



# ACRPC

*update*

december 2004

## commission calen-

DECEMBER	8	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Vergennes Opera House
	9	7:00 p.m. VT Council on Rural Development Mtg Location: Bristol Info: /www.sover.net/~vcrd/
	16	7:00 p.m. VIT Interactive Workshop Info: www.vlct.org/calendar/index.cfm
	29	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
JANUARY	12	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBA
	26	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

### Municipal Planning Grants Awarded

Seven Addison Region towns were awarded a total of more than \$66,000 in Municipal Planning Grants from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs. There were nearly \$120,000 requested from nine towns, making this another very competitive round of planning grants in the Addison Region.

Salisbury and Leicester received a joint grant of \$18,200 for a study of the Lake Dunmore - Fern Lake area that will examine transportation, water quality and development issues around the lakeshore. Middlebury was granted \$12,000 for a strategic downtown development plan.

Ferrisburgh, New Haven and Bristol received funding for revisions to their town plans. Starksboro and Lincoln were awarded grant funds to support revisions to their zoning regulations.

The Municipal Planning Grant Program cycle typically begins in October when applications are due. Awards are made in early November and projects must be completed within 18 months. The Addison Region has been allocated approximately \$65,000 of grant funds each of the past several years, based on the number of municipalities with regionally-approved, current plans.

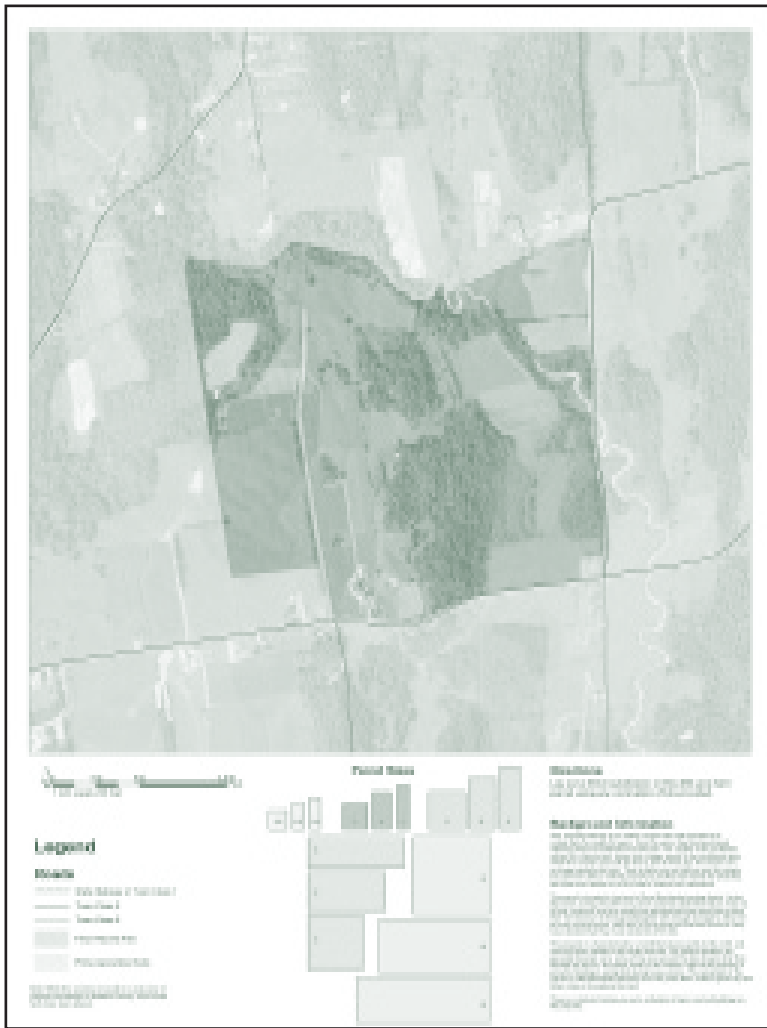
### VCGI 2005 Map Calendar Available

The Vermont Spatial Data Partnership has produced a nice 2005 calendar.

Contact Leslie Pelch at (802) 882-3002 or [lesliep@vcgi.org](mailto:lesliep@vcgi.org) if you would like to purchase a calendar for \$10 (great



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.



This exercise has been used by the Shoreham and Cornwall Planning Commissions in recent months in planning forums open to the public. In Cornwall, the exercise sparked discussion about whether it was more appropriate to subdivide lots in or along the wooded patches to preserve the maximum amount of agricultural land, or whether it was better to develop away from the woods to preserve the ecological functions of the forest. In Shoreham, there was discussion of whether there was a conflict inherent in locating new residential lots in close proximity to working farmland and whether potential farmer-neighbor conflicts could be limited through site design.

For those Planning Commissions considering their zoning standards in rural areas, this exercise may provide insight into the types of development that town residents find most acceptable. It also brings theoretical discussions about density, lot size and clustering down to an on-the-ground reality that people can interact with and talk about.

If your town would like to experiment with this new tool, please contact Kevin or Brandy at the Regional Planning Commission.

## Subdivision - The Board Game

The Shoreham Planning Commission in an attempt to engage the public through a series of exercises related to revisions to the town's zoning regulations has developed a great tool for exploring development issues in the region's rural areas.

With the assistance of the RPC, a "somewhat real" parcel of farm land (about 250 acres) has been identified and mapped. The parcel is similar to farmland throughout the region with a farmstead, a few patches of forest and open agricultural fields. It has some unique features including a hill with steep slopes and a stream with some associated flood areas.

The point of the exercise is to lay out a subdivision of a predetermined number of lots on the property. Participants use a series of "lots," pieces of paper cut to scale in a number of different sizes and configurations, to develop the property.

