



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

march 2003

commission calendar

MONTH	DATE	TIME	MEETING
MARCH	12	7:30 p.m.	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Kenyon Lounge, Middlebury College Program: Solid Waste Planning
	17	7:00 p.m.	Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. ACRPC Office Agenda: Healthcare
	18	3:00 p.m.	Economic Committee ACRPC Office Agenda: Economic Dev., CEDS
	18	6:30 p.m.	Green Mt. Nat'l Forest Planning Holley Hall, Bristol Agenda: Draft Plan Goals
	19	7:00 p.m.	Transportation Advisory Committee ACRPC Office Guest: Mel Adams from VTrans
	24	7:00 p.m.	Natural Resources Committee ACRPC Office Agenda: Watershed Planning
	26	5:00 p.m.	Local Emergency Planning Comm. Vergennes Rescue Squad Bldg.
APRIL	26	7:00 p.m.	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting ACRPC Office
	9	7:30 p.m.	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Kirk Alumni, Middlebury College
	15	3:00 p.m.	Economic Committee ACRPC Office
	15	6:30 p.m.	Green Mt. Nat'l Forest Planning Holley Hall, Bristol
	16	7:00 p.m.	Transportation Advisory Committee ACRPC Office
	21	7:00 p.m.	Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. ACRPC Office Agenda: Human Services
	30	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 information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Village Center Designation

Village center designation is a tool available from the state to improve your community's vitality and livability. Revitalization means mobilizing community efforts and energy to improve the village center. It means identifying projects and activities that will make your center a more vibrant, attractive, and livable place, and organizing the people and money needed to make it happen.

Since most village centers are historic, the preservation of the historic structures is frequently an early focus of village groups – town halls, granges, schools, libraries, or churches – whether they continue their traditional use or are adapted for a new function.

Conservation and improvement of natural resources such as paths, trails, riversides and streambanks are also popular local projects. A community often may need to improve town greens, sidewalks, water and sewage systems, transportation improvements, and other infrastructure.

Finally, many communities have traditional events – like dinners, music events and holiday gatherings – which are existing assets that help define the community and can play a very prominent role in a revitalization process.



If your community is thinking about such projects, the village center designation may be a good first step. Designation provides communities with benefits like tax credits and increased competitiveness in grant programs. The application process was designed for small communities. It is fairly simple and can be done at any time. For more information on the village center program contact Brandy at 388-3141 or bsaxton@sover.net.

GMNF Plan Meetings

Public meetings are being held to discuss the Forest Plan revision for the Green Mountain National Forest. In the Addison Region, portions of the Green Mountain National Forest lie within the towns of Bristol, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury and Ripton.

The purpose of the meetings is to explore the issues identified in the Notice of Intent to revise the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Specific topics for each meeting will be determined during the month prior to the meeting.

The March 18 meeting topic will be the presentation and discussion of the plan's draft goals. All meetings will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Holley Hall in Bristol. The Local Planning Group's public meetings are currently scheduled to run from March through August.

For more information please contact Melissa Reichert at (802) 747-6754 or gmlplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

Transportation Budget

Mel Adams, the new Policy and Planning Director at the Vermont Agency of Transportation, is scheduled to appear at the March 19 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. Mel will be discussing the elements of the Governor's budget and the proposed changes in the allocation of transportation resources for the upcoming year. The Governor is proposing a moratorium on Enhancement and Bicycle and Pedestrian projects and increasing funding for Town Highway and Bridge programs.

The meeting will be held at the ACRPC offices on 79 Court St. at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Garrett Dague at 388-3141.

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

Terrorism Awareness

Members of local fire, police, rescue and multiple other organizations have begun the process of preparing to respond to any potential threat of terrorism in the region. February 25 marked a huge step forward for the region as nearly 70 first responders from around the region attended "Terrorism Awareness for First Responders."

The course, offered by the Homeland Security unit of the Vermont Department of Public Safety and hosted by Addison County Firefighter's Association and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission had one of the state's largest turnouts for this course since its inception. Attendees were instructed in the areas of Terrorism Intelligence, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Recognizing Potential Hazards and Appropriate Actions for the first responder.

While only a first step in preparing for this potential new threat, the course is critical to establishing a baseline of knowledge from which to build more advanced skills. The course will be offered again this spring as part of the annual Addison County Regional Fire School to allow those who were unable to attend to do so.

Citizens Corps

The Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (ACEPC) has submitted a request for funding with the help of ACRPC staff, which if awarded, will drastically improve the region's capacity to deal with disasters.

Funding is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the president's USA Freedom Corps initiative to provide training to local volunteers in response to disasters. The nationwide Citizens Corps program was developed initially to build neighborhood groups who could respond to disaster in the event fire and rescue services were overwhelmed.

In the more rural setting of Addison County, ACEPC members envision the development of volunteers who can relieve the burdens on local 1st responders by being trained in shelter operations, damage assessment, and other necessary support functions. If awarded, the group will partner with the Red Cross and will be provided funds for recruitment, training, and outfitting of volunteers.

If you might be interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve your community, contact Tim Bouton, disaster planner at ACRPC.

Reminder: ACRPC will be sending out its annual mailing to municipalities this month. In that packet, we (1) ask for updated contact information on municipal officials, (2) send appointment forms for both the Commission and for the Transportation Advisory Committee, (3) include a local road map to be reviewed for any changes in the last year, and (4) include your Rapid Response Emergency Plan also to be reviewed for changes. We have tried our best to streamline this annual update process and appreciate your efforts in responding.