



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

June 2003

commission calendar

JUNE	
11	6:00 p.m. VLCT Planning & Zoning Workshop Middlebury VIT Site Home Occupations, Non-Conforming Use & Non-Complying Structures
11	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Kenyon Lounge, Middlebury College
12	4:00 p.m. Hidden Cost of Low Wages in Addison County Presentation by Doug Hoffer American Legion, Middlebury
16	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. ACRPC Office Agenda: Fire, Rescue, Police, Emerg.
17	4:00 p.m. Economic Committee ACRPC Office
17	6:30 p.m. GMNF Plan Revision Meeting Holley Hall, Bristol Agenda: Class I & II Road Analysis
18	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee ACRPC Office
25	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting ACRPC Office
30	1:00 p.m. Draft Interstate Interchange Design Guidelines Public Presentation Pavilion Building, Montpelier
JULY	
9	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location & Agenda TBA
15	4:00 p.m. Economic Committee ACRPC Office
16	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee ACRPC Office
21	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. ACRPC Office Agenda: Electricity
25	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting ACRPC Office

Meetings are open to the public.
Minutes are available online at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

DISASTER

at Addison County Field Days

On May 17, emergency responders from throughout the county gathered at the Addison County Field Days site in New Haven to put on what is hoped to be the first annual disaster drill at that site. The day proved to be a great learning tool, as over 100 people participated in the simulated ride collapse and subsequent mass casualty incident.

Firefighters from Bridport and Addison served as first on scene, much as they would be during Field Days if they were standing "fire watch." The process of calling up additional resources, communications, crowd control, and command development were all watched carefully to identify future needs and training opportunities.

Many thanks to all involved, including: Bristol Rescue, Vergennes Rescue, Middlebury Rescue, Addison Fire, Orwell Fire, Bridport Fire, Vergennes Fire, New Haven Fire, Ripton Fire, VT State Police, Vergennes Police, Addison County Sheriff's, Red Cross, Addison County Field Days, News Channel 5, and the host of "victims and frantic parents" who participated.

Funds for Transportation Studies

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is looking for potential planning studies to fund as we prepare our Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Workplan and Budget. Each year, the ACRPC sets aside \$50,000 to hire consultants to conduct various transportation planning studies for municipalities. These funds can only be used for planning studies, not construction projects. This year's funded projects include: several town highway structures inventories, a feasibility study to implement sidewalks in the Town of New Haven and a Strategic Plan for Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR).

Do you have a traffic or transportation related problem affecting your community? If so, submit a Study Request Form to Garrett Dague by June 16. The TAC will evaluate the requests received at their June 18 meeting. Applicants who have submitted projects chosen for further consideration will be asked to submit a proposal and make a presentation of their project in July. Projects will be chosen following the presentations. For further information, contact Garrett at 388-3141.

The Hidden Costs of Low Wages in Addison County

As part of its series "Perspectives on the Addison County Housing Crisis," the Addison County Continuum of Care will host a talk by Doug Hoffer on "The Hidden Costs of Low Wages."

The event will be held at 4 p.m. on June 12, 2003 at the American Legion on Boardman Street. The event is free and open to the public.

Doug Hoffer is the author of a number of reports including, the Vermont Job Gap Study, The Economic Impacts of Child Care in Vermont, Between A Rock And A Hard Place: Housing & Wages in Vermont, and The Economic Benefits of Wind Farms in Vermont.

The Continuum of Care is a group of human services representatives and interested persons whose goal is to end homelessness in Addison County through the provision of education, prevention, outreach, and intervention. Meetings take place monthly, and the public is welcome. Call 388-3608 for more information.

GMNF Plan Meetings

The next meeting to discuss the Forest Plan revision for the Green Mountain National Forest will be held June 17.

The meeting topic will be the analysis process for Class I and Class II roads. The Roads Analysis Process will examine Forest Service roads that are maintained for high clearance (Class II) and gated roads (Class I) on the forest. The analysis will produce a road management strategy that will ultimately lead to guidelines for addressing future road management issues.

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.

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.

EMERGENCY BULLETIN

At their latest meeting, the Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (ACEPC) formed a subcommittee to gather current equipment data from all local response organizations, analyze that data and recommend future purchases.

Federal money has flowed so fast in recent years that a single coordinated interagency effort to effectively equip the entire region has not been pulled together. Individual agencies have, in some cases, made equipment requests without even knowing what bordering agencies have requested. The perception is that some agencies are being left behind in the region's efforts to increase its preparedness level.

ACEPC should be able to identify those who are lagging behind and make recommendations to the State Department of Homeland Security where funds can be best spent.

Additionally, the ACEPC subcommittee on CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and Citizens Corps has begun to take action to deliver training for new volunteers in the region. CERT volunteers will be trained in multiple disciplines and will be available to assist in a disaster.

The responsibilities of these CERT members could include opening evacuation shelters, doing damage assessments or traffic control. Anyone interested in becoming a CERT volunteer should contact Tim Bouton at 388-3141.

With the help of a grant from the region's TAC and a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) award from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), ACEPC is set to hire a consultant to perform a Haz-Mat transportation survey of the region's highways.

The information gathered will help first responders by better informing them of what they might face in the event of a haz-mat incident in the region. Responders currently have a good idea of what chemicals are stored here in the region but have no idea of types or quantities which travel through on a daily basis.

Proposals from interested consultants are due June 9 and an award should be given by June 11. The project should be completed by September 30.

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>.

Town Mailing Update

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission would like to thank the towns of Monkton, New Haven and Orwell for returning complete annual update packages.

ACRPC would also like to remind those municipalities that have not returned ACRPC appointment forms that their representatives to the commission need to be appointed in writing by the end of June. Appointment forms have NOT been received from:

Bristol	Ferrisburgh
Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury
Salisbury	Starksboro
Vergennes	Weybridge
Whiting	

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