

ACRPC News

August 2002



Municipal Planning Grants

Municipal Planning Grant time is approaching faster this year. This year the application deadline for FY03 has been moved to **September 30, 2002**.

The Municipal Planning Grant Program funds technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstration planning projects.

Last year six Addison Region communities received a total of just under \$55,000. This year, a similar amount of money will be available for the Addison Region and municipalities can ask for up to \$15,000.

For those towns whose plans are expiring within the next year or so, this is an excellent opportunity to receive funds to support the rewriting and readoption process.

Other activities eligible for funding include updating zoning regulations in light of state septic rule changes and working towards a village center or downtown designation.

In order to apply, municipalities must have a current, regionally adopted plan. If you have any questions or would like assistance with applying, please contact Brandy Saxton at 388-3141 or by email, bsaxton@sover.net.



GONE FISHIN'

Reminder: There is no Full Commission Meeting scheduled in August.

New Program and Funding for Village Centers

The VT Downtown Program can now designate "village centers." This designation will offer benefits similar to those available to designated "downtowns," but has been designed to better suit the needs of smaller communities.

In the Addison Region, Middlebury and Vergennes are currently "designated downtowns." This new category of designation should help some of the region's smaller towns qualify for downtown benefits.

Benefits that will be available to designated village centers include:

1. A five percent income tax credit to be added to the existing 20 percent federal tax credit for rehabilitation of qualified historic buildings.

2. A 50 percent income tax credit for code improvements made to commercial buildings.

3. Give communities with designated village centers priority for other grant funding like Municipal Planning Grants and Community Development Block Grants.

4. Allow special assessment taxes to be used for operating funds and capital projects.

5. Make village centers priority locations for state buildings and facilities.

This new designation within the VT Downtown Program was created when House Bill 208 was signed into law in May.

The process for implementing this new program is currently being developed. There will be updates on this program in future ACRPC newsletters.

August

- 10 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. River Assessment Training. East Middlebury Sarah Partridge Community House.
- 13 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Onsite Rules Meeting and Site Visit. Bridport.
- 22 9:00 a.m. Business to Business Workshop. Middlebury College.
- 28 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

Calendar

September

- 4 Transportation Enhancement Grant Letters of Intent Due.
- 11 7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting. Location TBA.
- 18 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 25 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

Published by:

Addison County Regional
Planning Commission

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ACRPC Committee Appointments

Act 250 Committee:

Chair: Fred Dunnington

Members: Thea Gaudette, Jeremy Grip, Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Steve Revell, David Shlansky, Tom Yager

Economic Development Committee:

Chair: Jim Peabody

Members: Randy Friday, Peter Grant, Jeanne Montross, Karl Neuse, Bill O'Neill, Bill Sayre, Harvey Smith, Linda Stearns

Local Government Committee:

Chair: Thea Gaudette

Members: James Maroney, Karl Neuse, Edward Payne, Donald Shall

Natural Resources Committee:

Chair: David Raphael

Members: Allen Karnatz, David King, Judy Kowalczyk, Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Edward Payne, Steve Revell, Bill Sayre, David Shlansky, Harvey Smith, Tom Yager

Transportation Committee:

Chair: John Emerson

Members: Chad Chamberlain, Peter Grant, Tommy Thompson, Tom Yager

Utilities & Facilities Committee:

Chair: Bill McQuillan

Members: Thea Gaudette, Peter Grant, Jeremy Grip, Judy Kowalczyk, Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Andrew Manning, Jim Peabody, Bill Perkins

Onsite Rules Site Visit

ACRPC and the Agency of Natural Resources will host a technical discussion regarding how the new onsite rules will be implemented on August 13 starting from 878 Basin Harbor Road in Bridport at noon.

Join area hydrologists, engineers, site technicians and legislators for a discussion with Commissioner Chris Recchia, Roger Thompson, the Manager of the District Offices and the Rutland Field Staff.

The afternoon's program will focus on what constitutes reasonable and consistent application of the rules as we review a series of test pits reflecting soil conditions in Addison County. Contact ACRPC for more information.

Culvert Inventories to be Funded for Another Year

Last year, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) allocated funds to conduct bridge and culvert inventories. These inventories are part of the new requirements for municipalities to reduce their local share of town highway and bridge program funds by 10 percent.

Inventories were done for the municipalities of Goshen, Whiting, Panton, Vergennes, Leicester and Salisbury.

The TAC has allocated more funding this year to conduct bridge and culvert inventories for interested towns on a first-come, first-served basis. TAC funds will cover the entire cost of the inventory.

To request an inventory, or for further information call Garrett Dague at (802) 388-3141.

Willing to get your feet wet & your hands dirty?

The Middlebury River Watershed Partnership (MRWP) will be holding a river assessment training session on Saturday, August 10, from 8:30 until 3:00 at the East Middlebury Sarah Partridge Community House on Route 125.

They are looking for volunteers to help with their study of erosion problems in the river. If you are interested, you will need to attend the geomorphological training session. Then you can volunteer for one to six days - your choice - on the river with a team, taking measurements, identifying problem areas.

Please contact Carl Engvall at 388-6746, ext. 5, or mrwpcordinator@yahoo.com for more information.

Enhancement Grant Deadline Nearing

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program funds transportation-related activities in Vermont such as sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation and more.

This is a reimbursement program requiring a 20 percent minimum match. Applicants must submit a pre-application letter by **September 4** and attend an educational workshop this fall.

Final applications must be received by November 6. Applicants will be notified of awards by February 2003.

For more information or assistance in applying, contact Garrett Dague or Brandy Saxton at 388-3141.

ACRPC Appointments

ACRPC asks its member municipalities to annually appoint delegates and alternates to the commission for a term beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

As of the end of June, we **have not** received appointment letters from the selectboards of the following towns: **Addison, Cornwall, Salisbury, Starksboro and Weybridge.**

Until we receive written notification of your appointed delegation, your seats will be considered unfilled.

VT Downtown Program Conference

The 2002 Vermont Downtown Program Conference will be held September 25 at the Radisson Hotel in Burlington.

Attendees can choose from a wide variety of workshops and field sessions geared for downtown business and property owners, retailers, developers, public officials, building code and public safety officials, tax accountants, financial institutions, and more.

The conference begins at 9 and ends at 4 with a special post-conference tour of the waterfront from 4-5. Registration is \$35, and includes lunch at the Radisson. Space in some sessions is very limited, so sign up early.

More information and registration materials are available on-line at www.historicvermont.org. If you need further information than is available on-line, or would like a registration brochure mailed to you, contact dprovost@dca.state.vt.us.