



ACRPC

update

December 2009

Champlain/ Crown Point Bridge Update

In recent months, the Champlain Bridge was closed due to the advanced stage of deterioration in the pier concrete that was identified during recent underwater inspections. The closure had an immediate and drastic impact on both the 600+ individuals who commute to work over the bridge and the businesses that rely on this commuter and freight traffic. Since the only detour around the bridge was in excess of 90 miles, NYSDOT and VTrans immediately went to work developing alternate crossings that would help mitigate the impact (continued on page three)

ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Program: Addison County Legislators Wednesday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

As is our tradition in December, ACRPC has invited Addison County's legislative delegation to discuss issues concerning transportation, land use planning, school consolidation, health care and the overall state of the budget. What do they believe the legislature may take up this session, why, and what would they hope to accomplish? Each legislator in attendance will be given the opportunity to speak and then we will open up the floor to questions.

In addition, we will be serving desserts made by The Bridge Restaurant in celebration of the holidays.

The public is invited to attend our monthly presentations and Full Commission Meetings. For more information, contact Adam Lougee at 388-3141 or alougee@sover.net.

VPIRG Survey on Local Junkyards

VPIRG is working to protect our rivers, streams, and lands from polluting junkyards by working with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to identify all junkyards in the state. While Vermont has many successful salvage yards that are being properly operated and maintained, we also have junkyards that are polluting our waterways and endangering the health of nearby neighborhoods. Many of these yards are not registered with the state or complying with existing laws. In order to put good policies in place and enforce existing ones, we need help locating all salvage yards in Vermont, including any in your community. Your efforts will protect Vermonters' health and our natural resources.

Take the survey by going to:
<http://capwiz.com/vpirg/utr/1/HGDDLRRCIQ/AM-MQLRTECH/4333211521>

Commission Calendar

December	2	9:00	Zoning Administrator's Roundtable
	2	7-9	Natural Resources Committee
	4	12:00	Energy Committee
	9	9-12	ACRWC
	9	7:30	Full Commission - Legislators
	10	7-9	Energy Program - Wood Boilers
	11	8:00	ACTR
	16	4-6	Community Meeting on DEHCD 5-Year Plan, West Rutland Town Hall
	17	7:00	ACSWMD
	23	6:30	Executive Board
	25		Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
January	1		New Year's Day Holiday - Office Closed
	8	8:00	ACTR
	8	12:00	Energy Committee
	13	7:30	Full Commission
	26	7-9	Natural Resources Committee
	27	6:30	Executive Board

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. For further info, contact 388-3141.

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.

Events

Energy Program: Wood Boilers Thursday, December 10, 7-9 pm

The ACRPC Energy Committee is offering a free public program on Residential, Commercial and Industrial Wood Boilers on Thursday, December 10, from 7-9 pm. The program will be presented by Basil Stetson, Vice President of Building Energy and Roger Wallace, founder of Addison Biomass Energy. Building Energy tests, designs, and installs energy saving and production systems, from conservation and weatherization to solar voltaic and power systems. Basil is their pellet boiler and wood gasification expert. Addison Biomass Energy specializes in the design, evaluation and application of biomass boiler systems. Roger has twenty-four years of experience in engineering, financial analysis, and project management in energy, particularly renewable energy and biomass combustion. As both an independent designer and an engineering team leader, Roger has designed many commercially successful products and completed many engineering/controls projects during his career.

Homeowners, business owners, and municipal officials considering wood boilers in their buildings would be wise to attend this presentation. This is an opportunity to find out if a wood boiler would serve your needs and result in savings in energy usage and fuel costs.

Basil Stetson's presentation will focus on residential wood boilers. He will begin with an overview of wood fuels sources, site layout requirements for biomass heating, plumbing, fuel storage and delivery logistics, options for equipment, sources of financing, and operating costs. There will be ample time to ask specific questions of interest to you. Join us this evening to find out how you can use the power of this renewable, locally available resources to reduce energy costs for your home, business or community school.

Roger Wallace's presentation will focus on commercial and industrial scale biomass heating systems used in stand-alone and small scale district heating applications. The science, engineering, economics, environmental benefits and operation of biomass boiler systems will be summarized in the context of two local boiler systems. Basic principles and considerations will be presented first. More in-depth details will then be presented while discussing the different sub-systems that compose a biomass boiler system. Many of the aspects that go into a biomass boiler system that are both technically and financially successful will be covered.

Ample free parking is provided on the side and rear of the ACRPC building at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury. Please do not park on the street, in the interests of our neighbors. For more information on our programs, contact Elizabeth Golden at (802) 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

Community Meeting on DEHCD 5-Year Plan December 16, 4-6 pm West Rutland Town Hall Auditorium 35 Marble Street, West Rutland

The Department Of Economic, Housing and Community Development (DEHCD) is preparing to develop a new five-year plan for 2010-2015. The five-year plan guides the investment of \$13 million dollars that is distributed through 3 grant programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). The community meetings are intended as forums to learn about the needs and interests in the areas of housing, public services, community development and economic development.

Who should attend? Business owners, childcare providers, residents of public housing, seniors, employees of public service programs, local developers, housing advocates, local food banks, small business lenders, and downtown groups.

The event is supported by:

- NeighborWorks of Western Vermont
- BROC Community Action in SW Vermont
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- Rutland Economic Development Corporation

For more information about this meeting contact Mary Ann Goulette, Town of West Rutland at 438-2263 or Lisa Ryan, DEHCD at 828-1256.

VLCT Workshop Rescheduled for February

Variations on a Theme: Guiding Development Through Planned Unit Development (PUD) has been reschedule for Thursday, February 4, 2010. For more information, go to www.vlct.org.

Western Corridor Transportation Management Plan Public Comment Invited

The draft Western Corridor Transportation Management Plan and Appendices are available for public review and comment at the project's web site: <http://www.vtwesterncorridor.org/>.

The public comment period runs through January 6th, 2010. Send your comments to echurchill@ccmpo.org.

Bridge Update (continued)

of the bridge closure, and they simultaneously have fast tracked the bridge replacement process.

In order to get people moving across the lake quickly and efficiently, NYSDOT and VTrans worked with the existing Essex Ferry and the Ticonderoga Ferry to provide free and extended service to commuter traffic. In addition, The Basin Harbor Club implemented a temporary emergency ferry to accommodate pedestrian traffic, and transit service was put in place to deliver them to their places of employment. Due to weather constraints (ice in particular), these ferries cannot run all winter. Therefore, both agencies immediately went to work implementing a 12 month ferry service at the bridge location itself. Design and construction are currently underway and it is expected that this service will open early in the new year. This will be free of charge to the traveling public, and will have extended hours of operation with all effort to meet the shift needs of workers on both sides of the lake.

Work is also underway on designing the new permanent structure. It has been determined that the old structure cannot be salvaged or rehabilitated safely and that it will therefore be demolished in the coming months. Demolition design is currently underway and will likely occur before the lake freezes. Simultaneously, HNTB, the engineering firm designing the new bridge, is developing bridge options that will be both affordable and site appropriate. In order to get the new structure in place as quickly as possible and to minimize the impact on local residences and businesses, the public process has been streamlined and condensed. The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) has been deeply involved in identifying those types of things that should be included in the new bridge design (bike/ped accessibility, site-appropriate design, etc). PAC will meet with the design team to select a bridge style and make final comments on December 11th. They will be asked to select a preferred bridge style at that meeting, and the following day an all-day, public drop-in meeting will be held to take public comment. This meeting will be held at Lachute Hall on Monte Calm St. in Ticonderoga, NY from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. A few days later, the PAC will reconvene to consider all public comments, and make a final design recommendation. At that point detailed engineering can begin.

For more information, visit the NYSDOT website at: www.nysdot.gov or contact Rick Kehne at ACRPC (rkehne@sover.net) for more information.

No Idling Resolutions

Idle-Free VT has created an information sheet for town Energy Committees/Coordinators about adopting “No Idling” Resolutions for their towns as a low-hanging fruit way to conserve energy, curtail climate change and improve air quality. Energy Coordinators can suggest the resolution to their Select Boards, or prepare a petition to take to the upcoming 2010 Town Meetings.

Here’s how we all benefit from a no idling resolution:

- **SAVE MONEY:** Plain and simple, idling gets 0 MPG. A warmed up, parked light-duty vehicle should not idle for more than 30 seconds. At this point, it’s better to shut the engine off and restart when ready to drive. Driving is the best way to warm up an engine.
- **IMPROVE AIR QUALITY/PROTECT OUR HEALTH:** Despite the latest in advanced emission controls for light-duty vehicles, factors such as vehicle age, state of maintenance, wear of emissions components and colder weather lead to increased harmful emissions at idle that can affect our respiratory systems. Medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, many equipped with diesel engines and less restrictive emissions controls, cause even higher levels of harmful emissions when idling.
- **SLOW THE ADVANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE:** Vehicle exhaust emissions also contain carbon dioxide (CO₂) a leading contributor to climate change. Vermont’s transportation greenhouse gas emissions, based on a geographic calculation, are nearly double the national average. At the very least, this threatens Vermont’s ski, maple sugaring and tourism industries.
- **IMPROVE SECURITY / CONSERVE ENERGY:** Our dependence on foreign oil poses a threat to our economic and strategic security. Idling reduction is part of the formula to help make America energy independent.
- **AVOID NEEDLESS ENGINE WEAR:** All engines can be affected by needless wear-and-tear from excessive idling. Heavy-duty diesel engines are particularly susceptible to increased maintenance and shortened engine life from this practice.

For more information, including resolution and article petition forms, go to the Idle-Free VT website: www.idlefreevt.org.

Census Bureau Launches New Website

The Census Bureau has launched a new website for the 2010 Census with an intuitive layout and interactive features designed to meet the demands of online users. The goal is to build a national dialogue about how each person's participation in the census helps create a new "Portrait of America." Visit the website today to explore some of the new features.

- Click on the people in the photo on the home page to hear Census questions from people across the nation, and get real-time answers.
- Learn the truth behind census myths in "The Whole Story."
- "How It Works" explains census operations and walks you through the questionnaire.
- The multimedia center (videos, photos, and audio) shares individuals' stories about how the census is easy, safe, and important.

By the end of the year, the entire site will be presented in Spanish. The Bureau will also launch a one-page site in each of 59 languages that will enable visitors to download in-language questionnaire assistance guides.

This is a great time to link your website to The Census Bureau website at www.2010census.gov.

Better Buildings By Design Conference February 10 and 11, 2010

The Better Buildings by Design Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 10, and Thursday, February 11, at the Sheraton Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont. The conference is the region's premier design and construction conference, featuring interactive learning about building durability, efficiency, and value for both residential and commercial projects.

There will be over 30 workshops, over 50 exhibitors offering the latest products and services, and the opportunity to network with over 1000 design and construction professionals.

The conference is sponsored in part by Efficiency Vermont.

For more information, or to register, go to: www.encyvermont.com/pages/Business/BuildingEfficiently/BetterBuildingByDesignConferen/

ACEPC To Distribute Emergency Management Tools to Communities

The Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC #8) will be using a portion of its State funding for 2010 to provide start-up tool kits for local communities' Emergency Management programs. The tool kits consists of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) start-up kit and a separate Emergency Manager resources file.

The EOC kit includes a supply of items needed to start up an EOC during a disaster. The tote will have supplies such as paper, pens, manuals, guidebooks, existing emergency plans, map provided by ACRPC, and reporting forms. These totes will normally be stored at the community's primary EOC location.

The EM resources file will be a smaller version of the tote with items that the local Emergency Manager would find useful for their immediate needs during a disaster. These files will generally reside with the Town Emergency Manager and will include lists of locally available resources, as well as contact information for State resources. A window placard to be placed in the Emergency Manager's car window will help identify them to residents and others as an official Emergency Management vehicle.

Both the EOC totes and the EM resources files will be distributed to the Select Board of each community in our region with the understanding that these will be municipal property. Select Boards may decide to reassign the units to their appointed Emergency Manager for the duration of their appointment.

LEPC #8 hopes that by providing these resources, communities will be encouraged to build an active EM organization. All disasters begin at the local level and community preparedness is the front line of defense in protecting residents.

For more information on the tool kits, contact Tim Bouton at 388-3141 or tbouton@sover.net.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Check out the many holiday events in Addison County on the Chamber of Commerce website, from Cool Yule in Bristol, Holiday Stroll in Vergennes, open houses at Moonlit Alpacas, Sheldon Museum, Danforth Pewter & The Rokeby Museum, school events, and more at: www.addisoncounty.com.