



ACRPC

update

February 2012

Lake Champlain Bridge Celebration

The Lake Champlain Bridge Community is looking forward to hosting the Grand Celebration on May 19 and 20, 2012.

Over the course of two days, the celebration will include a grand parade, fireworks, boat flotilla, Sunday morning ecumenical service, and street concert/dance. In between these

marquee events, there will be family-friendly activities and performances that will only enhance the celebration. Showcasing the products and services of our region is an important element to the event's success and also provides an incredible marketing opportunity. Event organizers anticipate attendance in the thousands and envision this as a chance for local businesses and organizations to capture new customers, generate additional revenue, and most importantly, encourage visitors to return to our area.

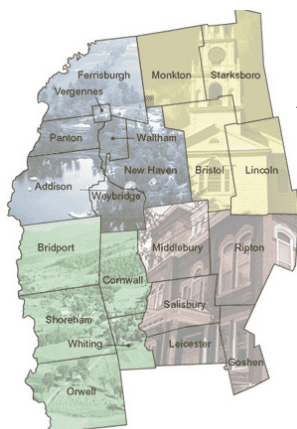
Commission Calendar

Feb. 2012

8	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative
8	7:30pm	Full Commission
10	8:15-10:00am	Addison County Transit Resource
13	7:00	Local Emergency Managers Roundtable
16	7:00	ACSWMD
22	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board
22	1:00pm	Tier II Compliance Workshop for businesses and municipalities
23	7:30	Energy Committee
27	5:00-6:30	ACORN Network
28	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee



Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

There are many opportunities for area residents and businesses to get involved: hotels, food vendors, artisans/craftspeople, parade participants, and volunteers). Contact ACRPC Executive Director Adam Lougee at 388-3141 / alougee@acrpc.org or visit www.champlainbridgecommunity.org 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.

CCTA and ACTR receive grant to bring public transit to Hinesburg and 116 Corridor

Commuter bus service is coming to Route 116 between Burlington and Middlebury via Hinesburg this spring. Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) and Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) received a grant from the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation to offer new public transportation service for Route 116 communities and businesses. This service is the result of a unique public-private collaboration between the two transportation agencies, NRG Systems, the Town of Hinesburg, and the citizen group Hinesburg Rides. Other entities and municipalities who have offered letters of support for the service include the Cities of Burlington and South Burlington, the Towns of Bristol and Starksboro, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Vermont Business for Social Responsibility, CATMA and Redstone.

The Route 116 Commuter is an innovative model of service for Hinesburg combining bus service from both directions - Burlington and Middlebury. This plan will create a commuter-oriented schedule for Hinesburg residents going north to Burlington jobs and Burlington residents traveling south to Hinesburg jobs as well as link Addison County residents in Middlebury, Bristol and Starksboro to Chittenden County via Hinesburg.

Public hearings to discuss specific route and schedule details and obtain public comments will be held in late February and early March in Bristol and Middlebury. Visit actr-vt.org for hearing dates and more information.

In Addison County, this will provide much needed service for many rural residents along the Route 116 corridor. "We are pleased that this innovative public-private collaboration will enable us to provide folks with access to employment markets in Burlington, Hinesburg and Middlebury," said Jim Moulton, Executive Director of ACTR.

New Lake Champlain Byway Activities Guide

With grant money provided by the National Scenic Byways Program, the Addison County Chamber and Addison County Regional Planning Commission produced a new guide for our region titled "Addison County Guide to Activities Along the Lake Champlain Byway." Addison County is one of three counties that make up the Lake Champlain Byway.

The new guide provides a list and map of the cultural, natural, historical and recreational opportunities available within the seven Addison County municipalities that are designated as Byway towns. These are Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Middlebury, Orwell, Shoreham, Vergennes and Whiting.

The guide/map is a great handout to visitors and residents who are looking for fishing and boating access, spots to hike and picnic, visit a historic site or museum, or just get a great view of the surrounding landscape. Visit lakechamplainbyway.com for more information. If you'd like copies of the guide, contact the Addison County Chamber of Commerce at info@addisoncounty.com.

If you'd like more information on how your town can become a designated Byway town, contact ACRPC Executive Director Adam Lougee at ACRPC (388-3141 or alougee@acrpc.org).

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Extended

After consultations with the Secretary of Administration's office and other state mitigation partners, it has been decided to extend the HMGP application date to Friday, February 17, 2012 for the first round. The second HMGP deadline of March 16 still remains the same. Towns that submitted a letter of intent have been notified by Vermont Emergency Management. Also, private contractors are available to help communities with their HMGP applications and/or BCAs. Contact ACRC Planner Tim Bouton at 388-3141 or tbouton@acrpc.org for more information.

Events

Legislative Hearing for Town Energy Committees

Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Room 11 at the Vermont State House, Montpelier

Chairs of both the House and Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committees, Representative Tony Klein and Senator Ginny Lyons, respectively, are convening a special joint hearing of both of their committees to hear from local energy committee leaders.

Legislative leaders want to hear: what you are doing that's working, where some of your challenges lie and what kinds of state policy or programs are needed to support your efforts and energy and climate action in general. Lawmakers will also give you an overview of what's happening under the Golden Dome this session. The goal is to have your efforts more deeply inform the kinds of solutions being crafted at the state level.

Vermont Water Quality Vermont Expo

Monday, March 26 (time TBD)

Middlebury College

Join Vermont Environmental Consortium (VEC) members and members of the environmental business community to learn more about VEC's accomplishments and about VEC's upcoming Expo, "Charting a Path to Successful Farms and Clean Water in Vermont," at Middlebury College on Monday, March 26th, 2012. Visit <http://vecgreen.com> for more information.

Better Buildings by Design Conference

Wednesday and Thursday, February 8 - 9.

Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington, VT

Learn from leaders in the design and construction fields about the latest techniques and technologies for superior building efficiency, performance, and value. Find out what works, what doesn't, and what you can put into practice immediately. There will be more than 35 interactive presentations with solutions for new and existing buildings, more than 50 exhibits, and more than 1,000 participants. Visit http://efficiencyvermont.com/for_our_partners/bbd/general/overview.aspx to find out more or to register.

Weatherization Training: Hands on workshop

Saturday, March 17. 8 am - 3 pm

Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury.

This workshop is the first of its kind in the Addison region and is open to all Addison, Rutland and Chittenden residents for a low cost of \$50. Registration is available online at www.weatherizationskillshop.com. The training includes hands on instruction in a 36' trailer with opportunity to practice skills. For more information, contact ACRPC Planner Kevin Lehman at kevinl@acrpc.org or 388-3141.

Vermont Communities in a Digital Age

Thursday, February 16, 2012: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center

Join community leaders from around the state to share ideas and learn how online tools are being used to create jobs, reinvent schools, attract visitors, improve civic involvement, and enliven Vermont communities. The workshop is sponsored by the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project.

Anne Galloway of VtDigger.org will be the keynote speaker. Session topics include mobilizing community resources for emergencies, a hands-on lab exploring online tools for business, a showcase of how technology is expanding the classroom for 4-6th graders, a look at conducting town meetings in the digital age, and ways to increase public Internet access in your town (and why).

Registration is \$20 and includes course offerings, refreshments, lunch and the chance to win a Kindle reader and other prizes in our raffle drawing.

To find out more or to register, visit <http://evermont-workshop.org/> or contact ACRPC Planner Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org.