

Meeting called by: Dorian Yates

Type of meeting: SECC monthly meeting

Facilitator: Dorian Yates

Note taker: Jim Schley

Attendees: Dorian Yates, Susan Hodges, Jim Schley, Matt Christie, Vanessa Rule, and Kazmira Nedeau

Next Meeting: **June 10, 2025, on Zoom**

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION ITEMS for Flood Forum:

Kaz will create a flyer, using short bio notes for our presenters and photos that **Jim** will provide.

Dorian and **Jim** will prepare a handout with web links and other resources, which people can take home.

Vanessa will talk with **Didi** about the elements of her presentation, and Matt will talk with Eric.

Jim will create a press release for the *Valley News* and *White River Herald*, and **Jim** will also contact the regional community-access television provider (based at Junction Arts & Media or JAM in White River Junction) to see if they will film and record the event. **Jim** will also prepare list-serve announcements (just text) which he'll post on the Strafford list, and announcements (text with graphics) that **Susan** will post on the town Facebook page.

Dorian and **Vanessa** will gather materials for the small group work: markers, notecards, flip charts, etc.

Kaz will follow up with Meg Teachout on childcare possibility.

ACTION ITEM (carried over): **Jim** will request annual data on use and generation (from the GMP bills) from the array for the four partners: Newton School, Barrett Hall, the United Church of Strafford, and the Morrill-Harris Library; **Harry** will do some research into whether or not new partners could be added if owner of the array changed. **Carried over: more complicated than foreseen, but Matt has now provided assistance with the GMP website, showing how to display annual data, which helps Jim ask the Community Solar (Maclay array) partners for the information we'd like them to provide.**

Action Item (carried over): **David** will ask the Sharon representative on the IREC steering committee what kind of thermal imaging equipment they have that can be checked out from their library. **Carried over.**

Action Item (carried over): Send to **Dorian** your various phone numbers, so that if we can't reach each other by e-mail or if the Zoom weren't working, she would have a way to call. **Dorian still needs numbers from some committee members.**

Next meeting: Discuss Revised Procedure for Approval of New Members for Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees, which we received from selectboard chair Toni Pippy on May 12.

Next meeting: Committee's role in updating the Enhanced Energy Plan with energy data and targets TRORC devised for Strafford in their updated Regional Plan, adopted on 2/26/2025.

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION ITEM: Dorian will contact Micki Colbeck and Kate Bass as chair and co-chair of the Conservation Commission to introduce the idea of co-hosting an event. Micki will help publicize, but isn't feeling that they can co-host the event.

ACTION ITEM: Kaz will tell Sonya that we're now more interested in the downstairs at Barrett Hall and a date in early June. Done.

ACTION ITEM: Vanessa and Kaz will work on a draft agenda for the event (see: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YB2ywwVKKIdCnpNLQ0xSkDnzAEmhAHIssETdUJvcu7g/e/dit?tab=t.0>), and Kaz will also develop a cool flyer. Draft done.

AGENDA for this meeting:

Vanessa spoke briefly about Didi Pershouse's Healthy Soils workshop (this week, Sat–Tues), which has fifteen participants from all over the country: <https://www.landandleadership.org/may-2025-lake-morey-retreat.html>

1. **Approve minutes** from previous meeting (April). Approved.

2. **Review & update re: Action items from last meeting.** Done.

3. **Revised Procedure for Approval of New Members for Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees:** Dorian acknowledged receipt of this from Selectboard chair Toni Pippi. **ACTION ITEM:** Discuss this at our next meeting.

4. **Municipal Summary Worksheet for Strafford:** Dorian acknowledged receipt of this from Bryan Kovalick, Planner at Two Rivers Ottauquechee Planning Commission; this pertains to revision of the Advanced Energy Plan component of the Town Plan. Bryan's letter says:

"The energy data and targets in this document are required by Act 174 of 2016 for inclusion in a Town Plan written to contain an 'Enhanced Energy Plan.' An Enhanced Energy Plan is required for Town Plans seeking an affirmative determination of energy compliance. This is *optional* for municipalities. However, any Town Plan granted an affirmative determination of Energy Compliance will receive substantial deference in § 248 proceedings. During these proceedings, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) reviews proposed energy-generation facilities for approval or disapproval. Any policies concerning the siting or operation of energy generation facilities within a Town Plan that has received substantial deference will inform the criteria applied by the PUC in their review of a proposed facility.

The energy data and targets within your Municipal Summary Worksheet are the energy data and targets TRORC devised for your Town for our updated Regional Plan, adopted on 2/26/2025. You may choose to rely on these analyses and targets to meet the municipal standards set by the Department of Public Service (PSD). Alternatively, your municipality may develop your own custom analyses and targets or supplement the analyses and targets provided by TRORC. If these options are chosen, your municipality must include all of the same analyses and targets and meet the same standards outlined in PSD's [*Guidance for Regional & Municipal Enhanced Energy Planning Standards*](#). **ACTION ITEM:** Discuss this at our next meeting.

5. Discussion of our June 5 "flood forum: plan: *Strafford Strong: Getting Ready for the Next Flood*

1. Agenda: Two presenters and time for ample participant interaction

2. Handouts with links and esources

3. Publicity: listserve, Facebook page, etc.

Kaz has set up a Google doc in our drive for our brainstorming ideas for the resiliency forum here: SECC Google Drive folder:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YxnA9s4_g5yYBiMF1yCZP46K0K2ycQJ9ZUjQ - NRjwU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YxnA9s4_g5yYBiMF1yCZP46K0K2ycQJ9ZUjQ-NRjwU/edit?usp=sharing)

Purpose of the Forum

- Get people together to talk about what actions we can take together as a town
- Help Strafford be well prepared for the next flooding event and more resilient in the face of increasing climate impacts
- Share information about how flooding works and how we can mitigate weather-related events to inform what we do at the individual, neighborhood, and town level

Desired Outcomes

- Increase people's understanding of flooding and what we can do about it
- Generate ideas from the community about how we can prepare at the individual and collective levels
 - We have learned from past flooding events like Irene: strengths we have and areas that need to be strengthened
- Fostering connections between neighbors
- Get a sense of where people's interests lie and priority areas to help us figure out next steps
- Collect addresses and contact information and a list of interested people

Logistics

- Tables by neighborhoods
- Flip charts
- Markers
- Name tags
- 3x5 cards
- Screen projector
- Owl for zoom?

Agenda

1. Welcome and Overview of meeting (5 m)
 - Objectives
 - Agenda
2. "Pair shares" (5 m)
 - Introduce yourself
 - Where do you live in town?
 - What brought you to this meeting?
3. "Popcorn harvest": What did you hear in your group? (facilitator write on flip charts) (5 m)
4. Presentations (20 m each)
 - a. Eric Donaldson: What's the problem? Overview of watercourses in our town and description of problems relating to roadways and culverts for water that *isn't* absorbed.
 - b. Eric: Overview of potential solutions: Emergency preparation and evacuation plans for those in particularly endangered locations (few road outlets, active streams near the home, reliance on culverted or bridged roads/driveways), or those with some level of incapacity (elderly, disabled, reliant on powered medical equipment, etc.)
 - c. Didi Pershouse talks about ways of managing lands and soils to be better ready to receive and hold water.
5. Breakout groups: Show people a grid with options for prevention and preparedness and individual and neighborhood action

- Individual silent reflection (2 m): Think about individual, neighborhood, and town actions we could take based on what you've just heard and what you know from experience.
- Then share and discuss with your small group: Summarize ideas on a flip chart -- assign note taker! Try to identify at least a few individual and few collective actions.

6. Whole group comes back together and looks at the small-group summaries (a "gallery walk"), with time for clarifying questions of each other.

7. What inspires you, and what do you have energy to do? Straw vote on next steps.

8. Next Steps: What will the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee do to summarize and present what we've learned from the forum? How will proposed initiatives be shared and encouraged? How will ongoing communication among participants and others be done?

- **Individual:** Can you commit to contacting your neighbors? Confirm that your driveway and adjacent road has well sized and located culverts? Map out an alternate route out of my home if bridge XYZ or roadway fails? Stop pulling dandelions so I get variable root-penetration for more absorbent soils? or Pack a go-bag for an emergency?
- **Household:** Create a FEMA-recommended Household Emergency Prep Kit? Think through and plan for different emergency scenarios? Connect with your five closest neighbors? How will you communicate? Who has special resources and who has special needs?
- **Town:** Familiarize ourselves with the formal mitigation plan? Develop a structure for coordination of town resources/equipment? Coordinate between the two villages if access is blocked? Provide guidance on what people can do if their culverts are blocked or roads are impassable, etc.? Develop land-management recommendations for greater resilience? Map our town into zones or neighborhoods, with identified person serve as point of contact with Emergency Management Director? What are the resources/equipment in each zone? What are the special needs? How will each neighborhood communicate?

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Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. Next meeting is June 10, 2025