

ACRPC *update*

Good morning Commissioners and Friends:

April 2020

I write to you on a gray spring morning from the comfort and relative safety of my home office. I hope all of you are safe and well. Rather than doing a normal newsletter this month, I wanted us, your staff, to speak with you personally. I want you to know that we are grateful to be working on meaningful projects that will benefit all of us after these gray days of physical distancing end.

To that end, I have asked each staff member to share descriptions of the work they continue to perform on our collective behalf. For my part, I am learning new technology (slowly) for our ZOOM Commission meeting next week. I am putting together a program to aid our discussion about how ACRPC participates in improving Lake Champlain's water quality and whether applying to be a Clean Water Service Provider better serves the Commission and the Region. I am planning for the construction of new sidewalks linking neighborhoods, businesses and parks in Middlebury and Vergennes. I am helping the Towns of Bristol and Shoreham create subdivision regulations to support the land use development goals in their respective town plans. I am looking at a grant to plan for better regional broadband coverage. Lastly, I am learning to manage remotely.

I feel fortunate to work planning for our future. I hope that all of you can share in this sentiment. I look forward to continuing to learn, work and share with all of you next **Wednesday, April 8th**, via ZOOM conferencing (For now. Please see the Agenda for details and instructions), and into the foreseeable future. Please call or e-mail if ACRPC's staff can do anything for you. We will get back to you quickly. Stay safe and be well.

Yours,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director, ACRPC



ACRPC Staff Updates



Kevin Behm, Assistant Director & GIS Data Manager

In preparation for the office closure I have worked with the other staff to make sure they have the capability to work remotely from home. Sometimes this involved using different programs for different computer set-ups. In addition, not all of the staff were familiar with the Zoom program which allowed off-site meetings. At this point, the entire office has been functioning successfully from their homes. Pauline is currently calling-in on our conference line, but next week she will be able to receive emails as well. I have been communicating with the members of the Natural Resource Committee and today's meeting before this Commission meeting was not held since a water quality discussion is on the agenda. The Addison County River Watch Collaborative has also been instructed on using hosting remote meetings. Municipal mapping is continuing with zoning work for New Haven and Village Designation in Shoreham. If large format paper maps are needed, I will be scheduling time to print them as a group to limit my in-office time. Benton and I have also been completing the culvert uploads, including photos, to the state's website.

Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner

Transportation planning efforts at ACRPC continue during the office shutdown. Meetings have been transitioned to on-line venues including TAC, elderly and disabled transit, and meetings around TAC funded studies. The TAC was able to complete project prioritization during an on-line meeting in March. At the April meeting they will be hearing a presentation from Chittenden County Regional Planning about planning efforts around the I-89 corridor and any impacts such efforts might have on Addison County. We are working with consultants to develop on-line tools to gather public input for on-going projects including the tri-town bike loop and pedestrian access design studies in Bristol and Lincoln. A reminder to all towns that your annual Municipal Road General Permit compliance forms were due April 1. Contact Mike Winslow (Mwinslow@acrpc.org) if you have questions. Planning continues for the statewide Walk Bike Summit set to take place in Middlebury, but the event has been postponed until October 16 in the hopes that life will be more normal by then.

ACRPC Staff Updates

Andrew L'Roe

Emergency Management Planner

The COVID-19 outbreak has been a priority for all of us this month and will continue to be. I've been providing information to town municipal officials and Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) about the continuing COVID-19 outbreak, as well as regularly scheduled Local Emergency Management Plans and other tools to coordinate this response and think ahead to future ones. Our ACRPC COVID-19 webpage (<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/>) is being updated with relevant information, including links to the VT Department of Health and all the fantastic efforts being organized by local municipalities, emergency responders, and volunteer citizens. I and others here are taking part in multiple conference calls with state officials, fire departments, and local officials each week to stay up-to-date on changing resources, needs, and policies. The Local Emergency Planning Committee is running public health notices and supporting Porter Hospital in the Addison Independent. Reach out to me if you have needs!

Benton Wright

ECO Americorps Water Quality Planner

Water Quality efforts at the ACRPC have continued and I continue to serve from home. The Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative is working with the RPC to reorganize and restructure their sampling season while maintaining a responsible social distance. They are also going to take this lapse in regular programming to reorganize their section of the RPC webpage. Kevin and I are formatting and uploading Culvert Inventory data collected with Fulcrum to the state's database, VTCulverts. Outside of my water quality responsibilities I am creating a request for proposals template which could be used by any Addison County municipality or school district to solicit proposals for a Community Solar Array. I am also reaching out to various aid organizations such as Meals on Wheels in order to directly serve those in need during this difficult time.

Katie Raycroft Meyer

Community Planner

Throughout February and into the beginning of March, I completed final reviews of Town and Enhanced Energy Plans for Weybridge and Salisbury. Both communities did an excellent job at formulating and integrating these plans and were on track for regional approval. The Weybridge plan was regionally approved March 11 but the Salisbury public hearing for April 6 had to be postponed. In early March the communities of Vergennes and Monkton also submitted updated town plans and enhanced energy plans for review and regional approval. As we (the staff) become more proficient with video conferencing, specifically for public hearings, we will have a better sense as to how and when to schedule these meetings.

A priority for me during this time is to complete a draft of the updated Regional Population and Housing Plan. Over the last year, I have worked closely with the ACRPC Housing Committee to develop a clear set of Goals and Policies that address existing housing issues and support municipalities' work towards developing solutions in their communities. The committee's goal is to have a final draft by June.

Announcements

Agency of Commerce & Community Development Regional Priority Project list

Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) is seeking help from organizations to compile the Regional Priority Project list for Addison County. If you have a project such as **Infrastructure**, or **Workforce, Business, General Development** seeking funding or support, please complete a project form here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl_gfwYRdq8RmwE9Ntq345B1q4DBMO_fhdHNjluVo9FpOxvw/viewform

Please complete the form to the best of your ability by **4:00 p.m., Friday May 1, 2020.**

Fred Kenney, Executive Director of ACEDC, can be reached at fkenny@addisoncountyedc.org

Local Emergency Management Plans

<https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/lemp>

Municipalities should review and update their emergency plans annually and readopt them **before May 1** every year. Having a current LEMP is one of the requirements to receive post-disaster Emergency Relief Assistance Funding (ERAF) from the state.

For more, contact ACRPC Emergency Planner Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org, 802-388-3141

Tri-Town Bike Loop Feedback

The March Public Input Meeting on the tri-town bike loop was cancelled, but we are still asking for feedback on the project. Go to <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=41d3c98ddee74b85b898b527c1deae9e>

to review the project, and click the "Community Feedback" link to leave us your thoughts.



The 2020 Decennial US Census has begun!

The 2020 Census is underway and April 1 is Census Day– the date at which the government must try to get as accurate a count of the US population as possible. The most important thing you can do is respond online, by phone, or by mail when you receive your invitation. Responding now will minimize the need for the Census Bureau to send census takers out into communities to follow up. Look for your invitation to respond in the mail or at your door. For more info the 2020 Census, see:

<https://2020census.gov/>

Grants & Events

2020 Tiny Grant- Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions

<https://vtconservation.com/tiny-grants/>

Grant application due: April 10, 2020

To be eligible for an AVCC Tiny Grant (\$250 - \$600), groups must be Vermont Conservation Commissions or local committees/groups that are working towards becoming a Conservation Commission and are paid members of AVCC. Grantees will be notified of funding approval by **mid-May 2020**. Projects must be completed and a final report submitted by **May 7, 2020**.

Grant Goals:

- To assist local committees/groups to become Conservation Commissions
- To increase the functioning capacity of existing Conservation Commissions,
- To provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific projects in the broad categories of land conservation, education and outreach, stewardship and management, and planning.

For questions, contact vtconservation@gmail.com

Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership in Conservation & Smart Growth

<https://vnrc.org/awards/>

UPDATE: Nomination deadline now April 10

VNRC is now accepting nominations for the 2020 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership. VNRC solicits nominations each year in order to honor the people working on the challenge of integrating growth and conservation, and then celebrate that person's work with an award at the annual meeting.

For questions, please contact Kelsey Gibb, Operations Coordinator (802) 223-2328, x 126 or kgibb@vnrc.org

AARP "Quick-Action" Grants to Make Communities More Livable for People of All Ages

UPDATE: Applications due by May 15, 2020

AARP invites you to submit applications for quick-action projects that can help your community become more livable. Applications are now being accepted for grants to improve housing, transportation, public space, smart cities, civic engagement and more. Projects must be completed by November 9, 2020.

Applications must be submitted through www.aarp.org/communitychallenge

VTrans Structures and Class 2 Roadway Grants

The deadline for application for VTrans Structures and Class 2 Roadway Grants has been extended to **May 15**

VTrans Projects

The Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has determined that with the exception of one emergency project, all construction projects it provides funding for do not meet the criteria for being critical for public health, safety or national security that would qualify them as essential per Governor Scott's Executive Stay Home Stay Safe Order issued March 24th. This pertains to any construction project that VTrans is providing funding for, including grant projects. This determination also extends to VTrans' maintenance activities which are currently limited to winter snow and ice control, safety patrols and responding to necessary repairs that affect the safety of the traveling public. VTrans urges municipalities to consider using VTrans' direction on projects they are funding as guidance for interpreting what are essential services per Governor Scott's Executive Order.

Upcoming Calendar

| Date | Time | Event |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| Wed. April 1 | 3:00-4:30pm | Energy Roundtable with VT Energy Action Network via Zoom |
| Tues, April 7 | 5:30pm | “Essentials of Local Government” Training via Zoom |
| Wed. April 8 | 7:00pm | Full Commission Meeting via Zoom |
| Wed. April 15 | 6:30pm | TAC meeting via Zoom |
| Wed. April 22 | 6:30pm | ACRPC Executive Board via Zoom |

“Essentials of Local Government” training

On Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Adam Lougee, Executive Director, will be hosting an “Essentials of Local Government” training Via Zoom webhost. The Essentials training is geared toward new members of Local government, from Zoning Administrators, to Planning Commissions, Selectboards, Zoning Board or Development Review Boards. Adam will provide an overview of how local government is designed to work together. Adam will also provide information on the open meeting law, how it has changed in the wake of the Covid -19 Crisis and take questions on running efficient meetings. The meeting Zoom invitation is below. Please join Adam for a discussion about the roles and responsibilities of local government.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/846595493>; Meeting ID: 846 595 493

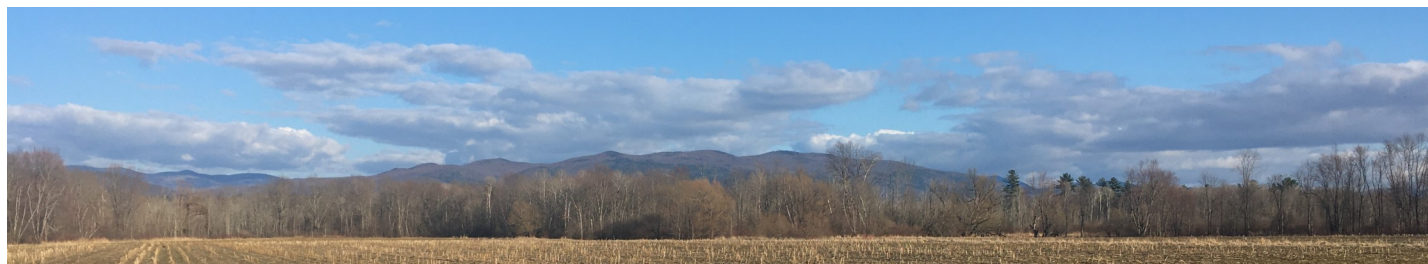
Dial by phone: +1 (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 846 595 493

Postponed Events

- (TBD) Salisbury Public Hearing on the Enhanced Energy Plan and Town Plan (previously April 6th)
- (TBD)– Bristol Town Plan open house (was April 7)
- To Oct. 16th- Walk-Bike Summit (previously May 8)

Cancelled Events

- April 9th- ICS 402 training at Cornwall Town Office
- April 25 & 26- Addison County Fire Association Regional Fire School



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.

The ACRPC office at 14 Seminary Street Middlebury is currently closed to the public. Digital calendar located at <http://acrpc.org/calendar/>