



ACRPC

update

June 2008

commission calendar

June	6	12:00pm	ACRPC Energy Committee
	7	11am-5pm	National Trails Days Celebration Blueberry Hill Inn Moosalamoo National Recreation Area Free and Open to the Public
	11	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting
	12	7:00pm	Wood and Wood Pellets for Home Heating Free Workshop ACRPC Office (see page 2)
	18	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
	24	7:00pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee
	25	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board
July	11	2:00pm	ACRPC Energy Committee
	9	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting
	11-12		French Heritage Days Vergennes www.frenchheritageday.com
	16	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
	22	7:00pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee
	23	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board

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

Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

2009 Transportation Enhancement Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportations Enhancements Program is a funding source for transportation-related activities in Vermont such as new sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation and more. The program's goal is to create a multi-modal and environmentally sustainable transportation system that encourages non-motorized use, enhances Vermont's historical landscape, and promotes a human scale of development. All local authorities, not for profit organizations and federal/state agencies are eligible to apply by submitting a pre-application letter by June 16, 2008. This is a first step in the application process. VTrans will sponsor two informational workshops on June 23 and June 25 about the application process. Attendance at one of these workshops is mandatory for new applicants or those that did not attend a workshop last year. All are encouraged to attend. The workshops will be offered throughout the state via Vermont Interactive Television. Final and complete applications are due on August 26. ACRPC is happy to work with you to apply to the enhancements program. This is not a grant but a reimbursable program and must follow Federal Highway Administration rules. For more information call Sandy Aja at 802-82-2544. To download the application form and instructions visit: <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/Enhancements%20Program/EnhancementsHomePage.htm>

ACTR Wins Regional Award

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) was recently selected to receive the FTA Region 1 2008 Ridership Excellence Award in the rural category. Region 1 includes all of New England and the rural category is for systems that serve populations under 50,000. Congratulations ACTR, and keep up the good work!

TAC Study Applications Due

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is soliciting town requests for transportation related planning feasibility studies. These are 100% funded up to \$20,000, with no local match. Applications are due on June 16. For information or a copy of the brief application form, contact Rick Kehne at rkehne@sover.net. A preliminary review of applications will be made at the June 18 TAC meeting. Final selections will be made in August or September.

NEWS & EVENTS

Small Community Sewage Solutions Conference, June 4

Local decision makers, technical experts and state/regional policy makers from New England will meet on June 4, 2008 to discuss sewage treatment options for villages and growth centers. More than 200 Vermont Villages lack any kind of community sewage treatment facility. Without sewerage, options for housing and economic development are severely limited and Vermont's goal to promote compact growth in established centers remains difficult to achieve. Potential pollution problems also exist. Choose from 14 workshops ranging from wastewater basics, to technical presentations, to small town case studies. Learn by seeing at the Wastewater Training Center Demonstration Site at VTC. The conference will be at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. \$60/person includes lunch and refreshments. Registration and conference program are available online at:

<http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/SewageSolutions/>

Amphibians in the Self-willed Forest With Jim Andrews Saturday, June 7th, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Join Vermont Family Forests (VFF) for a hands-on workshop with Jim Andrews, Vermont's premier herpetologist and coordinator of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project. Jim is also one of the founding researchers participating in the Colby Hill Ecological Project, a long-term effort to monitor ecosystem health and change in Lincoln, Vermont. The workshop will start at VFF's office with snacks and a one-hour slide show. VFF is located upstairs in the Old Bristol High School on the green in downtown Bristol. Workshop participants will then carpool to the Waterworks Property on Plank Road to see the critters. Children will love this workshop and are more than welcome. Pets are not. Please dress for the weather and the insects. The workshop is sponsored by Vermont Family Forests in cooperation with The Watershed Center and The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project. The workshop is free and open to the public. There is no need to pre-register. For more information contact Vermont Family Forests at (802) 453-7728 or visit VFF online at www.familyforests.org

Wood and Pellet Stove Workshop, June 12

ACRPC's Energy Committee will be presenting a program on Wood and Pellet Stoves on Thursday, June 12 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the ACRPC office. Gary Barnett, Cornwall Town Energy Coordinator, will be the lead speaker. Gary has over 20 years of experience installing wood and pellet stoves, and is committed to sustainable energy systems. The program will be a thorough examination of the options available for heating a home or business with wood or wood pellets, including wood stoves, pellet stoves, and masonry heaters. Gary will discuss stove construction, proper installation, cost comparisons for various heating methods and stove types, and the relative advantages of using wood for space heating. Information will also be available on wood and pellet fuel availability and government rebate programs for sustainable heating systems. This free public program is one in a series of programs on Sustainable Energy Options offered by the ACRPC Energy Committee. For more information on the Committee's activities and future programs, contact Adam Lougee, ACRPC at 388-3141, alougee@sover.net.

Call for Papers, Samuel de Champlain's 1609 Exploration of Lake Champlain

Champlain College in Burlington will host an international academic symposium July 2-5, 2009 commemorating Samuel de Champlain's exploration of Lake Champlain in 1609. Entitled "When the French Were Here," the celebration of historical memory and identity in the Lake Champlain Basin will evoke the 150-year French presence in the region and continue a tradition of observances of public memory in 1909 and 1959. Submissions are invited in such fields as French 17th century cultural history, North American colonization, literature of exploration, psychology of encounter, 16th century cartography, ethno-history, Native American historical demography and New France archaeology. Contact: Prof. Willard Sterne Randall randall@champlain.edu, Prof. Nancy Nahra nahra@champlain.edu, or Prof. Antoine Polgar apolgar@champlain.edu. Deadline for 200 word abstracts and CV's is September 1, 2008.

NEWS & EVENTS

Brown to Green: Redeveloping Brownfields in the Green Mountain State Friday, June 20

The state brownfields program is co-hosting a conference on June 20 at Vermont Law School. This conference will provide developers and their professional advisors (attorneys, design professionals, planners, lenders, and others) with tools for identifying, transacting, and successfully redeveloping brownfields in Vermont. Panelists include private practitioners, law school professors, government attorneys, and program personnel from federal, state, and regional brownfields programs. Sessions will guide participants through the transaction and site preparation process. Emphasis will be placed on the state and federal regulatory framework, practical risk management vehicles, environmental investigation, and utilization of financial and technical assistance programs. Continuing Legal Education credits will be provided. Credits for other professions are pending. For more information, please contact: Jane D'Antonio at 802-831-1217 or at jdantonio@vermontlaw.edu. Please register online at www.vermontlaw.edu/elc/landuse/brownfields 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., Chase Community Center, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont

Food, Fuel and the Future of Farming: A Conference on Sustainable Agriculture July 24 & 25

Vermont Law School has invited a number of national speakers on the topics of national farm policy, industrial agriculture, and biofuels to participate in this two day conference. The event will feature keynote speaker Anna Lappé, best-selling author of *Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet* and *Grub: Ideas for an Urban Organic Kitchen*. She also leads the Small Planet Institute. The conference will feature panels on Industrial Animal Agriculture, Farm Policy, Agriculture's Relationship to Climate Change, and Sustainable Agriculture in Vermont. This is also an opportunity to highlight the sustainable models provided by Vermont's farm and food policy leaders. Includes a tour of a local farm, local and organic lunches, and a special reception. The conference is being held at Vermont Law School's Chase Community Center, South Royalton, Vermont. For additional information contact Peg Elmer at 802-831-1405.

Vermont Days Events At Hubbardton Battlefield, Mount Independence, and Chimney Point

Join in on the fun at Vermont Days, June 14 and 15, a weekend of free admission at the Vermont State Historic Sites and State Parks, by enjoying a number of special events at the Mount Independence, Hubbardton Battlefield, and Chimney Point State Historic Sites. All events are free and open to the public. The sites are open 9:30 to 5:00 both days.

At the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell

Saturday, June 14, at 2:00 pm: Unveiling of the Interpretive Signage on the Baldwin Trail & Music on the Mount. Enjoy a stroll with history experts along the new Baldwin Trail to see the new interpretive signage.

Sunday, June 15 at 1:00 pm: Wildflowers of the Mount Ann Chiesa, an instructor at Castleton State College, leads a walk to discover the many kinds of wildflowers that grace Mount Independence.

At the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site in Hubbardton

Saturday, June 14, 1:00 – 4:00 pm: Go Fly a Kite Make a simple kite (materials and instructions provided) or bring your own. Then fly it in the wide open spaces of the site.

At the Chimney Point State Historic Site in Addison

Saturday, June 14, 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Second Saturdays Explore the French colonial past at Chimney Point with hands-on activities for all ages.

Sunday, June 15, 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Special Hands-on activities and period games. Learn about ancient stone tools or how to throw an atlatl, play period games, and enjoy other fun for all ages.

For information about Vermont's state-owned historic sites, visit www.HistoricVermont.org/sites or contact John Dumville at (802) 828-3051.

Why Create A Capital Budget for Local Roads?

ACRPC hosted a workshop on capital budget planning for road infrastructure last month. The workshop was targeted to selectboard members and local road foremen. Approximately 45 people participated, representing 15 different Addison County towns. For those of you who were not able to attend, here is a quick introduction to how a capital budget can help your town maintain road quality and save money.

A Capital Budget is a planning tool that allows towns to prioritize capital expenditures over a specific timeframe. A capital budget can help public officials and citizens anticipate future service problems before the better solutions disappear or become very costly because of near-sighted choices made earlier. And a capital budget can go a long way in helping to make decisions at Town Meeting--a capital budget helps assure citizens that officials have reviewed each item and that valid reasons exist for expenditures. These reasons, articulately presented at Town Meeting, demonstrate that the town has done its homework, and citizens are more likely to respect the recommendation.

There is not one right way to create a Capital Budget. They come in many forms, from simple to complex, and each town must decide what degree of capital budgeting will meet its needs.

You can create a Capital Budget by following this Basic 5 Step Process:

- 1. Inventory.** Inventory the equipment, buildings and facilities utilized by the road department. Include assessment of condition, adequacy, and expected life. This includes roads, bridges, culverts, etc.
- 2. Identify future needs.** After evaluating existing inventory, project out future needs. These may stem from the replacement, renovation, or repair of existing facilities, infrastructure, or equipment, new services or improvements or additional responsibilities.
- 3. Define each need as a distinctive project.** Once needs have been defined, describe the project in detail. Including all aspects of the project.

4. Costs and financing: Estimate the costs of each project; locate funding sources.

5. Prioritize: Projects in a capital budget should be prioritized based on needs and funding capabilities. This enables local officials to readily implement the capital budget, and clearly demonstrates to the taxpayers which projects will take priority in future years. The capital budget should not be a wish list—it should represent a reasonable expectation of capital projects planned for the municipality in the coming years.

To learn more, contact Rick Kehne, rkehne@sover.net.

Increased Deterioration Rates and Increased Costs Over Time

