TOWN OF
TUNBRIDGE
VERMONT

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

The Tunbridge Selectboard held a Regular meeting on September 25, 2026 at the Tunbridge Town Office and over Zoom.

Present in person: Mike McPhetres (Vice Chair), John O'Brien (Clerk), Aileen Lem (Assistant), Brenda Field, Janet Wells, Todd Tyson, Betsy Gaiser; **Present on Zoom:** Amy Frost

Call to order
Mike M. called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

Agenda additions, changes
There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Joint Selectboard/Planning Commission letter: Follow-up Comments on the Draft 2026 TRORC Regional Plan
The Selectboard heard comments from Planning Commission Chair Amy F., Planning Commission member Brenda F., and Tunbridge TRORC representative and Planning Commission member Janet W. on the status of Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission's (TRORC) draft regional plan and how TRORC's process for engaging the Planning Commission and the public has been going. They shared that the Planning Commission and interested parties, including Tunbridge resident Peter Hayden who's been integral in getting the word out about concerns with TRORC's draft plan, support the joint Planning Commission/Selectboard letter as written. Aileen L. shared that Selectboard Chair Gary Mullen, not present, supports the letter as written if the rest of the Selectboard agrees.

Janet W. shared the agenda for TRORC's September 30 meeting, which called for reviewing and making decisions on TRORC's table of recommended changes to the draft plan. Aileen L. pulled up TRORC's website to go over the structure of TRORC's Board of Commissioners and the TRORC staff with the Selectboard.

Betsy G. and Todd T. weren't sure their comments from the public meetings they attended were included in TRORC's documentation of feedback. They had requested that legal trails be addressed. Others present hadn't seen comments on legal trails included either.

Brenda F. and Amy F. said the Town Plan would be the Planning Commission's next project.

John O. moved to accept the joint Planning Commission/Selectboard letter as written and authorize Gary Mullen to sign. Mike M. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Aileen L. will email to the parties named in the letter once Amy F. and Gary M. sign and before the TRORC Board meeting on September 30.

Public comment
Todd T. commented that he's noticed pressure on regional planning commissions by individual Vermonters and organizations like Rural Vermont Rising, in part from blow back from Act 181. Todd T. wondered if members of the public join TRORC meetings, and Janet W. said there have been members of the public joining lately. We should be cognizant of what our regional commission is doing and continue to make our voices heard.

Janet W. wondered if we could have an open meeting, like a Town Hall, for the public to participate in and hear more about what's going on. It seems like people were caught of guard. The presentation from TRORC to the Planning Commission in Tunbridge was vague. The presentation at the Tunbridge Library put on by Jonathan Bicknell was informative.

Adjourn
John O. moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike M. seconded. Meeting adjourned around 8:10pm (unanimous).

Submitted by Aileen Lem

Approved October 13, 2026 by:

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk