



ACRPC

update

January 2007

commission calendar

January	10	5:30 pm	Vt. Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Education Workshop Location: Vermont Interactive Site Hannaford Career Center 51 Charles Ave, Middlebury
	10	6:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Mtg. Location: ACRPC Office
	10	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Middlebury Inn, Middlebury
	17	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	18	7:00 pm	Vt. League of Cities and Towns Subdivision Primer Location: Vermont Interactive Site Hannaford Career Center 51 Charles Ave, Middlebury
	19	All day	Historic Preservation and Design Review Commission Training Location: Shelburne Municipal Complex More info: (802)985-5118
February	31	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	14	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: To be determined
	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.

Redevelopment Assistance Available Through ACRPC

Is there a vacant auto repair shop or old mill in your village center? Interested in attracting a small business, relocating, or creating a community space? The Addison County Regional Planning Commission can provide funding and technical assistance to property owners and prospective purchasers (including municipalities) working to redevelop commercial and industrial properties for new uses. This new program will assist with the early steps required to return sites with real or perceived contamination to the market or to community use.

Through its Brownfields Reuse Program, the ACRPC can help individuals and businesses complete environmental assessments and remediation planning on eligible properties with suspected petroleum contamination. Properties such as former gas stations, sites with underground storage tanks used for heating oil, and auto garages are examples of potential candidate sites.

ACRPC can provide research and technical assistance to a property owner or potential purchaser with questions or concerns about petroleum at a site. ACRPC Brownfields Reuse Program can cover costs associated with site investigation to determine the type and extent of contamination at eligible sites. Funds are also available to plan remediation. Additional State funds may be available for clean-up of qualifying properties after assessment is completed.

The ultimate goal of ACRPC's new Brownfields program is to bring under-utilized properties back into productive use to improve public health, the natural environment, and the local economy. ACRPC's Brownfields Assessment Program is the first step in that process. Redevelopment of brownfields fosters economic development without compromising our open space and agricultural land. "Unlocking" properties that are vacant or underused because they are perceived to be contaminated can also increase the local tax base, create local jobs, and increase housing and recreational opportunities in the region.

For further information, contact Amy Diller ACRPC at 388-3141 or adiller@sover.net.

VERMONT AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTROL GRANT

This Grant-in-Aid Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic nuisance species management programs. All types of aquatic nuisance control projects, for both native and non-native species management, are eligible for funds under this Program.

Projects supported to date by Grant-in-Aid grants include the control of Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, nuisance native aquatic plants, and aquatic nuisance species spread-prevention programs. A wide variety of Eurasian watermilfoil management methods have been supported. Mechanical harvesting of native aquatic plants has been supported by the Program, as has aquatic nuisance spreading prevention programs that have included public access area “greeter” programs, boat wash stations, searches for non-native aquatic nuisance species in a waterbody, and education and outreach initiatives.

The program awards grants for up to 75% of the estimated project costs, and the applicant must match at least 25% of the project costs. Municipalities are eligible to receive Grant-in-Aid grants for work controlling or preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Local interest groups such as lake associations must apply through the municipality in which the waterbody is located. If the waterbody is located in more than one municipality, affected municipalities may apply jointly.

Applications must be postmarked by **March 2, 2007**. Additional information and applications may be found at http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/html_grantinaid.htm

New Land Use Publication Available

Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation seeks to provide an “operator’s manual” for volunteer officials who willingly dedicate their time in service to their community. It is designed for all local official involved in municipal land use. The 50-page manual provides an overview of municipal roles and responsibilities and the fundamentals of local planning and permitting in Vermont – what every board and commission member needs to know.

Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation was written by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and produced by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, on behalf of the Vermont Land Use Education and Training Collaborative.

Publications can be obtained from ACRPC or downloaded from the Vermont Planning Information Center website: <http://www.vpic.info/pubs/essentials/>

Ancient Roads Grants Awarded

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs received 68 applications totaling \$323,800 in requests for funds, but only had \$100,000 available to award. Therefore, they grouped the applications by region, and selected two applications randomly from each region. The two towns in Addison County that received funds were Bristol (\$4,360) and Lincoln (\$5,000).

LEAD SINKER BAN GOES INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1

WATERBURY, VT - It is illegal to use lead fishing sinkers weighting ½ ounce or less in Vermont beginning January 1, 2007, according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Also, effective last January, it became illegal to sell or offer for sale a lead sinker in Vermont.

“Sinker,” according to Vermont law, means any device weighing one-half ounce or less that is attached to a fishing line for the purpose of sinking the line, and does not include other lead fishing-related items such as weighted fly line, lead-core fishing line, downrigger cannon balls, weighted flies, lures, spoons, or jig heads.

Vermont’s law controlling the use of lead sinkers is intended to help protect wildlife that may ingest the sinkers. Research in northeastern U.S. and Canada has found that lead sinkers or jigs account for 10 to 50 percent of dead adult loons.

Lead sinkers may be recycled at Vermont’s household hazardous waste collection sites.

For more information on sinkers, including contacts for disposing of lead, go to Fish & Wildlife’s website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Under ‘Fishing,’ click on ‘Get the Lead Out.’

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.