



# ACRPC

*update* January 2012

## Regional Plan Amended and Re-adopted

We are pleased to announce that at the December 14th meeting, the Commission voted to amend the Natural Resource and Utilities & Facilities and Services Section (part 7.6 of the plan). In addition, the Future Land Use Section maps were updated. Following the vote to amend the Plan, the Commission voted to re-adopt the entire Addison County Regional Plan. In accordance with state law and the bylaws of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 60% of the commissioners representing municipalities,

voted in favor with the amendments and re-adoption. Revisions to the Natural Resource Section have to be underway for several years and we sincerely appreciate the work of the Natural Resource Committee in undertaking the overhaul of the resource section. Water resource issues were updated and the water quality monitoring work of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative was highlighted. Agriculture and Forestry information was revised and updated. The Scenic Resource and Air Quality segments were greatly expanded as was the Mineral and Earth Resource segment. The Commission worked hard to create amendments to the Regional Plan that reflect the values of county residents and are confident that they reflect the values, goals and desires of your municipality. The amendments are available at [http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/Reg\\_Plan/NR\\_TOC.htm](http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/Reg_Plan/NR_TOC.htm).

## Commission Calendar

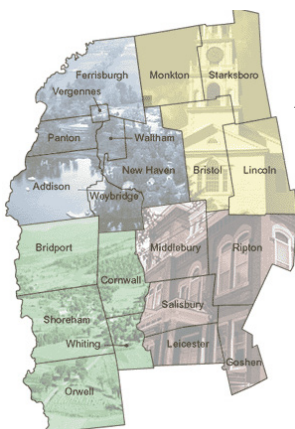
Jan. 2012	9	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative
	11	7:30pm	Full Commission
	13	8:15-10:00am	Addison County Transit Resource
	19	7:00	ACSWMD
	23	5:00-6:30	ACORN Network
	24	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
	25	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board
	25	5:00	Local Emergency Planning Committee, VT State Police Barrack
	26	7:30	Energy Committee

Now that the Commission has formally adopted the Plan, it will be sent out to the member municipalities for review pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4348(f). Contact Adam Lougee (388-3141 or [alougee@acrpc.org](mailto:alougee@acrpc.org)) or Kevin Behm (388-3141 or [kbehm@acrpc.org](mailto:kbehm@acrpc.org)) for more information.

## Transportation Planner Leaving ACRPC

We are sorry to announce that Rick Kehne will be leaving ACRPC to pursue other opportunities as the Facilities Manager for Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. Rick has served as ACRPC's Transportation Planner for nearly 7 years. In that role he has worked with Communities in the region to improve the safety of local roads, managed numerous consultants on planning studies to improve Addison Counties Transportation infrastructure and worked with our

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



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*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.*

TAC to set the region's transportation priorities. We will miss Rick's friendly, helpful attitude and transportation planning knowledge and experience, but wish him success in his new career in a place with a much shorter commute.

Also, on a happier note, Claire Tebbs will be returning from maternity leave on January 16th. Claire will pick up where she left off working with our municipalities on their plans and ordinances and we look forward to her return.

## **Hazard Mitigation Funding for Addison County Towns**

At least three Addison County towns have submitted letters of intent to apply for hazard mitigation funding in the wake of Irene and last year's spring flooding. What is probably the largest pot of money Vermont Emergency Management has ever managed is also expected to have more applicants than ever before. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is funded by FEMA who provides 15% of the cost of federally declared disasters to the states for redistribution for hazard mitigation projects. Though only a small area may have been affected by the disaster, these funds are available throughout the state. In 2011, Vermont has been hit with millions of dollars in disaster damages which, in turn, will result in several million being made available under this program. One of the most obvious types of project will be purchasing homes that repeatedly have been damaged by flooding and turning the property back into flood plain forever. Other, equally eligible projects may include up sizing frequently damaged culverts or flood-proofing town buildings when they cannot be moved.

One of the basic requirements for applying is for a community to have an adopted and approved all-hazards mitigation plan. These plans identify known hazards, possible solutions to known problems, how a town might fund implementation of these projects and a rough timeframe to complete them. To date, one town in the Addison region has completed the lengthy process of approval and adoption and four others are

finishing up their final edits prior to adoption. ACRPC has assisted these communities in developing their plans but the real kudos go to the citizens who have spent hours identifying problem areas and developing possible solutions. ACRPC hopes all of its communities will eventually have plans that will allow access to these funds, after all, disasters seem to be happening every year.

For more information, contact Tim Bouton at 388-3141 or [tbouton@acrpc.org](mailto:tbouton@acrpc.org).

## **Regional Technology Team Looks at Broadband**

High Speed Internet access (Broadband) is spreading rapidly to Addison County homes and businesses. In fifteen years, the Internet has changed shopping, entertainment, and communications, and these profound changes are bound to affect our region more dramatically in the future.

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has formed a multi-stakeholder team to create a technology plan that will lay out how we can effectively use the universal high-speed internet coverage that is coming to the region. What are the needs and opportunities? What are the technology-related goals for each of the various sectors, and what are the strategies and actions to meet those goals? Key topics include training, tools, and applications.

The team is comprised of representatives from a variety of sectors, including businesses, non-profits, emergency services, education, libraries, media, health care, government, agriculture, and tourism. The first draft of this plan will be ready in early spring. For more information, contact Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or [kevinl@acrpc.org](mailto:kevinl@acrpc.org).

## **Municipal Planning Grants Awarded**

Congratulations to the towns of Monkton, New Haven and Waltham in being awarded Municipal Planning Grants for 2012. These grants come from the state Municipal and Regional Planning Fund, which

was established in 1988 to help Vermont municipalities guide future growth and development and improve their quality of life.

42 towns across Vermont were selected in a competitive award process. The projects funded this year will support necessary town plan and bylaw updates and infrastructure investment through capital budget plans, as well as planning-related downtown and village revitalization efforts.

**New Haven** will use the grant to create consistent design standards for the commercial areas along Rts. 7 and 17. New Haven recognizes that further development of commercial areas without design criteria puts the town at risk of losing its unique, rural character.

The Town is seeking a set of design standards that balance the rights of property owners with the needs and desires of immediate neighbors and those of the community at large. Design standards for New Haven's Commercial districts will provide size, scale, siting, and landscaping requirements to be used in the review of all commercial development permit applications.

**Waltham** will use the grant to move forward on the project they started in 2011, whereby they worked with ACRPC to review their current zoning bylaws, with particular focus on our Highway Commercial District. The Waltham Planning Commission was concerned that there was no strategic plan for the future development of this area, which expands along a mile stretch of a scenic portion of Route 7. A set of illustrated design standards was created for this district along with general recommendations for changes to other existing zoning bylaws. The design standards consider appropriate building placement, massing, architectural details, signage, lighting and access in order for future development to fit appropriately into this pastoral, scenic area, while still providing Waltham with development/commercial opportunities.

**Monkton** plans to use the grant to create more opportunities for its citizens by creating an economic vision tied to strong goals and action items. By focusing on

its village, Monkton hopes to reinvigorate growth in that area, giving it a stronger community center.

“The communities receiving these grants have a strong understanding of the planning goals of the state and are looking to implement tools that encourage and support new economic and community activity, balanced with maintaining an active working landscape,” said Noelle MacKay, Commissioner of the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development.

## ACRPC Municipal Survey

We want your feedback! ACRPC, along with the other RPCs throughout the state, are continuing to make service improvements in response to a statewide assessment conducted in 2011. We can only be successful with input from our member municipalities, so ask your elected and appointed officials and staff to take a few minutes to please complete the survey by Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Your input will help us to improve our service delivery and set priorities for the coming year. The survey is available online at the following link: [https://www.research.net/s/ACRPC\\_Survey](https://www.research.net/s/ACRPC_Survey). For more information, contact Adam Lougee at 388-3141 or [alougee@acrpc.org](mailto:alougee@acrpc.org).

## Disaster Relief Funding through the US Department of Labor

The US Department of Labor has awarded the Vermont Department of Labor with disaster relief funding. These funds are for towns impacted by any of the three disasters which occurred in calendar year 2011. These funds can cover the cost of labor on projects improving public lands like athletic/recreational fields at schools.

If you think you have a project, please contact Tim Bouton at 388-3141 or [tbouton@acrpc.org](mailto:tbouton@acrpc.org).

# Events

## **GREEN DRINKS**

*Wednesday, Jan 18, 5-7 pm  
51 Main in Middlebury*

GreenDrinks.org, a global movement focusing on green topics & networking, meets third Wednesday of each month in Middlebury. This month's theme is green winter wear. Discuss what this means and what you can find & make locally. Free snacks, drink discounts. Info: middleburygreendrinks@gmail.com.

## **Vermont Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence**

*Applications due Friday, January 20, 2012*

The Vermont Governor's Awards were established in 1993 to recognize the actions taken by Vermonters to conserve and protect natural resources, prevent pollution, and promote environmental sustainability. More than 175 award-winning efforts of Vermont individuals, organizations, institutions, public agencies, and businesses have been recognized. These projects contribute significantly to protecting the environment, conserving energy and reducing the production of greenhouse gases. For more information, contact Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org.

## **Save the Date:**

### **Town Officer's Education Conference**

The dates are set for the 2012 Town Officer's Education Conference – more information will be available soon. Online registration will begin March 5, 2012.

April 4, Hilton, Burlington

April 10, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee

April 18, Rutland/Killington Holiday Inn, Rutland

## **Button Up Workshop**

*Thursday, January 12, 7 – 9 pm*

*Weybridge School, Common Room, Weybridge, VT*

This is the first workshop in a two part series. This first workshop, Button Up, is on how to save energy in your home through energy retrofits, followed on January 19 by a workshop on financing residential retrofit

projects through the PACE program. For more information, contact Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org.

## **PACE Workshop**

*Thursday, Jan. 19, 7 – 8:30 pm*

*Weybridge School, Common Room, Weybridge, VT*

The second of a two part series, this workshop will share the latest information on financing residential energy retrofits through the PACE program. For more information, contact Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org.