



ACRPC

update

february 2004

commission calendar

FEBRUARY	10	5:00 p.m. Economic Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	11	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Kirk Alumni, Middlebury College
	15	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Telecom & Energy Wrap-Up
	19	7:30 p.m. Local Gov't Committee Location: Shoreham Town Office Agenda: Shoreham Plan Review
	25	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
MARCH	10	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBA
	15	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Education
	17	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	31	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

VT Neighborhoods Project in the Addison Region

The Vermont Forum On Sprawl is working with communities in Addison County to create smart growth housing plans on three specific parcels of land in Middlebury, Shoreham and Vergennes. The goal of this Vermont Neighborhoods Project is to encourage neighborhood development that fosters vibrant communities.

The project will create site plans that will help a) meet the public's demand for housing while avoiding localized NIMBY reactions, b) generate profit for the developers and property owners, and c) fit the character of the community while providing mixed-use housing options. These designs will help curb scattered developments that lead to sprawl.

The project will also test the models for financial viability so they will have a realistic chance of being developed, instead of being theoretical designs that have a slim chance of being implemented. Two of the landowners who are involved in the project are also developers, and they are excited to see the plans lead to getting a shovel in the ground.

Through a series of two-stage design charrettes a team of consultants will work with local residents to get input on what the community envisions for the property and what will be acceptable development. This information will be the foundation used to create the site plans, and will be carefully analyzed for financial feasibility.



This will lead to a set of plans to be evaluated again by the communities at another design charrette, and through this 'back and forth' process between the team and the community a final set of plans will be developed that will satisfy the community but will also be grounded in financial reality.

The second set of charrettes will be held on February 3 in Shoreham, February 9 in Vergennes and February 12 in Middlebury. All meetings run from 6-8 PM and are open to the public. This will be followed by a wrap-up meeting presenting initial site plans for all three properties and taking further public comment. For more information visit <http://www.vtsprawl.org/Initiatives/projects/tvn.htm> or contact Evan Goldsmith at egoldsmith@vtsprawl.org or

Meetings are open to the public.
Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Grant Workshop

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be holding a workshop entitled Making Grants Work for Your Municipality. The workshop is scheduled for February 19 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

Representatives from state and federal agencies that administer grant programs will give presentations and answer questions on funding opportunities. The workshop will cover a very thorough list of the major state and federal sources of grant funding for a range of community projects, facilities and service including: recreation, homeland security, transportation enhancement, water and wastewater, economic development, historic preservation, community facilities, and planning.

For more information and registration, contact VLCT at (800) 649-7915 or www.vlct.org/calendar/.

Brownfield Sites

Over the past two years, regional planning commissions around Vermont have participated in the EPA's Brownfields program, a federally-funded program to identify and assess the feasibility of redeveloping abandoned industrial properties.

ACRPC is soliciting sites for brownfield assessments. If a municipality or nonprofit is buying a property or concerned about possible contamination on an abandoned site, funding from this program can be used to determine if any contamination is present.

Contact Adam Lougee at 388-3141 or alougee@sover.net for more information.



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.

Transportation Planning Studies

The Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) chose consultants for two transportation planning studies at their January 21 meeting.

The firm of Dufresne-Henry has been chosen to perform an evaluation of the intersection of Route 7 with Exchange Street and Happy Valley Road in the Town of Middlebury.

The consultant will work with the town and Vermont Agency of Transportation to evaluate the existing traffic conditions and recommend both safety and operational improvements for the intersection. Various alternatives to be evaluated will include

improved signage, the addition of turning lanes, a traffic signal and a roundabout.

C.L. Davis Consulting Associates, Inc. has been chosen to continue performing Highway Structures Inventories for various Addison Region municipalities. Current municipalities waiting for inventories include Waltham, Monkton, Orwell and Ferrisburgh.

If your town would like to request an inventory for the next round of funding, contact Garrett Dague at 388-3141.

Both projects will begin this Spring, and be completed by October.

VT Comprehensive Energy & Electric Plan

The Vermont Department of Public Service is soliciting comments on the final draft of the 2004 Vermont Comprehensive Energy and Electric Plan. Copies of the plan are available online at http://www.state.vt.us/psd/Menu/DPS_State_Plans.htm. The deadline for comments is March 12, 2004.

Additionally, the DPS is hosting a series of workshops to discuss energy and electricity issues. On February 11 a workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Montpelier to examine Vermont's energy resource alternatives. On March 4, there will be a day-long workshop devoted to fossil fuel issues and policies.

For more information on the workshop or to get a hard copy of the plan contact DPS's Planning Division at (802) 828-2342.

ACRPC Taking Requests for Traffic Counts

Addison County Regional Planning Commission is looking for towns that would like a traffic count analysis performed in their community this summer. Traffic counts provide information on how many, what kind, how fast and when vehicles travel the road.

Last summer counts were completed in Whiting, Pantton, Middlebury and Bristol.

To request a traffic count, call Garrett Dague at 388-3141.

ACEPC & RPC Apply for Disaster Drill Funds

The Addison County Emergency Planning and Regional Planning Committees recently submitted a request for funding for funding from the State of Vermont's Homeland Security Unit (HSU). The grant, if awarded would provide for tabletop exercises to be conducted in every community in the Addison Region.

A tabletop exercise involves gathering together local officials who would be in charge in the event of a disaster including fire chief, selectboard member, police chief, road commissioner, town health officer, town emergency coordinator, or others. Once the group is assembled, each is asked to follow actions indicated by their emergency operations plan under a given scenario.

A tabletop exercise is designed to identify differences between what is planned for and reality. Upon completion of the exercise, plans are updated and flaws are fixed. Additional regional exercises are also being proposed along with development of more complete databases of regional resources.

Preliminary indications are that the proposal has been favorably received and that the region's first responders will be quite busy over the next year.

