



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

# ACRPC

*update*

July 2003

## commission calendar

|               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| <b>JULY</b>   | 9  | 7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting<br>Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College<br>Agenda: Kate Lampton, Lake Champlain Greenbelt Alliance |
|               | 15 | 4:00 p.m. Economic Committee<br>ACRPC Office<br>Agenda: Goals for Economic Section   |
|               | 15 | 6:30 p.m. GMNF Planning Meeting<br>Holley Hall, Bristol  |
|               | 16 | 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee<br>ACRPC Office  |
|               | 21 | 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm.<br>ACRPC Office<br>Agenda: Health & Safety Goals and Objectives                             |
|               | 25 | 7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting<br>ACRPC Office  |
| <b>AUGUST</b> | 18 | 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm.<br>ACRPC Office   |
|               | 19 | 4:00 p.m. Economic Committee<br>ACRPC Office   |
|               | 20 | 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee<br>ACRPC Office  |
|               | 27 | 7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting<br>ACRPC Office  |



## Bike-Pedestrian Planning & Design Manual

The state Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has recently released the Vermont Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Planning and Design Manual. The manual is a comprehensive, hands-on guide for the development of biking and walking facilities.

The manual contains guidance for sidewalks, bicycle lanes, bikeways, shared-use paths, trails and traffic calming. It also provides suggestions for meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The manual was developed with the assistance of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking. In upcoming months, VTrans will be hosting a series of workshops to promote use of the manual.

For more information contact Amy Bell, (802) 828-5799, or Jon Kaplan, (802) 828-0059. The manual is also available on-line at [www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Documents/LTF/FinalPedestrianAndBicycleFacility/PedBikeTOC.html](http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Documents/LTF/FinalPedestrianAndBicycleFacility/PedBikeTOC.html) or from ACRPC.

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.



### GONE FISHIN'

Reminder: There is no Full Commission Meeting scheduled in August.

## Agritourism Grant Program

The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council is administering a grant program designed to provide technical assistance to farmers involved in or considering agritourism.

Grants will also be available to organizations providing services to farmers involved in agritourism. The funds must be used to help farmers begin or improve agritourism ventures on their farms.

Applications are due July 25. For more information contact Josh Hanford, (802) 728-9526 or [josh.hanford@vt.usda.gov](mailto:josh.hanford@vt.usda.gov).

## Forest Legacy Program Funding Available

Eligible owners of private forestland can apply again this year to participate in the Forest Legacy Program. New applications must be submitted to the state Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) by July 11.

This program provides funding for conservation of forest areas that are threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Typically, funding is used to acquire conservation easements on forestland properties.

Application forms and related information on the Forest Legacy Program are available from FPR. For more information contact 241-3697 or go on-line to [www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/forestry](http://www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/forestry).

## GMNF Plan Meetings

The next meeting to discuss the Forest Plan revision for the Green Mountain National Forest will be held July 15.

All meetings will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Holley Hall in Bristol, refreshments will be served. For more information please contact Melissa Reichert at (802) 747-6754 or [gmflplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:gmflplanrevision@fs.fed.us).

*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.*

## Zoning Administrator's Handbook Available

A new, revised edition of the Zoning Administrator's Handbook is available from the state Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA).

This second edition updates the previous handbook published in 1988 and contains up-to-date information for zoning administrators and municipalities.

The handbook includes information on zoning administrators' duties and limits of authority. It provides a step-by-step outline of the process of issuing zoning permits and reviews enforcement issues. The handbook

also contains discussion of thorny issues like home occupations and preexisting small lots. There are also sample forms, letters and checklists that municipalities can use to improve their administration.

The revision of the handbook was a collaborative effort between DHCA, Secretary of State Deb Markowitz, attorney Paul Gillies and Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

The handbook is available on-line at [www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning](http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning) or from the ACRPC office.

## Five Years Ago This Week



On the night of June 27 and 28, 1998, torrential downpours turned the New Haven River into a devastating juggernaut which smashed through Bristol, leaving demolished bridges, crumbled roads and flooded homes in its wake.

Five years later, two bridges in Bristol have been rebuilt with one more awaiting construction. Flooded properties have been bought out and are now public parklands.

## Funding for Conservation Projects on Private Land

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has received \$3 million from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NFWF is putting those funds into a matching grant program to support conservation projects across the country. The goal of the program is to support projects that engage private landowners, primarily farmers, in the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife and natural resources on their lands.

Eligible grant recipients including state and local governments, education institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Grants to, or in partnership with, the NRCS or local conservation districts will be given special consideration. Grants are expected to range from \$10,000-\$150,000. Proposals are due July 15. For more information go to <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nrcsnacd.htm>.

## ACRPC Reps

ACRPC would also like to remind those municipalities that have not returned appointment forms that their representation to the commission has lapsed.

ACRPC representatives need to be appointed annually for a term running from July 1 to June 30. Appointments need to be sent to ACRPC in writing.

Appointment forms have NOT been received from:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Bristol   | Goshen     |
| Leicester | Lincoln    |
| Salisbury | Starksboro |
| Vergennes | Weybridge  |
| Whiting   |            |

If you need another form, please contact the ACRPC office at 388-3141.