



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

# ACRPC

*update*

december 2003

## commission calendar

DECEMBER	9	5:00 p.m. Economic Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	10	7:00 p.m. Addison County Forum on Smart Growth Location: Kirk Alumni, Middlebury Coll.
	10	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Kenyon Lounge, Middlebury College
	11	7:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Workshop Location: Hannaford Center, Middlebury Agenda: Agricultural Structures
	15	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Telecommunications
		ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office Date & time to be scheduled
JANUARY	13	7:00 p.m. Economic Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	14	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBA
	19	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Internet Services and Media
	21	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	28	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

## Ag Uses and Local Land Use Regulations Workshop

A local farm, which has been out of operation for several years, is being purchased by a neighboring farmer. The new owner will be moving into the existing farmhouse, which has been vacant, and will be repairing barns and outbuildings. The new owner wants to install a modular home to house a hired hand on the same lot as the existing farmhouse and hook it into that building's water and septic systems.

A local vegetable and fruit farmer wants to relocate and enlarge her farmstand. A new building will be constructed closer to the road. The farmstand will have two non-family employees. The farmer also wants to install signs for the farmstand.

A farmer who raises goats wants to build onto his existing barn in order to house a small-scale cheese making operation. Additionally, he has planted Christmas trees throughout the property that have now matured and are ready to sell.

What portions of these projects are regulated by your town's land use regulations? What state regulations apply? Where is the line between agricultural use and commercial or industrial use?

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be hosting a workshop on **December 11 at 7 p.m.** at the Vermont Interactive TV site in the Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury on the topic of agriculture and local land use regulations. Brian Monaghan, VLCT Staff Attorney will be giving a presentation on regulating agricultural structures and practices. Participants will discuss scenarios like those above to determine which activities on farms are exempt from regulation and which are not.

There will also be a panel to respond to participant's questions composed of Brian Monaghan; Mike Miller, a planner from Lamoille County Planning Commission; Mike Duane, an attorney from the Department of Agriculture; and Joe Hescocock, an Addison County farmer and vice-chair of the Shoreham Planning Commission.

For more information or to register contact VLCT's Jessica Hill at (800) 649-7915.



Meetings are open to the public.  
Minutes are available on-line at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org).  
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

## Rec Trails Grants

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has announced its 2004 Recreation Trails Grant Program. Approximately \$375,000 is available.

Municipalities, schools and non-profits organizations are eligible to apply. There is a 20 percent match requirement, which can be cash or in-kind.

There are three categories of grants: construction, education and publication, and planning. Eligible projects include:

- Maintenance on existing trails.
- Development of trail-side and trailhead facilities.
- Provision of features which facilitate access by people with disabilities.
- Construction of new trails.
- Purchase of hand tools for trail work.
- Pre-implementation planning including inventories, route analysis, exploration of permitting and clearances, and land-owner contact.

Mini-grants for up to \$500 are also available for small-scale projects. Applications are due by Friday, January 30, 2004. For more information go to [www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation](http://www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation) or contact Brandy at the ACRPC Office, 388-3141.

## Small Water System Evaluations Available

The Water Supply Division of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is offering free water system engineering evaluations. This service is available to school water systems and any other independent system that serves less than 500 people.

The evaluation will be done by a consulting professional engineer. The report will include a brief system description, a sketch, a list of facilities and equipment and an estimated number of years of useful life remaining in each system component.

For more information contact Dave Allerton at (800) 823-6500 or [david.allerton@anr.state.vt.us](mailto:david.allerton@anr.state.vt.us).

*This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.*

## Municipal Planning Grants Announced

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs recently awarded nine Addison Region municipalities over \$68,000 in FY04 Municipal Planning Grants.

This year in the Addison Region 11 out of 15 eligible towns applied for planning grants. Their requests totaled more than twice the available funds for the region, making this year the most competitive in the program's history.

The awards included \$11,000 for Waltham to revise their zoning and subdivision regulations. Orwell was granted \$9,000 to continue their work engaging the public in restructuring

ing their zoning districts. Bridport, Cornwall, Ripton and Salisbury received a total of over \$23,000 for revising their town plans.

Bristol was awarded \$4,450 in support of their downtown designation process and New Haven received over \$8,000 for development of a village center master plan. Middlebury was granted \$12,000 for infrastructure mapping.

Congratulations to all the towns that were awarded grants and for those whose requests were not granted remember to reapply next year.

## Environmental Award Nominations

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is accepting nominations for the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence and Pollution Prevention. The awards were established in 1993 to honor Vermont individuals, organizations, institutions, public agencies, businesses and industry using innovative approaches that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and wastes at the source.

Any Vermonter or Vermont-based organization or facility may apply for a Governor's Award. Nominations by second parties are also encouraged. The nominee, however, must be notified and provide written consent.

For more information contact Doug Kievit-Kylar, Pollution Prevention Planner at (800) 974-9559 or by email at [doug.kievit-kylar@anr.state.vt.us](mailto:doug.kievit-kylar@anr.state.vt.us). The application and additional information is available online at <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/govaward.htm>.

## VT Council on Rural Development

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is in the process of identifying at least two rural Vermont communities to participate in Community Visit processes to in 2004. VCRD's Community Visits are designed to help a town review its strengths and challenges, prioritize its goals, increase resident involvement, develop strategic action plans, and build connections to resources that can support the community's progress.

Visits start with a day-long set of focus forums on issues identified by a local steering committee. VCRD brings a resource team of 25 development leaders to help the community consider the challenges ahead. Then, over the next months, VCRD facilitates community-wide prioritizing and planning events.

If you know of a community ready to take a long look at its future contact Paul Costello at 828-6024 or [vcrd@sover.net](mailto:vcrd@sover.net).

## Conference on Smart Growth and Addison County

The Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative has released its first progress report detailing important steps toward smart growth the state has taken. Presenters will explain the Vermont Smart Growth Progress report in detail and explain how Addison County can grow its economy, reduce pollution, protect our landscape and enhance quality of life at a panel discussion on December 10 from 7 to 8 p.m. at Kirk Alumni Center.

There will be opportunities to speak with decision makers at the local and state level as well as ask questions of our panel.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Drew Hudson, VPIRG Field Coordinator, at [drew@vpirg.org](mailto:drew@vpirg.org) or 223-5221 ext. 4787.