



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

February 2007

commission calendar

February	14	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: VFW Post 7823 530 Exchange St., Middlebury
	21	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	27	7:00 pm	ACRPC Energy Committee meeting with Addison County Relocalization Network Location: Middlebury Congregational Church Meeting Hall See this page for more information
	28	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
March	14	6:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Mtg. Location: ACRPC Office
	14	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Middlebury Inn
	14	9 to 12:30	<i>Alternative Energy: How Available Technologies Can Work in Your Community</i> Vt. Community Development Association Location: Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier More info from Jessica at 229-9111
	17	9 to 3:30	Conservation Congress Location: Mt. Abraham High School, Bristol See page 2 for more information
	21	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	28	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

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

ACRPC Forms Energy Committee

Joint Meeting with ACoRN on February 27

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) has formed an Energy Committee to improve energy efficiency and support local energy production in Addison County. The Committee intends to accomplish this by providing support for town energy coordinators, locating funding opportunities for small-scale energy generation projects, supporting local and regional conservation programs, establishing educational programs, and providing guidance for local planning and zoning.

The first of these educational programs will be a joint public presentation with the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN), who recently completed a survey of Addison County's energy use. The study examined patterns of energy consumption and supply in Addison County, and will be the topic of the February 27, 7:00 pm public presentation at Middlebury Congregational Church's meeting hall.

Municipal Education Grants Available Until May 1

The Municipal Education Grant (MEG) program is available until May 1 to pay for the costs of onsite training for local planning and zoning boards.

ACRPC is working to organize multi-town training events on village planning and the new *Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation* manual. If your town may be interested in participating in one of these events, contact ACRPC staff Jeff Owen at 388-3141 or jowen@sover.net.

For more information on the overall MEG program, visit www.dhca.state.vt.us.

Help Wanted

The Town of Ferrisburgh has an opening to hire a part time (20 hours a week) **Zoning Administrator**. Applicants should have a minimum of three years zoning related experience, and may combine this position with zoning work in other towns. The job provides a salary commensurate with experience, and benefits. A detailed job description can be obtained either from the Town Clerks Office (877-3429), or from Ted Ingraham, Chair of the Planning Commission (877-0043). The position will be open until filled. Cover Letter and resume should be submitted to Ted Ingraham, Chair, Planning Commission, PO Box 148 North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473.

Draft Growth Center Planning Manual Available

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs' draft *Growth Center Planning Manual* is now available for download at www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GrowthCenters.htm. On that page, scroll to the last paragraph and click on the three underlined links "application guidance", "planning principles" and "implementation tools". The manual includes an application for growth center designation and additional information to serve as a guide for applicant communities.

Expanded Saturday Hours at the District Transfer Station

Beginning February 1, the District Transfer Station will be open from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays.

2007 Conservation Congress

March 17 at Mount Abraham Union High School

Vermont Family Forests is coordinating this year's Conservation Congress. The theme is "Fueling Our Community: Building Local, Sustainable Energy Solutions." Keynote speaker Scudder Parker, who brings years of public service experience in energy efficiency and energy planning to the event, will provide the context for the day's discussions.

Morning concurrent sessions will focus on optimizing local energy efficiency, with session topics including transportation alternatives, improving wood burning efficiency, and optimizing the energy efficiency of your home. Afternoon concurrent sessions will focus on cultivating local energy sources, from agriculture-based sources (like methane digestion, grass pellets, and biodiesel) to small-scale hydropower, wind, and solar. During both morning and afternoon sessions, participants can tour the new Mount Abraham Union High School Wood Gasification heating system or watch a screening of "An Inconvenient Truth."

TCSP Grant Program

This year the Transportation, Community & Systems Preservation (TCSP) Program will begin distributing funds through a competitive grant process. The program funds planning, implementation and research grants to improve efficiency of the transportation system, reduce environmental impacts of transportation, reduce costs, provide efficient access, and examine community development patterns.

A 20% match is required, and the deadline for application is Friday, March 16, 2007. For applications and more information, contact ACRPC planner Rick Kehne at 388-3141 or rkehne@sover.net.

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Establishes Internet Listserv

As part of AVCC's renovation, they have created a forum for Conservation Commissions and other interested groups to access resources and communicate directly with each other. How often has your commission asked "I wonder how commission in other towns have handled this issue?" Now they have a tool to facilitate information gathering and sharing.

Yahoo! Groups is a multifaceted internet service which provides a web presence for AVCC and Conservation Commissions to email each other, ask questions, post conservation related resources and contact board members. If you would like to join AVCC's Group Listserv, register at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/avccvt>. It is really easy to join. If you have any questions about joining the listserv, contact Ned Swanberg at swanberg@sover.net or 436-1714.

VEM Family Preparedness Workbooks Available

Disasters can happen any time, with or without warning. Vermont's history demonstrates that no community is immune to the effects of a disaster. One of the most effective actions that you can take is to make sure you and your family have taken some basic steps to ensure your own preparedness.

These steps and other tips are outlined in Vermont Emergency Management's *Family Preparedness Workbook* available online at www.dps.state.vt.us/vem or from ACRPC at 388-3141. Efforts are being taken to make workbooks available at Town Meetings throughout the region as well.

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