



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

october 2004

commission calendar

OCTOBER	12	7:30 p.m. Chpt. 117 Workshop Location: Ripton Town Office
	13	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni, Middlebury Coll.
	14	7:00 p.m. VIT Interactive Workshop Info: www.vlct.org/calendar/index.cfm
	19	1:00 p.m. HUD Consolidated Plan Hearing Location: Paramount Theatre, Rutland Info: www.dhca.state.vt.us/Housing/
	25	7:00 p.m. Chpt. 117 Workshop Location: Bridport Community Building
	26	7:00 p.m. Chpt. 117 Workshop Location: Howden Hall, Bristol
	27	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 7:00 p.m. Chapt. 117 Workshop Location: Vergennes Fire Station
NOVEMBER	10	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBA
	17	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Location: ACRPC Office
	24	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Chapter 117 Education and Training

In September, ACRPC began Chapter 117 education for local boards and zoning administrators in the region. That effort is continuing in October.

Reviews of Current/Draft Regulations: ACRPC staff has or will review all adopted zoning and subdivision regulations in its member municipalities. As a result each town should receive a memo detailing how the changes to the state statute have immediately impacted local regulations and what changes will take affect as of September of 2005. If you would like a copy of the memo for your community, please contact the ACRPC staff person assigned to your municipality.

For communities that have regulations in draft form, ACRPC can also review those and determine what changes will be required to comply with the new law. If you have not done so already, please contact the ACRPC staff person assigned to your community to discuss any regulations drafted but not adopted, or currently being written.

117 Training Sessions: In October, ACRPC will be hosting four training sessions around the region for local board members and zoning administrators. These workshops will provide an introduction to some of the important changes to state law and will be an opportunity to ask questions. Anyone interested in learning more about Chapter 117 is welcome to attend whichever session is most convenient. The four workshops will be held:

- Tues., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Town Office
- Mon., Oct. 25, 7:00 p.m., Bridport Community Bldg.
- Tues., Oct. 26, 7:00 p.m., Howden Hall, Bristol
- Wed., Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m., Vergennes Fire Station

Staff Assigned to Municipalities: An ACRPC staff member has been assigned to each municipality in the region. If you have questions regarding Chapter 117 changes, please contact us and ask for the staff person listed for your town.

- Adam: Bristol, Leicester, Monkton, Vergennes and Waltham
- Brandy: Bridport, Cornwall, Orwell, Salisbury and Shoreham
- Kevin: Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, New Haven and Ripton
- Tim: Goshen, Weybridge and Whiting
- Garrett: Addison and Starksboro
- Nell: Pantton

Meetings are open to the public.
Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Structures Inventory Requests

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has allocated funding again this year to complete structures inventories for interested towns on a first-come, first-served basis.

To request an inventory, or for further information call Garrett Dague at 388-3141.

Zoning Administrator Training

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be holding a day-long workshop for zoning administrators on October 7 at the Cortina Inn in Mendon.

For more information contact VLCT at (800) 649-7915 or www.vlct.org/calendar/index.cfm.

Planning & Zoning Workshops

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be holding another series of planning and zoning workshops for local officials. This year's workshops discuss topics such as conducting effective meetings and hearings, compliance with Chapter 117 revisions, conflicts of interest, rules of procedure, and downtown development.

For more information contact VLCT at (800) 649-7915 or www.vlct.org/calendar/index.cfm.

Transportation Meeting

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is in the process of developing its Transportation Program for submission to the legislature in January 2005. As part of that process we will be holding five regional meetings in cooperation with the regional planning commissions, to solicit input from members of the public.

One of the meetings will be October 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Middlebury at the Courtyard Marriot Hotel.

The Secretary of Transportation, along with key staff members, plans on attending these meetings and is looking forward to talking with a broad cross section of the public on transportation matters.

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.

Farmers Invited to Water Quality Forum

Farmers and the agricultural community are invited to attend a basin planning forum to discuss agricultural issues in the Otter Creek Watershed.

Recently, natural resource managers have organized to initiate the basin planning process for the Otter Creek Watershed, the end result being a water quality management plan for the watershed.

This plan will address nonpoint source pollution from urban (stormwater) runoff, residential/suburban runoff, and runoff from the working landscape. The plan will include strategies that seek to protect high quality waters and improve those waters that consistently do not meet Vermont Water Quality Standards.

As part of the planning process, the agricultural community is invited to his initial meeting to discuss agricultural issues pertaining to water quality, and provide input and comments on the process. The forum will feature a panel discussion by federal, state, and local officials.

Likely topics include nutrient management planning, eligibility for federal and state cost-share programs, permitting requirements for Medium Farm Operations (MFOs), riparian area management, impaired waters in the basin, and agricultural accomplishments in the Otter Creek Watershed.

This agricultural forum is first in a series of public forums to identify goals, objectives, and strategies to include in the Otter Creek Basin Plan.

Initial public forums held this spring throughout Addison County identified the following issues and concerns pertaining to agriculture: riparian buffers, compensation for land taken out of production, livestock exclusion from surface waters, phosphorus loading to Otter Creek and Lake Champlain, manure management, and regulations that affect medium and small farm operations.

The Agricultural Forum will take place on Monday, October 18th at the Bridport Community Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A lunch will be provided by area feed dealers.

ACRPC, the Otter Creek Natural Resource Conservation District, the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the Addison County Office of the USDA-NRCS are sponsoring this forum.

The forum is free, but an RSVP is appreciated. Please contact Nell Fraser, ACRPC Watershed Planner at 802-388-3141, nfraser@sover.net or Ethan Swift, ANR Watershed Planner at 802-747-5070, ethan.swift@anr.state.vt.us

Recreation Trails Grants Program

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has announced its 2005 Recreation Trails Grant Program. Approximately \$300,000 is available.

Municipalities, schools and non-profits organizations are eligible to apply. There is a 20 percent match requirement, which can be cash or in-kind.

There are three categories of grants: construction, education and publication, and planning. Eligible projects include:

- Maintenance on existing trails.
- Restoration of areas damaged by use of trails.
- Development of trail-side and trailhead facilities.
- Provision of features which facilitate

access by people with disabilities.

- Construction of new trails.
- Purchase of hand tools for trail work.
- Pre-implementation planning including inventories, route analysis, exploration of permitting and clearances, and landowner contact.
- Printing of trail maps.

Mini-grants for up to \$500 are also available for small-scale projects, with no match requirements.

Applications are due by Friday, January 14, 2005. A grant workshop will be held via interactive TV the evening of November 5. For more information go to www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation or contact Sherry Smecker at (802) 241-6353.