



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

March 2007

commission calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event
March	14	6:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Mtg. Location: ACRPC Office
	14	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Middlebury Inn
	14	9 to 12:30	<i>Alternative Energy: How Available Technologies Can Work in Your Community</i> Vt. Community Development Association Location: Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier More info from Jessica at 229-9111
	17	9 to 3:30	Conservation Congress Location: Mt. Abraham High School, Bristol See page 2 for more information
	21	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	24	8:30 am	Tree Wardens Meeting Vermont College, Montpelier More info at www.vtcommunityforestry.org
April	28	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	11	6:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Mtg. Location: ACRPC Office
	11	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Middlebury Inn
	18	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	25	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.

For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Municipal Education Grants

ACRPC will be sending out applications for the Municipal Education Grant to the chairs of the planning commission and the zoning board/development review board of each municipality. We have arranged four education programs: Managing Controversial Development Applications; Villages and Smart Growth in Rural Communities; Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation; and Managing Residential Development in Rural Areas. Sample application text is being sent for these programs, and other topics for education programs are also available for funding. For more information contact Jeff Owen at 388-3141 or jowen@sover.net.

The Municipal Education Grant (MEG) program is available until May 1 to pay for the costs of onsite training for local planning and zoning boards. For more information on the overall MEG program, visit www.dhca.state.vt.us.

Small Energy Generator Licensing

On January 9, 2007, Vermont Senators Claire Ayer, Harold Giard and Virginia Lyons introduced a bill that proposes to require the department of public service to work with Congress to exempt local, sustainable generators of electrical energy of less than 5 MW from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdiction. The bill also proposes that Vermont establish a streamlined review process for those small generators.

This should result in small generators, including hydropower, receiving permits in a significantly shorter timer period than under the current process. The bill, S.011, can be tracked at www.leg.state.vt.us.

2007 Conservation Congress

*Fueling Our Community: Building
Local, Sustainable Energy Solutions*
9 AM, March 17 at Mount Abraham
Union High School

Join Vermont Family Forests, local organizations, businesses, and community members for a lively day of information-sharing on cultivating community-based, sustainable energy solutions. Learn about local efforts to move beyond fossil fuels and build energy self-sufficiency, and discuss ways to build on these successes. Keynote speaker Scudder Parker, who brings years of public service experience in energy efficiency and energy planning to the event, will provide the context for the day's discussions. Participants can then choose from six morning concurrent sessions, largely focused on optimizing local energy efficiency, led by an outstanding array of individuals who have donated their time and expertise to this event.

Morning concurrent sessions will focus on optimizing local energy efficiency, with session topics including transportation alternatives, improving wood burning efficiency, and optimizing the energy efficiency of your home. Lunch will feature locally grown foods prepared by Future Farmers of America students, afternoon concurrent sessions will focus on cultivating local energy sources. Afternoon concurrent sessions will focus on cultivating local energy sources, from agriculture-based sources (like methane digestion, grass pellets, and biodiesel) to small-scale hydro-power, wind, and solar. During both morning and afternoon sessions, participants can tour the new Mount Abraham Union High School Wood Gasification heating system or watch a screening of "An Inconvenient Truth."

NEW ANCIENT ROADS RESEARCH LISTSERV

*Don't reinvent the wheel...learn from
each other!*

Recognizing the challenges associated with these tasks, the Department of Housing & Community Affairs partnered with the UVM Center for Rural Studies to create a new listserv to assist Vermont municipalities comply with Act 178. This useful tool enables subscribers to ask questions, share success stories, offer tips to overcoming common obstacles, locate professional help and view messages posted by other subscribers throughout the state who are interested in this process. You do not need to be a recipient of DHCA's Ancient Roads Grant Program to subscribe to the ancient roads listserv; anyone may join. To become a subscriber, go to <http://list.uvm.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ANCIENTROADS>; then, choose the "Join or Leave ANCIENTROADS" option. For a complete description of mail options, go to Subscriber's Corner/Settings/Subscription Type.

Addison County River Watch Collaborative Volunteers Needed

Formed in 1997, Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC) samples seven rivers and creeks in Addison County: Lewis Creek, Little Otter Creek, Mud Creek, Otter Creek, Middlebury River, New Haven River and Lemon Fair River. Samples are collected every weekend between spring "ice-out" and "leaf-out" and on five mornings spread out between late June and late August. ACRPC is working with ACRWC to increase public access to the annual monitoring results.

River Watch is busy planning for the 2007 sampling season. If you are interested in becoming part of ACRWC's efforts to support healthy rivers in Addison County, consider joining the sampling team for your watershed. Please contact ACRWC coordinator Sheila Schwaneflugel at 877-0054 to learn more.

Vermont Better Backroads Small Grants Program

The Vermont Better Backroads Program mailed packages to each municipality with grant applications for projects on town or private road to improve water quality and realize savings in maintenance costs. The goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Applicants may apply under two categories of funding. Applicants may also apply for more than one grant in each category.

The first category, Road Inventory and Capital Budget Planning, funds projects that inventory road related erosion problems affecting water quality, prioritizing them by problem area, and are then followed up by the development of a capital budget plan to correct the problems. Projects in this category can be funded up to **\$4,000**.

The second category, Correction of a Road Related Erosion Problem, evaluates projects based on water quality benefits, longevity and effectiveness of the solution, specific support available to meet the match obligation, use of aesthetic vegetative solutions, and partnering efforts. Projects in this category can be funded up to **\$7,000**.

Grant applications must be postmarked by **March 30, 2007**. For additional copies of the applications or for more information, contact ACRPC staff Jeff Owen at 388-3141 or jowen@sover.net.

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