

ACRPC

update January 2017

Wildlife and Natural Resources Assistance!

The Community Wildlife Program at Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has expanded! Many in Addison County have worked with Jens Hilke; the program now includes Monica Pryperhart, based in Middlebury, to provide support to communities working on conserving, managing, or planning for local wildlife. The program provides a variety of services to municipalities, at no cost! These include:

- Providing/interpreting maps and information about wildlife and natural resources

- Trainings on the Agency of Natural Resources online mapping programs (the Natural Resources Atlas and BioFinder)
- Community Values Mapping (note: see next article)
- Strategic planning for conservation or natural resources management
- Review of town planning documents regarding wildlife and natural resources
- Trainings and workshops on topics of interest, such as fragmentation

Many of these can be tailored to address the specific needs of individual towns or groups of neighboring towns. To learn more, contact Monica Przyperhart, at (802)461-5118 or monica.przyperhart@vermont.gov.

Commission Calendar

December 2016

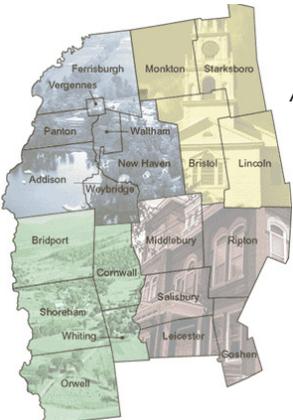
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|----|--------|-------------------------|
| 11 | 7:00pm | Full Commission Meeting |
| 18 | 7:00pm | TAC Meeting |
| 19 | 7:00pm | ACSWMD Meeting |
| 25 | 6:30pm | Executive Board Meeting |

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

Community Values Mapping (CVM) Workshop in Cornwall

Cornwall is in the middle of a project that the Cornwall Conservation Commission hopes will help with future town planning. In mid-October, 60 townspeople crowded into the school to participate in a Community Values Mapping (CVM) Workshop organized by the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, and the Elementary School. Under the direction of Jen Hilke, of Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, people divided into smaller groups and talked about places in Cornwall that they most valued. As each person spoke, the area being discussed was marked on an oversized map of the town. The groups worked independently, but at the end of the workshop, as the maps from each group were shared, it was clear that certain parts of the town and certain activities had

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Grants, Workshops & Other Opportunities

been mentioned by all. And, the landscape areas in Cornwall lauded independently for scenic beauty, recreational possibilities, abundant wildlife, and hunting and fishing consistently overlapped with each other, showing their importance for residents.

The elementary school had completed its own mapping just the week before. With the information from both workshops in hand, maps are being compiled and will be shared with the town in the months ahead. Knowing what matters to residents is an important part of town planning decisions; the sponsors are hopeful that the summary maps will be useful in conveying this.

The CVM workshop has already accomplished something important by providing an opportunity for townspeople to meet and talk about things they value about their town. In publicizing the workshop, the Conservation Commission made an effort to reach out to all parts of the community and was gratified to see how many people responded. Many thanks are owed to Jens Hilke and ANR for leading this effort.

If your town is interested in incorporating community value mapping into your planning process, contact Claire Tebbs or Kevin Behm at ACRPC or contact VT Fish and Wildlife Department directly at:

Monica Przyperhart
Community Wildlife Program
VT Fish & Wildlife Department

- *Phone:* 802-461-5118
- *Email:* Monica.Przyperhart@vermont.gov
- *Website:* http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/get_involved/partner_in_conservation/community_wildlife_program

Better Roads Program: VTrans Urges Grant Applicants To Document Projects Before Snow Flies

VTrans will soon be sending notification to municipalities announcing the 20th year of grant funding for the Better Roads Program, which promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques to save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams.

This year, it is anticipated that grant applications will be accepted between January 23 and March 17, 2017. We are urging municipalities to consider potential grant projects now and to begin project planning by:

- Taking color photos of the proposed project and surrounding area; including unique features such as historic laid up stone headwalls, retaining walls and stone culverts.
- Taking field measurements to develop sketches of the proposed project, including length of project and delineating municipal right of way
- Requesting technical assistance from Better Roads staff, if necessary.

In order to ensure that a quality application can be submitted and in anticipation of snowfall, municipalities are urged to take photos and necessary measurements as soon as possible. Additional information and resources can be found at: vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads.

To request more information about the program or application process or for technical assistance, contact:

- *Eastern Vermont.* Alan May at (802) 828-4585 or Alan.May@vermont.gov.
- *Western Vermont.* Linda Blasch at (802) 498-7216 or Linda.Blasch@vermont.gov.

Reminders

Aquatic Nuisance Grant Program ~ Deadline Approaching ~

The Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-aid grants program is now accepting applications for project year 2017 projects addressing aquatic invasive and nuisance species. The applications are due no later than Wednesday, February 8th, 2017. These grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic invasive and nuisance plant and animal management programs – control, spread prevention, and educational projects. Funding for Grant-in-aid Grants comes from a portion of annual revenues from state motorboat registration fees and often federal funds. For the 2017 program, an estimated \$500,000 is available.

For a project to be considered for funds in 2017, a completed application package should be submitted in electronic format (PDF preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to David Pasco (david.pasco@vermont.gov) by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

The 2017 application and instructions are available on line at: <http://www.dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/aquatic-invasives/funding>. To request an application or for further information, you may also contact Ann Bove directly at 802.490.6120.

Better Connections Grants - Last Call!

VTrans and DHCD are pleased to announce \$200,000 in available planning grant funds to expand transportation options while fostering economic vitality for our businesses and communities. The program is open to municipalities and grant applications are due January 13, 2017.

The program supports implementation-focused, municipal planning initiatives that:

- Provide safe, multi-modal and resilient transportation systems that supports the Vermont economy;
- Support downtown and village economic development and revitalization efforts;
- Lead directly to project implementation.

For more information, visit here: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>.

For other ACCD funding opportunities, visit here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding>.

Charlotte Route 7 Construction Project

As of December 23rd, the tree clearing has been completed and crews will close down the project for the winter and return in the spring of 2017 to resume work on the project. Check back here for notification and updates in advance of work starting in the spring.

Contact Francine Perkins, Project Outreach Coordinator, FRP Enterprises, LLC with any questions or concerns with regards to the project at 802-479-6994 or to view recent updates, visit www.roadworkupdates.com.