provide a resilient transportation system that supports the Vermont economy, and/or lead directly to project implementation. The funding break out is 80% FHWA/10% ACCD/10% local. Ineligible initiatives include:

- Right-of-way acquisition
- Preliminary engineering
- Construction
Land Surveying
Storm water/sewer system design
Construction of transportation system facilities
Capital oriented implementation actions
Projects inconsistent with the goals of the Town or Regional Plan
Regional Plans, Town Plans and town-wide bylaws
Municipal and Regional Planning Commission Employees staff administrative time
Project Scoping
Projects located within Chittenden County

Application will be due October 1st and awards will be announced in December, with a 24 months implementation period.

Utilities and Facilities Planning and Capital Budgeting and Programming
Matt presented Kevin Geiger’s, TRORC, on Utilities and Facilities Planning, including Capital Budgeting. The presentation addressed the need for towns to down the leg work and plan and budget for major purchases (e.g. fire truck) and major repairs (e.g. Town Hall renovation). Every Town Plan (24 VSA sections 4382-85) must contain a utilities and facilities element as well as a transportation element. Capital budgeting and Programming (24 VSA sections 4325, 4430, 4443) builds on the Town Plan, and the budget is for one year and the program for 5 years. Budgets can include renovations to public facilities, town vehicles, town utilities (e.g. wastewater treatment facilities) and other services (e.g. major upgrade to road infrastructure).

The Capital Budget and Program looks out into the next fiscal year but also out over the next five years. Title 24 §4430“(a) A capital budget shall list and describe the capital projects to be undertaken during the coming fiscal year, the estimated cost of those projects, and the proposed method of financing. A capital program is a plan of capital projects proposed to be undertaken during each of the following five years, the estimated cost of those projects, and the proposed method of financing.” A capital project is any one or more of the following: any physical betterment or improvement, including furnishings, machinery, apparatus, or equipment for that physical betterment or improvement when first constructed or acquired, any preliminary studies and surveys relating to any physical betterment or improvement, land or rights in land, and/or any combination of subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection. For example, a basic excel spreadsheet of several costs from a single reserve with level annual input for all the town vehicles could be put together; and would show the financial contributions needed over the a five year period.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm
Next Meeting: October 13th