



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

December 2007

commission calendar

December	12	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	13	7:00 pm	Flood Prevention and Management Location: Vt. Interactive TV Site Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury Info: See article on page two
	19	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
January	8 & 9		Lake Champlain Conference Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington Info: http://www.neiwpc.org/LCconference/
	8	7:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	9	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	16	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	30	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury

Planning Funds Awarded to Seven Addison County Towns

Seven towns in Addison County were awarded Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) funding from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA). The total award for the seven towns was \$61,063. The recipient towns and projects are as follows:

Lincoln

Town Plan Update

Award Amount: \$9,650

Middlebury

Downtown & Riverfront Action Plan

Award Amount: \$5,415

New Haven

Town Plan Update

Award Amount: \$4,198

Starksboro

Town Plan Update

Award Amount: \$9,950

Vergennes

Municipal Plan Rewrite

Award Amount: \$15,000

Waltham

Town Plan Revision

Award Amount: \$6,900

Whiting

Town Plan Update

Award Amount: \$9,950

Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.

For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Municipal Education Grants Available

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs has reauthorized the Municipal Education Grants, which cover up to \$800 in training costs for onsite training for volunteer boards and commissions to help them perform their duties. The fund is designed to bring trainers directly to the community so that all members of the land use boards and commissions have the opportunity for on-going education.

Municipalities may apply for a grant any time before May 16, 2008. The state will reimburse the municipality for the grant amount after the training has taken place and expenses have been paid. More information is available at <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MEG.htm>.

Community Facilities Grants and Loans Available

The US Dept. of Agriculture has funding for Non-Profit and Municipal Facilities that provide Health Care, Public Safety, Public Services, and Recreation for projects that involve capital expansion or improvement; including equipment and furnishings, construction or renovations, or vehicles. Projects include, but are not limited to, Fire Protection Equipment, Hospital & Critical Care Clinics, Rescue and Ambulance Service, Animal Shelter – Veterinarians, ADA accessibility, Communication Center & Equipment, Emergency Response Training, and Elder and Child Care. Applications submitted before **January 18** will be scored and compete in the next round of funding. For more information, call 802-828-6032, or email susan.poulin@vt.usda.gov or naomi.hatch@vt.usda.gov or james.plouffe@vt.usda.gov.

PREVENTING FLOOD HAZARDS

December 13 at 7 to 9 pm
Via Vermont Interactive Television

Sponsored by Vermont League of Cities and Towns Municipal Assistance Center and the Regional Planning Commissions, the program will be broadcast at Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) sites, including the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury. Delivered in the evening, this workshop will focus on short- and long-term strategies for restoring the hydrological balance in our river systems. All are welcome, though it is particularly relevant for planning commissioners, zoning administrators, development review board members, selectboard members, town managers and administrators, conservation commissioners, and other interested parties.

The presentation will provide an overview of the State's River Management Program, the values and deficiencies of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the modernization of NFIP mapping, and how communities can reduce hazards from catastrophic flooding. For information, visit www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/

New Implementation Manual Search Term Feature

Users of the Vermont Planners Information Center (VPIC) website may now search among a list of land use topics, terms and issues to find applicable Implementation Manual Topic Papers. The 30 Topic Papers contained within the Implementation Manual cover a broad range of land use topics, terms and issues.

This search feature allows you to narrow down your interest to a specified list of terms and then go to the Topic Papers that cover the information that you are interested in. The Implementation Manual page is <http://www.vpic.info/pubs/implementation/> and the term search feature can be found at <http://www.vpic.info/pubs/implementation/search/>

Recreation Trails Grant

You can find the 2008 Recreation Trails Program Competitive Grant Application, Mini Grant Application and a Vermont Recreation Trails Program Guidebook for 2008 at <http://www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm>.

There is also useful information in the Vermont Recreation Trails Grant Guidebook including general guidelines about the Recreation Trails Grant program, permissible uses of funds, and procurement procedures. The application deadline for Recreation Trails Grants is **January 15, 2008**.

Assistance Available from New Conservation Program

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), a new program offered through Vermont's Fish and Wildlife Department, has the potential to assist Conservation Commission's across the state in planning for rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals and significant natural communities.

The federally funded LIP protects and restores habitats on private lands to benefit at-risk species and natural communities. Although land throughout Vermont is eligible, land located in the Champlain Valley will be given a higher priority. For more information, contact Jane Lazorchak at 479-4405 or Jane.Lazorchak@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.