



# ACRPC

*update*

February 2008

## commission calendar

|                 |    |           |  |
|-----------------|----|-----------|--|
| <b>February</b> | 13 | 7:30 pm   | ACRPC Full Commission Meeting<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury     |
|                 | 20 | 7:00 pm   | Transportation Advisory Committee<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury |
|                 | 26 | 7:00pm    | ACRPC Natural Resource Committee<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury  |
|                 | 16 | 7:00 pm   | Transportation Advisory Committee<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury |
|                 | 27 | 6:30 pm   | ACRPC Executive Board<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury             |
| <b>March</b>    | 1  | 9:00-4:30 | Green Energy Expo<br>Middlebury College Bicentennial Hall<br>Middlebury, VT                |
|                 | 12 | 7:30 pm   | ACRPC Full Commission Meeting<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury     |
|                 | 19 | 7:00 pm   | Transportation Advisory Committee<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury |
|                 | 25 | 7:00pm    | ACRPC Natural Resource Committee<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury  |
|                 | 26 | 6:30 pm   | ACRPC Executive Board<br>Location: ACRPC Office<br>14 Seminary St., Middlebury             |

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.

## Rattlin’ Bridge Ribbon Cutting



Rehabilitation is complete on the so-called “Rattlin’ Bridge” which spans the Otter Creek between the Towns of Weybridge and New Haven. Long recognized by its distinctive sound as vehicles pass over the span, the bridge was slated for removal and replacement until town officials and citizens asked about the possibility of rehabilitating the structure. Built in 1908, the bridge was one of the few bridges in the state that survived the disastrous 1927 floods and is the only remaining steel truss bridge in Addison County.

Because of the bridge’s historic significance, it became eligible for federal funds which would pay 90% of the costs. With a projected total cost \$500,000 less than the cost to build a new bridge, the project was a simple decision for the towns especially when the State’s historic bridge program picked up the required 10% match. Had a new bridge been built, the project would have included significant roadway approach changes to bring it up to AASHTO standards. These changes would have made the costs much higher than the rehab project. In addition, the traffic calming nature of the single lane bridge and its characteristic sound would have been lost. Local officials, including the great-grandson of one the select board members who originally authorized the bridge construction in 1908, were present at the official ribbon cutting. ACRPC has been following this project through the tenures of at least four staff transportation planners and is proud to have been able to help the Towns of Weybridge and New Haven keep their “Rattlin’ Bridge” Rattlin’.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Orton Foundation Heart & Soul Community Planning Request for Proposals**

The Orton Family Foundation invites proposals from small cities and towns, with partnering organizations, committed to developing and implementing plans for future growth inspired by their communities' "heart and soul."

The Foundation anticipates selecting two projects in New England and two projects in the Rocky Mountains. Each selected project will be eligible for up to \$100,000 over two years. The Foundation would like to collaborate with communities on an in-depth listening and visioning process that leads to development and implementation of plans to protect and enhance the places, values, and desires identified through the heart and soul community planning process. Communities must be: ready to use innovative project design, planning and communication tools; eager to work with community stakeholders; and committed to achieving citizen engagement and consensus building by seeking and listening to all residents, including those who are under represented in traditional planning processes.

Visit the Foundation's website: [www.orton.org/rfp](http://www.orton.org/rfp) to download the full Request for Proposals and application form. The submission deadline is March 3, 2008. For more information contact Maureen Gour at 802-388-6336.

---

### **National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**

The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program provides staff time and technical assistance for 1-2 years to projects that need additional hands and expertise to succeed. The NPS works with citizens' groups and non-profits, helping them realize their vision of how to improve their communities, whether it's through a rail-trail, urban park, or a restored river. Applications are due by August 1, 2008.

In Vermont, the program has assisted Bellows Falls Historical Society, Corinth Conservation Commission, the Billings Park Commission, and Local Motion, Inc. with recent projects. For more information, contact Jennifer Waite, Vermont Director at [jennifer\\_waite@nps.gov](mailto:jennifer_waite@nps.gov) or (802) 457-3368 ext. 21

---

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants**

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program provides grants for the acquisition, conservation and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Eligible applicants include cities, towns, villages, school districts, fire districts and inter-municipal districts. Examples of projects funded in recent years include tennis courts in Jericho, baseball and soccer fields in New Haven, basketball courts in East Montpelier and a "natural playground" in Waterbury.

Since its inception in 1965, the Fund has provided Vermont communities and state agencies with more than \$28,000,000. More than 66,000 acres of outdoor recreation land have been acquired and more than 500 recreation projects have been developed or restored.

For more information about the program, visit <http://www.vtfpr.org/reclwcf/index.cfm> or contact Pat Peterson in Waterbury, 802/241-3653. The deadline for 2008 applications is Friday, February 22, 2008.

---

*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.*

## OTHER NEWS

### Market Study for a Fiber Biofuel Facility in Addison County

The Town of Bridport, in conjunction with ACRPC and other partners, was recently awarded \$30,000 from the Vermont Community Development Program to conduct a market study for a fiber biofuel facility in Addison County. The study will determine the demand for fiber fuel pellets and the viability of a fiber fuel pellet processor in Addison County, providing reliable data for a pellet producing business to make investment decisions in the region. The results will also allow business owners, farmers and forest owners to make informed decisions regarding whether and how to utilize their resources. If feasible, as early indicators suggest, a pellet production facility will provide new jobs. In addition, the cultivation of crops and wood fiber for energy will provide farmers and forest owners with an opportunity to diversify and supplement their income with a predictable stream of revenue.

---

### Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Workshop

The Lake Champlain Basin Program will host another Quadricentennial Workshop on March 19, 2008 at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont from 9:30-3:30.

The March workshop will feature updates on all aspects of the Quadricentennial. This workshop will include presentations on several projects that are underway, including discussions regarding audio interpretation/cell phone tours, community art, and pageantry. Contact Jim Brangan at the Lake Champlain Basin Program for more information at 802-372-3213

---

### Vermont Planning Conference Workshop Presentations Available Online

The Vermont Planning Conference, sponsored by the Vermont Planners Association & Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, was held on November 30, 2007. The conference sessions included Healthy, Livable Communities, Community-Based Energy Planning, and Smart Site Design and Green Infrastructure. If you were not able to attend or are interested in any of these topics, presentations from the workshop are available online at [http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/planning\\_conference\\_slideshows.htm](http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/planning_conference_slideshows.htm).

---

### Vermont Tree Steward Course

Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) is an 8 week course for volunteers interested in becoming tree stewards in their community. The course is divided into 4 classes on trees and 4 classes on working effectively within the community. The course will be offered Monday evenings from 6-9pm February 18 to April 14. There will also be two Saturday sessions. The course is being offered via Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) at 7 locations, including Middlebury. Tuition for the course is \$75. For more information contact Kate Forrer at 802-223-2389 x 25 or at [katherine.forrer@uvm.edu](mailto:katherine.forrer@uvm.edu).

### Rattlin' Bridge Rehab



2008 Addison County

# GREEN ENERGY EXPO

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE HOMES & BUSINESSES

EXHIBITS, DEMOS, PRODUCTS & SERVICES  
BY LOCAL BUSINESSES FOCUSED ON EFFICIENCY,  
GREEN BUILDING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

FREE ADMISSION

*Carbon offset donation made possible by sponsors*

Local Food  
Door Prizes

## WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS IN HOMES & BUSINESSES  
AREA EXPERTS ON THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY  
Including solar, wind, small hydro, and biofuels/biomass  
TIPS FROM LOCAL ON-FARM ENERGY PRODUCERS  
AFFORDABLE GREEN BUILDING & WEATHERIZATION  
BETTER WOODLOT MANAGEMENT  
SAVING ON TRANSPORTATION COSTS

## SATURDAY MARCH 1

9:00AM to 4:30PM

## McCARDELL BICENTENNIAL HALL MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Organized by Addison County Economic Development Corporation, Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Middlebury College, Middlebury Area Global Warming Action Coalition, and Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN)

More details at [www.greenenergyexpo.biz](http://www.greenenergyexpo.biz) or call Ted Shambo, ACCOC, 802.388.7951  
Carpooling and ACTR Shuttle use are encouraged

## EVENT SPONSORS

Efficiency Vermont

National Bank  
of Middlebury

Chittenden

Nathaniel Group, Inc.