



ACRPC

update

september 2004

commission calendar

SEPTEMBER	8	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Vergennes Fire Hall
	15	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Comm. Location: ACRPC Office
	20	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Final Draft Wrap-Up
	23	9:00 a.m. ZA Quarterly Meeting Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Chapter 117 Q&A
	29	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
OCTOBER	13	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni, Middlebury Coll.
	19	1:00 p.m. HUD Consolidated Plan Hearing Location: Paramount Theatre, Rutland Info: www.dhca.state.vt.us/Housing/
	27	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Chapter 117 Education and Training

In September, ACRPC will begin Chapter 117 education for local boards and zoning administrators in the region.

Reviews of Current/Draft Regulations: ACRPC staff is currently reviewing all adopted zoning and subdivision regulations in its member municipalities. A memo will be prepared for each municipality detailing how the changes to the state statute have immediately impacted local regulations and what changes will take affect as of September of 2005. These memos will be sent to chairs of selectboards, planning commission, boards of adjustment and development review boards. They will also be sent to the zoning administrator for each municipality. Expect to see those around the second week of September.

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.

Zoning Administrator Meeting: ACRPC will host the first of what we hope will become quarterly meetings for local zoning administrators. That meeting will be Thursday, September 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the ACRPC office. The format will be an open Q&A on Chapter 117.

117 Training Sessions: In October, ACRPC will be hosting four training sessions around the region for local board members and zoning administrators. Dates, times and locations for these meetings have yet to be set. Look for further information on those meetings next month.

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: Panton

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

Grants for Town or Village Centers

Vermont municipalities seeking to study the feasibility of restoring property located in a town or village center may apply for grants up to \$10,000 under a new grant program recently announced by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Activities may include environmental assessments, building conditions analysis, corrective action planning, cost estimating, engineering or other professional evaluation of land, buildings or property infrastructure components required to ascertain the suitability of the property for renovation, construction, or utilization for a specific purpose. Grant recipients are required to provide a 25 percent match.

Applications are available from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs with a submission deadline of September 10. Selection of successful grant applications will be made by the Commissioner of DHCA in consultation with the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources.

Eligible applicants are municipalities, however, municipalities can apply on behalf of a property owner. Priority will be given to projects located within designated downtown or village centers. Other key criteria include overall feasibility, new tax revenue potential, the extent to which the project reduces development pressure, consistency with the town plan and demonstrated financial need.

For more information on the program contact Jim Saudade, Deputy Commissioner of DHCA at 802-828-5200 or email jim.saudade@state.vt.us .

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.

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.

Vermont DEC River Corridor Request Funded

ACRPC is pleased to announce that we have been chosen as a recipient of River Corridor Grant funding stemming from the State's Clean and Clear Initiative.

ACRPC has been active through Project Impact and other funding sources in getting Phase I geomorphic assessments completed on the Lewis Creek, New Haven River, Middlebury River, and the Neshobe River in Goshen. For this round, targeted at completing these basic assessments, ACRPC requested enough funding to complete Phase I work for the region's remaining watersheds.

Due to statewide demand for similar projects,

funding was limited. Instead, ACRPC was awarded \$14,860 to complete assessments on the Leicester River and, in cooperation with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, the entire mainstem of the Otter Creek.

In a second round request, designed to fund development of projects, ACRPC is preparing a proposal to work on an unstable section of the New Haven River near Bristol's Sycamore Park. The funding, if approved, will pay for development of a corridor management plan and cooperative landowner efforts to limit future damages along this section of the river.

Grants Awarded to Region Fire Departments

FEMA has announced the award of over \$50,000 to two area fire departments for the purchase of firefighting equipment designed to increase firefighter safety.

The New Haven Volunteer Fire Department was awarded \$14,324 and the Whiting Volunteer Fire Department was awarded \$40,419 in the early rounds of this \$750 million nationally competitive grant.

Many local departments have been recipients from this annual grant in past years but this is the first award for each of these departments.

With almost \$600 million left to be awarded this year, departments around the region can likely expect additional funding. When coupled with Homeland Security funding from the State of Vermont, the region's first responders continue to build capacity they only dreamed of.

Mobile Command Post Arriving in September

The Addison County Emergency Planning Committee has received word that the Mobile Command Post partially funded through Project Impact is finally complete and scheduled to arrive in the region on September 2.

Set to be housed at the new Middlebury Police Complex, this vehicle is the result of long fundraising efforts by Chief Tom Hanley of Middlebury and is supported by many local organizations as well as the town itself.

The vehicle will be available for the use of any local first response organization for the coordination of large or long duration incidents. The command post, once delivered, will be quite visible throughout the region as local first response agencies get their first look at it and begin to test its capability.

Once in its new home, local responders will be recruited to train in its operation. Any group interested viewing and potentially training on this new vehicle is encouraged to call Tim Bouton at ACRPC 388-3141 or Chief Tom Hanley at 388-3191

Bike and Pedestrian Program Grants Announced

The 2004 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program applications have been distributed to all selectboard and planning commission chairs. This year, VTrans has allocated up to \$2 million for project construction, which can include design and acquisition of right of way. For a project to qualify, a feasibility study or conceptual alignment analysis (CAA) must have already been completed.

Applications are to be submitted to VTrans by Friday, October 1, 2004. Municipalities are responsible for a 10 percent match.

AC RPC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is required to submit two priority projects to VTrans. For municipalities that plan on submitting an application, a letter-of-intent needs to be submitted to the RPC by September 8, 2004. For questions or comments regarding the application process, please contact Garrett Dague at 388-3141.