

# ACRPC

*update* March 2015

## What Are Our Towns Up To?

While some of us may have been hibernating during the onslaught of minus degree days, there is an undercurrent of activity building in many of our Towns. Several of our Addison County Towns have received grants over the fall and winter months and are now delving into project work. To name a few new projects on the go:

The Town of Middlebury and ACRPC have received a DEC Ecological Restoration Program grant to do a stormwater master plan for a problem area near Washington Street, focused on Green Infrastructure retrofit-

ting. They will be working with Watershed Consulting Associates LLC on this project. The City of Vergennes has received a Strong Connections, Better Communities (SCBC) grant from VTRANS and DHCD for a complete street master plan, making better connects between their downtown with the Basin area. The Town of Addison received a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) for a town plan update, with a focus on community outreach. Waltham also received a MPG for a plan update. Monkton is working with ACRPC staff on a scenic analysis study and will be seeking community input and employing GIS mapping techniques to identify prominent natural and cultural features throughout their town.

Good luck to all these projects throughout this year and thanks to everyone involved!

## Commission Calendar

March 2015

11	7:30pm	Full Commission Mtg.
18	7:00pm	TAC mtg.
19	5:30pm	VECAN Addison County Energy Roundtable
25	6:30pm	Executive Board Mtg.

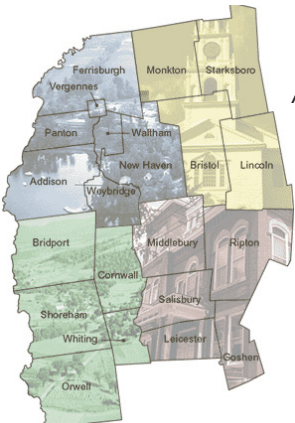
Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.

## Vermont DEMHS EMD Information

For the 2nd year in a row, the Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) will be hosting a series of ice jam/spring flood summits across the state in the first part of March. The purpose of the meetings is to update city and town officials on the local flood outlook, and to review state resources that are available before, during and after a flooding event or other disaster. The meetings will be geared toward local and public officials.

The following partners will give presentations: National Weather Service regarding seasonal conditions and ice jam and flooding prospects; Vermont Agency of Transportation; Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding a new on-line reporting system for Emergency Protective Measures and technical assistance availability; Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) re-

*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.*



Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
14 Seminary Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
Phone: 802.388.3141  
Fax: 802.388.0038

garding the State Watch Officer Program, DisasterLan, Local Emergency Operations Plans, etc.

Municipalities that cannot send a representative, yet would like more information on the spring ice jam/flood outlook, can contact DEMHS at (800) 347-0488.

The meetings closest to Addison County will be as follows:

Waterbury: Monday, March 9, 2015. State Emergency Operations Center, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury - 1pm to 3pm.

Mendon: Thursday, March 12, 2015. VTrans District 3 office, 61 Valley View, Mendon (just off Route 4) - 1pm to 3pm.

Essex Junction: Friday, March 13, 2015. Vermont Fish and Wildlife, 111 West Street - 1pm to 3pm.

## **2015 Communities Caring for Canopy Grants Announced**

\$40,000 is available in 2015 for the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program's Communities Caring for Tree Canopy Grants. These grants should be considered seed money to help communities care for tree canopy by taking the necessary actions to developing and sustaining a community wide tree program. These grants allow for multiple program components (e.g., tree planting, tree inventory, tree maintenance, plan development, public outreach and program development) to be merged into one grant application for ease and flexibility. Proposals are due April 10, 2015. Don't miss this opportunity and invest in the future of your community's trees.

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/financial-technical-assistance/vermont-urban-community-forestry-grants>

## **Flood Ready Vermont**

Is your community flood ready?

In July 2014, the State of Vermont launched its "Flood Ready Vermont" webpage intended for state and local officials, communities and other individuals interested in flood resiliency issues and resources. The Flood Ready Vermont webpage provides access to a wealth of these resources and allows you to, among other things, get community data on river corridors and flood risk, qualify for more post-disaster funding from ERAF, access resources for flood resilience planning and problem solving, find out what other communities have done, and share ideas and information with other community leaders. Flood Ready Vermont has lots of useful information for community leaders and planners under a variety of categories, including: Community Reports, Vermont Flood Ready Atlas, Update Your Plans, Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF), ERAF Summary Report, Making IT Happen, and Get Help.

To find out what steps your community can take to become flood resilient, qualify for post-disaster funds through ERAF, or access the plethora of resources provided, please visit:

[www.floodready.vermont.gov](http://www.floodready.vermont.gov).

You can also access Flood Ready Vermont through ACRPC's webpage at: <http://acrpc.org/programs-services/emergency-management/>

## **Middlebury Walk & Roll to School Day!**

Middlebury Safe Routes to School recently held a Walk & Roll to School day on Wednesday, March 4th. Students enjoyed a "Winter Walk" in a variety of ways. Students had the chance to walk to or from school, during recess, or with teachers/staff as a class during the day. The event was designed to teach the rules of the road as they apply to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, as well as encourage the health and other benefits of walking or biking to school. Stay tuned for future "Walk & Roll" days, typically held on the first Wednesday of each month.

# Events/Grants

## **VPA 2015 Call for Award Nominations**

The Vermont Planners Association (VPA) is seeking nominations for their 2015 awards. Award recipients can be nominated by a wide range of people including citizens, planners and other officials. Criteria under which a nominee should be considered for a specific award are distributed each year. This year, the categories are: Plan of the Year, Citizen Planner of the Year, Citizen Board of the Year, and Professional Planner of the Year. The deadline for all submissions is March 20th. Feel free to contact Polly McMurtry with any questions or for assistance with your submission at: [pmcmurtry@madriver.com](mailto:pmcmurtry@madriver.com) or [polly.mcmurtry@gail.com](mailto:polly.mcmurtry@gail.com)

The Criteria and relevant Forms can be accessed here: <http://www.vermontplanners.org/awards-recognition/award-criteria/>

## **SOUL Tree Stewards Program Registration**

The Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) Tree Steward Program trains stewards and advocates for the trees, forests, and green spaces in which we live, work, and play. Course topics include tree biology, health, and identification, tools for assessing and understanding trees in your community, and the components of a vibrant urban/community forestry program. With 15 years of course offerings and more than 400 program participants, this educational and leadership training is a great opportunity for engaged Vermont citizens.

SOUL is offered by the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, a joint initiative of University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation. The program includes four Wednesday evening classes and one full-day Saturday class, all offered in-person at the Middlebury UVM Extension office. Participants are expected to attend all five classes.

When: Every Wednesday from March 18th and April 8th, 5:30-8:00pm and Saturday, April 18th, 9:00am-4:00pm

Where: Middlebury UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond

Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury, VT

Cost: \$60

Registration details: Registration fee covers guest speakers, program materials, and lunch on the Saturday session. Registration limited to 25 participants. For more information and to register visit: <http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org/get-involved/tree-stewards/2015-soul-program-information>

## **Addison County Regional Energy Roundtable**

In partnership with the ACRPC and local energy committees, the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) is convening a regional energy roundtable on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30pm in the ACRPC conference room. The gathering provides a space for dialogue around regional challenges and opportunities, and will feature a variety of presentations, which include VNRC's Johanna Miller on recently completed community solar resources, Roland Marx on the success of the Boardman Hill Community-Owned Solar Farm, and Vermont Law School Energy Clinic on community-owned solar project models. A legislative update on the proposed Renewable Portfolio Standard and other energy-related state policy will also be provided.

## **Riverwatch Training in Middlebury**

A training for Addison County river monitors will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 8:00-11:00am at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. The Addison County River Watch Collaborative has been working for over 20 years to monitor the quality of area rivers, streams and creeks. Volunteers collect water samples – which then go to the Vermont D.E.C. laboratory – once a month from April to September.

Sample days are usually one Wednesday morning per month (about 7:00-9:30) during spring & summer. We welcome volunteers to help sample on the Otter Creek, Middlebury River, Lemon Fair River, New Haven River, Lewis Creek, and Little Otter Creek. If you have an interest in the health and wellbeing of our local watersheds, and would like to assist in collecting samples, please join us for this training session. Local

# Events/Grants

Bagels & Coffee will be served. For more information, call or email coordinator Matthew Witten at: (802)434-3236 or mwitten@gmavt.net.

## **Vermont Weather, Climate & Climate Change Roundtable**

Please save the date for the first ever Vermont Weather, Climate and Climate Change Roundtable to be held on Tuesday, March 31st, 2015. The day will start at 8:30am with welcome remarks by Dr. Richard Galbraith (Vice-President for Research at the University of Vermont) and Mr. Tom Berry of Senator Leahy's Office.

The format of the Roundtable will be panels of State/Local and Federal partners addressing priority issues related to extreme precipitation/emergency management, human health and agriculture/forestry. Participants will have the unique opportunity to learn about new or "in the works" tools at the federal level that could be brought to bear on current or projected challenges across the state. We anticipate that the majority of attendees will be practitioners of weather, climate and climate change information and tools.

An advanced level Climatology and Natural Hazards class at UVM is working to support this Roundtable in the longer-run as well. This is in response to the need for an ongoing, sustained effort around the awareness of and use of climate-related content and tools as well as geo-visualization in operational and planning scenarios. Specifically, the class is working with the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security around Critical Infrastructures well as climate-related inputs to the next State Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is collaborating with the USGS and National Weather Service on the implementation of the Flood Inundation Tool for Lake Champlain that you'll hear about on the 31st. Finally, all of this work will feed into a case study of lessons learned to be highlighted on the US Climate Resilience Toolkit.

Details on the location, agenda etc. will follow shortly. For additional information, please contact Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, Professor & VT State Climatologist, University of Vermont at: (802) 656-2146 or ldupigny@uvm.edu

## **"Embrace the Roundabout" Workshop**

This one-day workshop focuses on the all-modes "intersection safety belt" conducted by American pioneer roundabout designer and researcher Mark T. Johnson, PE. Johnson works regularly with local governments and communities through the public meetings and hearings it takes to bring new technology to fruition, change that increases vastly both safety and service to our streets and highways for all who walk, bike or travel by motor vehicle. Workshop topics include: (1) ABSs of Roundabout Design, (2) Recent Design Developments, (3) Intersection Case Analyses (including one or more from Burlington), (4) Gaining Public Acceptance and Support, and (5) Other topics such as land use and economic benefits, traffic calming, scenic quality, and roundabout corridors.

Location: Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

Time: Sign-in from 8:00-8:45AM, Workshop from 8:45AM-4:00PM.

Online Registration:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/7rqmc9/4W>

# Events/Grants

## **WNRCD's Annual Tree and Trout Sales!**

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) announces that the 32nd Annual Tree and Shrub Sale will be held on April 25th, 2015! Pre-orders are due March 23rd. See the Tree Sale Brochure to Order:  
<http://winooskinrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-Tree-Sale-Brochure.pdf>

WNRCD is also hosting a Spring Trout Sale. Orders will be taken until April 10th. Smaller fish must be picked up on April 29th between 4:30 and 6:00 PM in Waterbury, Vermont. Larger fish will be delivered directly to ponds that same day.

WNRCD is committed to offering this sale as a way to promote the planting of trees and shrubs throughout Vermont's landscape. Furthermore, it is a fundraiser for the Winooski NRCD. Funds raised from the Tree and Trout Sales enable them to bring workshops, educational information, and high-quality conservation programs to the people in their District.

For more information about the Tree and Trout Sales, please contact Sophie Sauvé, WNRCD District Manager, [sophie@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:sophie@winooskinrcd.org) or visit their website: <http://winooskinrcd.org/tree-and-trout-sale-2015/>

## **2015 Sustainable Living Expo**

The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) and the Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op will present the 2015 Sustainable Living Expo on Saturday, April 11th at Middlebury Union High School, from 9:00am-4:00pm. The snow date is April 18th.

The Expo will feature over 50 exhibits and 24 workshops, as well as continuous music, children's programs, and local foods. The attendance fee is \$5 for adults, students, and children over 12, and \$2 for children under 12. There will be a variety of workshops in each of six areas: Local Food, Renewable Energy, Green Housing, Integrative Health, Empowered Communities, and Healthy Ecosystems.

## *Children's Renewable Energy Activities*

Children's Renewable Energy Activities will be offered throughout the day by the Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP), including hands-on generation stations where children can test solar panels, ride the energy bike to generate light; make pinwheels, and make circuits. There will be sailboat sail designing and wind racing, as well as building and testing "pet" solar cars. Children's programs are included in the attendance fee, courtesy of SunCommon.

## *Volunteers Wanted*

Help make the Sustainable Living Expo an enriching experience for everyone - become a Volunteer! There are lots of opportunities for helping out at the Expo, from setting up Friday night, greeting people at the front table, assisting exhibitors, monitoring workshops, directing traffic, and posting lawn signs. There are lots of benefits to being a Volunteer, too. You can get first-hand experience at event planning, meet new people, and have fun. You will also receive FREE admission, FREE coffee, and a FREE Expo t-shirt! Register here to be an Expo Volunteer: <http://acornvt.org/sle2015>