



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

November 2007

commission calendar

November	10 & 11	Disaster Animal Response Training Location: Norwich University Info: See page 4
	13 6:00 pm	National Forest - <i>Upper White River Integrated Resource Project</i> Open House Location: Hancock Town Hall
	14 7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	28 6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	30 8:00 am	Vermont Planning Conference Location: Vermont College & Union Institute, Montpelier Info: www.dhca.state.vt.us/planning_conference.htm
December	4 1 to 4 pm	Fair Housing Training Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury Info: see this page
	4 7:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	12 7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	13 7:00 pm	Flood Prevention and Management Location: Vt. Interactive TV Site Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury Info: www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/
	19 7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	TBD	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting

Meetings are open to the public.

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

For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Fair Housing Training

Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 1 pm to 4 pm
Via Video Conference at ACRPC Office
14 Seminary Street, Middlebury

Designed for realtors, lenders, affordable housing developers, property managers, and municipal officials, this workshop will:

- provide an introduction to Vermont and federal fair housing laws;
- discuss the current regulatory barriers to fair housing choice in Vermont;
- examine the legal requirements impacting municipal zoning practices;
- review available tools that enable municipalities to comply with those requirements; and
- explore planning concepts designed to encourage the development of affordable housing.

All municipalities receiving community development grants from the Vermont Community Development Program must now complete a Fair Housing Training as a condition of funding. Any municipality dealing with issues such as affordable housing, group homes, residential care facilities, requests for accessibility modifications, or seeking VCDP funding, cannot afford to miss this workshop.

To register contact Jeff Owen at 388-3141.

Presented by:

Robert Appel: Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Garrett Baxter: Senior Associate, Municipal Assistance Center, VT League of Cities and Towns (VLCT)

Ted Wimpey, Director, Coordinated Statewide Housing Services of Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)

Chip Sawyer, Senior Land Use Planner, Lamoille County Planning Commission

Safe Routes to School

2007 Grant Awards

Bristol, Middlebury, and New Haven were each recently awarded 2007 VTrans Safe Routes to School Program grants for infrastructure projects aimed at increasing walkability for their communities' school children.

Bristol will receive \$67,000 to conduct a feasibility study of Pine Street and Devino Lane bike and pedestrian improvements, school traffic circulation, and a shared use path connecting Lover's Lane to downtown. Bristol was also awarded funding to design and construct 425 feet of sidewalk along West Pleasant Street.

Middlebury was awarded \$10,700 to conduct a feasibility study of pedestrian and bicycle access within a 2 mile radius of the Middlebury Schools.

New Haven will receive \$42,800 to design and construct 160 feet of new sidewalk from North Street to the Beeman School entrance.

These infrastructure grants complement ongoing wellness programs and bike and pedestrian safety training at Mary Hogan, Beeman, and Bristol Elementary Schools. Each of the schools hosts Walk to School Days, sponsors bicycle safety trainings, and encourages students to walk and bicycle to school with incentive programs. For more information about bringing the Safe Routes to School program to your community contact Amy Diller at ACRPC.

ACRPC Brownfields Program is Making Progress

ACRPC's Brownfields Program is gaining momentum as it begins its second year. Over the last 9 months, ACRPC has worked with the Vermont Elks Association to conduct assessment work at Silver Towers Camp in Ripton. ACRPC is pleased to be able to assist the Elks in their redevelopment efforts at Silver Towers, a one or two-week residential camp for exceptional people ages six to seventy who are physically and mentally challenged.

In October, 15 Underground Storage Tanks were excavated, cleaned, and removed from the property through the Brownfields Program. ATC, Inc, the environmental consulting firm working on the project, has installed monitoring wells at the site and will begin planning any necessary treatment after determining the extent of the contamination.

Two additional properties have recently entered ACRPC's Brownfields Program. Phase 1 Assessment work will soon be underway for redevelopment projects in Middlebury and downtown Vergennes.

ACRPC's Brownfields Program provides research and technical assistance to property owners and potential purchasers with questions or concerns about contamination at a site. The program can cover costs associated with site investigation to determine the type and extent of contamination and to plan remediation. Please contact Amy Diller at ACRPC for additional information.

Reorganization of the Agency of Natural Resources

The Agency of Natural Resources is in the process of preparing for a reorganization. Task Forces will be making presentations of their recommendations in early November. For more information please visit: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/cfm/tvwf/>

Written comments can be submitted from Nov. 6 through Nov. 30, 2007 to:

Laura Pelosi, ANR Director of Policy Research and Planning
ANR - Center Building
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-0301

or by email to: ANR.ReOrg@state.vt.us

The task force presentations will be held at the Waterbury American Legion, 16 Stowe Street, Waterbury. The remaining dates and times are:

- *Nov. 9 from 11:30 am to 4:15 pm
- *Nov. 13 from 12:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Northwest Vermont Project Website Available

The Northwest Vt. Project, which began in 2003, was a collaborative effort to study growth and development in northwestern Vermont as it relates to the region's transportation infrastructure. The final products are now available on the project's website: www.transportation-landuse.org.

Vermont Watershed Grants Program

Vermonters have an opportunity to protect and restore watersheds through the Vermont Watershed Grants program. Half of the proceeds from Vermont Conservation License Plate sales fund the new Vermont Watershed Grants program which distributes grants for local and regional water-related projects in Vermont. Funds are available for water-related projects that:

- Protect or restore fish and wildlife habitats;
- Protect or restore water quality, and shorelines;
- Reduce phosphorus loading and/or sedimentation as part of Clean & Clear objectives;
- Enhance recreational use and enjoyment;
- Identify and protect historic and cultural resources;
- Educate people about watershed resources; or
- Monitor fish and wildlife populations and/or water quality.

Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups are eligible to receive Watershed Grants for work on public or private lands. Individuals and state and federal agencies are not eligible to receive funds directly, but may be partners of a project.

Funding Categories

Watershed Mini-Grant: \$200 to \$1,000 awards. Mini-grants are intended for small projects, or for discreet, identifiable portions of larger projects.

Watershed Grant: \$1,000 to \$6,000 grant awards. Grants are intended for complete

projects or for discreet, identifiable portions of larger projects.

Grant awards are made on an annual cycle, with applications due in the fall of the year and funding decisions made the following mid-winter. The 2008 Project Year grant applications are now available.

For more information and to download an application visit http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/html_lp_watershedgrants.htm.

Sustainable Community Grants

Funded by the USDA, the Sustainable Community grants program seeks innovative proposals on how to solve problems specific to agricultural and rural development, and in particular proposals that provide models of how to engage agriculture in sustainable rural development. Grants are capped at \$10,000, although the entire budget for the project can exceed \$10,000 through matching and in-kind funds.

Sustainable Community Grants are primarily for nonprofit organizations and community development group, although other institutions and agricultural organizations—a farming cooperative, Cooperative Extension, or a town planning board, for example—may also apply.

Proposals must be postmarked by **November 27, 2007**, and sent to Northeast SARE, 655 Spear Street, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0107. Faxed or e-mailed proposals not accepted. For more information, visit www.uvm.edu/~nesare/grants_scomm.htm.

Grant Management Workshop December 5, 2007

The Vermont Municipal Advisory Commission (VMAC) is holding a Grants Management Workshop at Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph on December 5th from 10:00-12:00 pm.

This will be the first of several brief sessions put on by VMAC in order to provide assistance to towns, non-profit groups and State and local employees with regard to various financial and programmatic aspects of grants management. It will be especially helpful to anyone who deals with grant management including town clerks, treasurers, other municipal and state employees, as well as non-profit groups.

Location: Old Dorm Lounge, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center

Time: 10 AM – Noon

Cost: \$20, includes lunch

Please contact John Cushing at: 802-893-4111 if you are interested in attending this workshop.

Affordable Housing Grants

Enterprise Community Partners offers grants to help cover the costs of planning and implementing green components of affordable housing developments. Non-profits, public housing authorities, and for-profits are eligible to apply. For more information, visit www.greencommunitiesonline.org and select “funding”.

Municipal Energy Coordinator Listserv Launched

ACRPC is pleased to announce a new listserv for Vermont Municipal Energy Coordinators. Others interested in municipal energy issues in Vermont, including Energy Committees, local and regional planners, Selectboard members, Conservation Commissions, and state staff are also encouraged to join.

We hope that the listserv serves as a useful tool in giving Energy Coordinators and others an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and best practices, and discuss current issues.

To join the list, go to the list's archives page at <http://list.uvm.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=VTENERGYCOORDS> and click on "Join or Leave VTENERGYCOORDS". Once you have joined, you can send a message to everyone on the list by sending an email to vtenergycoords@list.uvm.edu.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you think would be interested. For more information about listservs, visit <http://www.uvm.edu/ets/listserv/>.

If you have any questions or comments, email Jeff Owen at jowen@sover.net or call him 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.

Addison County Transit Resources Anniversary Celebration

ACTR is turning 15 this year and has designed a month-long celebration to raise awareness of ACTR and transportation alternatives in Addison County as well as to thank frequent riders, community organizations, local businesses and individual supporters for their support.

A variety of events and programs will take place including the launch of the ACTR Frequent Rider Card, redeemable for an ACTR Tote Bag or an ACTR Travel Mug during November and December or while supplies last. Four local businesses will accept completed ACTR Frequent Rider Cards including: Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury for ACTR Tote Bags; Carol's Hungry Mind in Middlebury, Three Squares in Vergennes and Bristol Bakery in Bristol for ACTR Travel Mugs.

Events include:

November 1 to December 31: Frequent Rider Card Program kicks off - Frequent Rider Cards to be distributed on all bus routes beginning Nov. 1, 2007.

November 1 to November 30th: Volunteer Driver Recruitment - Current volunteer drivers or staff who successfully refer a new volunteer driver will get an ACTR tote bag along with the regular sign up bonus of \$25.

Saturday, December 1, 5 pm to 9:30 pm - American Flatbread Benefit Bake (open to the public): \$4 for every flatbread sold (in the restaurant or takeout!) will be donated to ACTR.

Staff Member Jeff Owen Moving to Virginia

Jeff Owen and ACRPC are sorry to announce that he will be leaving at the end of the year. Jeff and his wife Csilla have decided to relocate to the Washington D.C. area where he will be enrolled at Virginia Tech's Alexandria campus for a Masters Degree in International Affairs. When you see Jeff over the next few weeks, please take some time to thank him for the work he has accomplished in his time here and wish him good luck in his new pursuits.

Rescuing Animals When Disaster Strikes

Disaster Animal Response Training
November 10 and 11 at 9 a.m.
At Northfield Armory
at Norwich University

The two-day workshop offers an introduction to helping pets and livestock caught in a crisis. Some of the topics will include incident command system, planning for communities, animal facilities, and individuals, animal handling, legal issues and setting up operating temporary emergency animal shelters.

There are an estimated 176,000 dogs, 200,000 cats and 30,000 birds in Vermont homes. A poll conducted by Zogby International found that 61 percent of pet owners would not evacuate their homes knowing their pets wouldn't be able to evacuate with them.

Co-sponsored by The Vermont Local Emergency Planning Committee, instructors from The Humane Society of the United States' Disaster Services Team. Contact Pepper Ballard at 301-258-1417 or pballard@humanesociety.org for more information.