



ACRPC

update

March 2011

ACRPC's Brownfield Program

ACRPC's Brownfield program is designed to encourage the redevelopment of Brownfields; properties that remain underused or abandoned due to real or perceived environmental contamination. The purpose of this program is to fund environmental assessments of sites that may have been contaminated

by petroleum or hazardous materials. Ultimately, ACRPC wants to help bring these properties back into productive use. We can also provide interested parties or individuals with a better understanding of the tools and funding sources available to investigate and redevelop sites with suspected contamination.

Commission Calendar

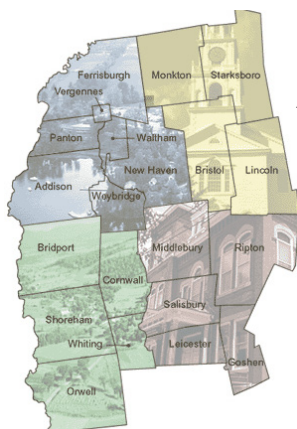
March 2011	9	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
	11	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	7	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative Meeting
	14	4:00pm	Energy Committee Meeting
	16	4:00-5:30pm	ACORN Wholesale Collaborative
	16	7:00pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
	17	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	21	4:00pm	Brownfields Committee Meeting
	23	7:00pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting
	26	9:00-11:00am	Addison County River Watch Collaborative Meeting
	28	5:00-6:30pm	ACORN Network Board Meeting

If you are aware of a property that meets any of the following conditions, please contact Regional Planner, Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org.

- Property has remained vacant for years.
- Property transaction failed due to suspected contamination.
- Abandoned properties that have defaulted on mortgages or have accumulated back taxes.
- Downtown properties that would be marketable if the degree and extent of contamination were better documented.

Eligible landowners are invited to participate in the program, but participation is completely voluntary. No site will be listed in an inventory without the consent of the owner, nor will we pursue any action without the owner as a willing participant.

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



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

Delegates and Alternates Wanted!

Town meeting has just ended. Within the next month, your Selectboard will be making decisions on who they might appoint to various positions in the municipality. ACRPC thanks its existing Delegates and Alternates for serving as your communities' representative to the Commission. We hope you will speak with your Selectboard and sign up for another year of service for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. To anyone else interested in regional issues, we would

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.

News

love to have you join the Regional Planning Commission! Please speak with your Selectboard and ask whether your town has delegate or alternate positions available. ACRPC holds our full Commission meetings at our offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. Typical meetings last about 2 hours with a short intermission. Generally we devote the first part of the meeting to a programmed speaker discussing a topic of local interest. Topics change every month, but can range from bicycle and pedestrian planning, to agricultural planning to discussions with local legislators.

In addition to the monthly meeting, ACRPC also asks each commissioner to serve on one of its six sub-committees (Natural Resources, Energy, Brownfields, Local Government, Act 250 and Transportation). Each committee generally meets once per month to do more in depth work on a specific topic. Lastly, we ask delegates and alternates to serve as our voices in their community and their communities' voices to us. Inform your Selectboard or Planning Commissions about opportunities available through ACRPC or report concerns from your community back to the Commission. ACRPC offers a great opportunity to understand and influence policies that affect our communities and the Addison Region. We invite anyone interested to speak with your Selectboard to see if you could represent your community on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Post-Town Meeting Appointment

It's post-town meeting appointment time again! The selectboard needs your help to fill positions. Please consider volunteering as your town's Emergency Manager(EM). The EM position helps coordinate the planning for, and in some cases the response to, disasters in each of our towns. The core of the EMs job is to bring together a wide cross section of interests in town, introduce them to each other and try to foster their mutual cooperation. That direct knowledge of who and what may be available from differing sources is integral to managing a disaster in any community.

While most would recognize the fire department or rescue squad, or road crew, or police as important to a disaster, the EM also has to recognize the value of the church auxiliary, planning commissioners, VAST members, ham radio operators and school parents, among others, for their potential contributions. Emergency Managers not only foster cooperation and communication, but also do their best to "get it in writing" by developing an emergency plan for their community. EMs come from all levels of experience and qualifications but are only as successful as their commitment to the job. Here in the Addison region we are fortunate to have a number of highly committed EMs who are fortunately reappointed every year. We also have a few communities who struggle to find someone willing to serve in that capacity.

As we enter into a new round of municipal appointments, remember that each of these positions was created for a reason and has its own value to our communities. Please volunteer to be appointed if you have an interest and commitment to one of these jobs and choose wisely if you are the one doing the appointing. If anyone has questions specifically about emergency management at the local level, contact Tim Bouton at the ACRPC office (tbouton@acrpc.org).

New Vermont Broadband Map

The BroadbandVT.org website is now live and open for the public. The goal of this informal 'soft' launch is to obtain feedback and stories from key stakeholders before a press release is issued to the

The screenshot shows the homepage of BroadbandVT.org. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo and a search box. Below the navigation bar are four main menu items: "Learn About Broadband in VT", "Find Your Broadband Options", "Broadband for Business & Institutions", and "Read More News & Initiatives". The central area features a "Find Broadband services in your area" section with input fields for "Street Address" and "City / Town", and a "GO" button. To the right of this is a "SPEED TEST" section with a "Test your broadband speed" button. Below the speed test is a "Report an unmet address" button. At the bottom, there is a "Public Access" section with a house icon and text about public buildings with internet access. On the right side, there is a "Vermont Broadband: Two Sides of the Coin" section with a date of "February 28th, 2011" and a brief description of broadband availability in Vermont.

wider public. The overall message of the site is that there is good news in Vermont about broadband.

The Vermont Broadband Mapping Team partners invite you to review the BroadbandVT.org website prior to the announcement of its availability. The Broadband Mapping Team is developing BroadbandVT.org to be a Broadband related information portal that offers opportunities for information sharing from the provider and stakeholder communities.

User input and contributions will help to make this site complete over time. In the coming weeks, the marketing efforts of the Broadband Mapping Team will begin driving consumers and businesses to interact on the site and to contribute to the stories section.

Financing Energy Retrofits on Municipal Buildings

Last year a number of Addison County towns completed energy audits on municipal buildings. This article outlines several financing programs available to these municipalities to implement the energy efficiency recommendations in the audit:

- 1. Building Performance Incentives** from Efficiency Vermont. Municipal buildings may be eligible for this program if they are less than 10,000 square feet in size. More information can be found here: <http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/Business/SavingEnergy/BuildingPerformanceIncentives/>.
- 2. Town's reserve fund**, if available. There may not be enough funds to finance the entire project, but there may be sufficient funds to do a portion of the project.
- 3. A bond** through the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (requires a vote for authorization). This approach has several advantages:
 - Lower Interest Rates
 - Credit Enhancement & Security
 - Reduced Costs of Issuance
 - Simplification

- Ongoing Federal Disclosure

- 4. Municipal lease.** Several towns have recently used this mechanism to finance energy efficiency projects. If the term of the lease is set long enough so that the lease payments are less than the expected energy savings, the work can get done with little or no money upfront. The positive cash flow (that is, energy savings minus lease payments) would allow the town to start saving money right away, even while making lease payments.
- 5. USDA loan** through their rural development program. The USDA offers two options: a direct loan (http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-CF_Direct_Loans.html) and a guaranteed loan (http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-CF_Guaranteed_Loans.html). USDA loan funding is available to all towns and can fund up to 100% of the project. Rates are market based. Loans to municipalities require a bond vote to authorize borrowing.

Please contact Regional Planner Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org for more information.

Costs and Challenges Associated with Developing a Community-Wide Biosecurity Plan

In 2001 the United Kingdom was devastated by foot-and-mouth disease – at a cost of over \$15 billion dollars in a country only slightly larger than New England. Preparedness and proactive response plans are the best ways to reduce the economic, environmental, and social devastation that could be caused by a disaster like that in the US. An advisory group consisting of the case farm owners, allied agricultural business personnel, local and state officials has been established to provide feedback and suggestions regarding project activities. The project leaders are Julie M. Smith (ASCI), Bob Parsons (CDAE), and Ellen Rowe (UVM Extension, St. Johnsbury).

Dr. Julie Smith's background is in biosecurity and preventive animal health management. Currently she's working on an interdisciplinary project to better pre-

pare farms and communities to implement biosecurity plans in the face of a highly contagious disease emergency, as well as conducting research to better understand the risk of highly contagious disease spread among Vermont dairy farms. Visit Dr. Smith's blog on agricultural emergency preparedness to learn more: <http://blog.uvm.edu/jmsmith/>

Self-Assessment Survey Responses Needed

If you are an ACRPC commissioner and haven't filled out the online self-assessment survey, please do so by March 15th. The survey may be taken online anytime: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB-22BQ8HH5M87/>

Guide to Local Food and Farms

2011 version due out March 17th!

This year's guide features an updated grower directory with map, Farm to School programs in the county, a history of soils in the Champlain Valley, and other colorful stories. Look for this resource in the Addison Independent and at local businesses, and hold onto it throughout the year. Produced by ACORN Network in collaboration with ACRPC.



Last year's cover of the Addison County Guide to Local Food and Farms

NESEA'S Building Energy Conference

Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

March 8-10, 2011

Lifelong educator and sustainability expert David Orr will offer a unique perspective at the Opening Plenary session Wednesday, March 9. Choose from several tracks of workshops. Track 2, "Renewable Energy Technologies," presents case studies of successful installations throughout the Northeast. For more info, see <http://www.nesea.org/be11/>

Solar PV & Group Net Metering

Ilsley Library Conference Room, Middlebury

Wed., March 16, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Learn how to navigate the maze of solar options, incentives, and installers for generating electricity as an individual project or a group net metered one. Hosted by Acorn Energy Co-op with support from ACRPC.

ACRWC Volunteer Training

ACRPC Office (#14 Seminary St., Middlebury)

Saturday, March 26, 2011, 9-11:00am

The Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative has been working for 20 years to monitor the quality of Addison County rivers, streams and creeks. Water samples are collected once a month from spring ice-out to September and sent to the state DEC lab in Waterbury for analysis. We are looking for volunteers to help collect those samples. Sample days are Sundays in the spring, and Wednesday mornings during the summer.

We are looking for volunteers to help sample on the Otter Creek, Middlebury River, Lemon Fair River, New Haven River, Lewis Creek, Little Otter Creek, and Mud Creek. If you have an interest in the health and well being of our local watersheds, please join us! Contact Heidi Willis with questions: 352-4327.