

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

Location: Addison County Regional Planning Commission office, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT

Members Present:

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh:	Shoreham: Karen Shackel
Goshen:	Starksboro: Jan Mcleery
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski
Lincoln: Will Sipse, Chair	Waltham:
Middlebury: Liv Herdman	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	

Staff: Mike Winslow

Guest: Ginger Nickerson (UVM Extension), Chris Olson (Ad. Co. Forester)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of May 15, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Karen, Seconded by Tom. Three changes were made to the draft minutes: It was noted that the vote on the resolution regarding the 22A truck study passed by voice vote, and two minor typographical errors were corrected.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – Ginger Nickerson (UVM Extension) and Chris Olson (Addison County Forester) provided information on the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle species that has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America. It's presence in a tree on North St. in Bristol, the first detection in Addison County, was confirmed earlier in June. Ginger gave an overview of the biology of the insect, the history of its spread in North America, the ash trees which it attacks, and potential municipal responses to infestations. The insect is native to Asia and first found in North America in Detroit in 2002. Females only disperse 1-3 miles per year, so the specie's rapid spread is likely due to movement of infested wood. Signs of infestation develop slowly, but 99.9% of infested ash trees die within 8-10 years. Ash trees comprise 5-7% of

Cancellations due to weather will be made for winter storm warnings and will be posted on the homepage of ACRPC's website at: <http://www.acrpc.org>

Vermont's forest, but can be up to 70% in some areas, and they are a significant component of our street trees. Evidence suggests we are just on the cusp of the invasion now. People who suspect they have seen an infected tree can upload photographs to vtinvasives.org. Municipalities should plan for how they will deal with infested trees in the right-of-way. Ash trees become especially brittle when infested such that force necessary to break a 1" diameter healthy branch will break a 5" diameter branch in an infested tree. The weakness can develop before visible signs of infestation appear. As a result, options for removing ash trees may be more limited and more expensive than anticipated due to the need for bucket trucks or other specialized equipment. Three general management approaches were identified: 1) Remove all ash in advance or treat with insecticides, an approach with high up-front costs, 2) Selectively manage ash trees by monitoring health and removing and replacing over time, which helps spread the costs, or 3) Delay management until trees are infested, which may be the most expensive option. Insecticides can protect trees from infestation but must be reapplied every 2-3 years. Purdue University has developed a cost calculator to help budget for infested tree management.

- Ginger shared links to two videos about the EAB.
 - A presentation to [Two Rivers RPC about EAB](#)
 - A webinar from the [Davey Tree Expert Company](#) about the dangers of working with infested ash
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - Bike/Ped Grants
 - Working with Vergennes, Middlebury, and Lincoln on applications
 - Federal Lands Access Program Projects FY20-FY22
 - Working with Lincoln on one or two applications
 - FY19 Grant-in-Aid Funding Project Status
 - Project Complete, Invoices in - 5
 - Project Complete, Awaiting Invoices - 4
 - Post-Construction Site Visit Scheduled - 7
 - Project Scheduled - 4
 - Unknown – 1
 - FY20 Grant-in-Aid Letters of Intent – Letters are due by July 3. Only about half of Addison County towns have submitted their letters at this time.
 - North Country Trail
 - A 2019 bill authorized an extension of the trail from the Crown Point Bridge to the Long Trail. There were no appropriations for the trail (at least in Vermont) in that bill.
 - MALT is the local group working on the Trail. They are focused on improving two connections: between Middlebury and the Long Trail in Ripton, and between the Snake Mountain Wildlife Management Area and Middlebury.

- The recommended path from the Crown Point Bridge to Snake Mountain is entirely on roads. However, this is an extremely under-utilized portion of the trail. MALT estimates fewer than 10 through hikers per year use this section.
 - TAC Study Grants
 - \$40,000 will be available. Request for applications will go out in early July
- Other Business/Roundtable - none
- Adjourn 7:45

Note: adopted meeting minutes are also available online at the ACRPC website under agendas and minutes. For your convenience, the latest version of the TAC Bylaws are linked here also: <http://www.acrpc.org/tac/>

UPCOMING GRANTS, DEADLINES, ETC.

June 28 - Deadline for Bike and Pedestrian Grants

August 30 – Deadline for Federal Lands Access Program Projects

2019 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

July No Meeting	October 16
August 21	November 20
September 18	December No Meeting

Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be scheduled for 6:30PM at the ACRPC office at 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT 05753, Telephone Number: (802) 388-3141