



ACRPC

update

February 2019

Commission Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Feb 11	12:00pm	Addison County Climate Action meeting
Feb 13	6:00pm	Natural Resources Committee meeting
Feb 13	7:00pm	Full Commission meeting
Feb 20	7:00pm	Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting
Feb 21	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) meeting
Feb 27	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public. Digital calendar located at <http://acrpc.org/calendar/>

State Designated Areas Workshops

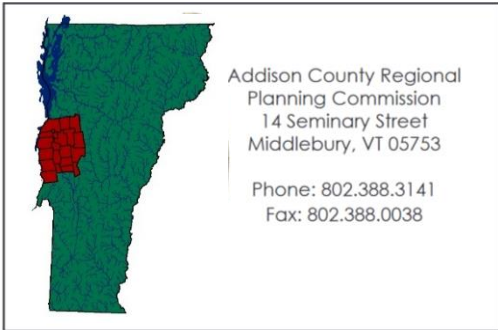
On **March 13th**, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be hosting two presentations on some of the benefits associated with State designated areas, like village centers, designated downtowns and new neighborhood development areas.

First, at 4:00 p.m. ACRPC and DHCD will conduct a more intensive workshop on Neighborhood Development Designation Areas, how to form them and the benefits associated with them. ACRPC encourages representatives of communities with water and/or wastewater infrastructure to attend this workshop since those communities already have most or all the resources to meet the designation requirements. Permitting benefits for new housing and mixed used development projects are available within the Neighborhood Development Area.

Second, as part of ACRPC's March Full Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. ACRPC and DHCD will conduct a more generalized workshop on the state designation programs and the benefits of each.

Both programs are open to the public and will take place at the office of ACRPC at 14 seminary Street in Middlebury. We hope that representatives of your communities will be able to join us for one or both of the workshops. We will send out more information regarding both workshops as the date grows closer.

Thank you and we hope to see you on March 13th!



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.

Events & Workshops

Vergennes Truck Study Results Release

There will be a public meeting on **Tuesday, April 2, 2019** at the Vergennes Opera House to review and discuss the draft final report on strategies to minimize the damage from truck traffic on Vergennes downtown. The meeting will start at 6PM with an informal opportunity to talk with the consultants, review the three options, and have personal questions addressed. A formal presentation will begin at 7PM followed by public comments.

The study considers three alternatives for alleviating the impacts of truck traffic: in-line changes to the existing 22A, construction of a by-pass around Vergennes, and use of Rt. 17 as an alternative truck route. The study considers benefits and costs of each alternative.

The report is being prepared by the consulting firm Stantec with funding provided by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and the Vermont Department of Transportation. The April 3 meeting follows a preliminary scoping meeting that took place in Vergennes on September 26, 2018.

The draft report will be available on the ACRPC website (<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/transportation/transportation-projects/>) in mid-February.

Local Government Day

<https://www.vlct.org/event/local-government-day>

Thursday, February 14, 2019 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Local Government Day in the Legislature is an annual event at the Vermont State House during February where local officials can learn about the status of pending legislation that affects local government, attend legislative hearings, and speak with their representatives and senators.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 07, 2019

Location: Capitol Plaza, 100 State Street
Montpelier, VT

Cost: \$45 VLCT Members

Event Coordinator: Lisa Goodell, (802) 229-9111, info@vlct.org

Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition (VHCC) Legislative Day

<https://www.vlt.org/vhcc/>

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

A day for housing and conservation supporters to champion the projects and values supported by Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) funding. Legislators need to hear from Vermonters doing the work on the ground about how VHCB-funded projects are helping solve some of Vermont's most pressing issues. Please join them at the State House on Tuesday, February 19 to deliver the message that it is important to continue funding VHCB.

Northern Border Regional Commission Funding Workshop

At the beginning of this year the Federal government expanded the jurisdiction of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) to include the entire State of Vermont (Previously, it served only the counties in the northern 1/3rd of the State). The mission of the NBRC is to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress and position the region for economic growth.

On **February 21, 2019**, the Addison County Economic Development Corporation and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission will host a workshop designed to explain the function of the NBRC and to prepare applicants for grant funding to submit competitive applications for funding within the coming year (Letters of intent to apply are due March 31st.) The meeting will be held at the office of the **Addison County Economic Development Corporation at 1590 Route 7 S, #8 Middlebury, Vermont at 10:00 a.m.**

This meeting is designed to help non-profits and municipalities (prospective applicants) with the application process. Tim Tierney, Director of Business Recruitment and International Trade at the Department of Economic Development will discuss the purpose of the NBRC, and the funding available to municipalities, non-profits and trade organizations. Mr. Tierney will answer questions regarding the application process and types of projects that have received funding recently. More specifically, he will review the grant scoring criteria, match requirements and timelines.

The target audience for this workshop consists of major not-for-profit organizations serving the Region, Municipalities with infrastructure projects on the docket (wastewater, water, broadband), Recreational or tourist areas, and trade organizations. More information on the NRBC is available at: <http://www.nbrc.gov/content/about>

People interested in attending should contact Fred Kenney of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation at 388-7953 or fkenny@addisoncountyedc.org

Financabilities:

Finding the Right Business Financing

<https://addisoncountyedc.org/services/events/financabilities-finding-the-right-business-financing>

Date: Friday, Feb 8, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce (ACCoC) are co-hosting this Business Finance Workshop. The schedule begins with registration and networking from 9-9:30 a.m. followed immediately by a panel on Finance Options. A presentation on local case studies of business financial growth will run from 10:45-11:45 a.m. with guests Colin Davis of

Shacksbury Cider and Sivan Cotel of Stonecutter Spirits. After lunch with speaker Cairn Cross of Fresh Tracks Capital speaking on "How to Stack Financing for a Successful Project," the workshop will conclude with speed-dating one-on-one conversations with panelists and other finance options including banks, credit unions, alternative finance institutions, equity and angel investors.

For more information and to register go to www.addisoncountyedc.org/register/1671

Price (Non Members): \$15

Location: 55 Collins Drive, Middlebury, VT

Email: info@addisoncountyedc.org

Grants & Funding

Downtown Transportation Fund Grants

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/downtown-transportation-fund>

Applications due March 11, 2019 and awards will be made in late April.

The Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) supports revitalization efforts in designated downtowns each year. In Addison County these include Bristol, Middlebury, and Vergennes. The DTF has available approximately \$525,000 to help municipalities make a variety of transportation-related capital improvements (within or serving the downtown district and supporting economic development). The maximum annual grant is \$100,000, and a 50% match is required. Projects may include, but are not limited to, streetscape improvements, parking facilities, bike and pedestrian paths, rail or bus facilities, utility relocation, way-finding signage, street lighting, and ADA access improvements. Funds may not be used for costs incurred prior to the grant award or general operating and maintenance costs such as repaving.

Clean Water Initiative Funding

This year the Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) has an additional \$100,000 in funding from the Agency of Natural Resources, Clean Water Initiative (CWI). DTF projects may apply for up to \$100,000 of “add on” clean water funding for eligible storm water implementation projects. A 50% match is required for these funds. Examples of eligible projects can be found on the Department of Environmental Conservation [Green Stormwater Infrastructure \(GSI\)](#) web page. The [Vermont Green Streets Guide](#) is a resource to help you plan, design and maintain your clean water project. The Clean Water Initiative will provide additional funds for DTF projects to implement stormwater management practices that help control flooding, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. The project must primarily mitigate nutrient or sediment pollution.

Please contact [Gary Holloway](#), the Downtown Program Coordinator at 802-828-3220 if you have questions or need assistance with the DTF application.

Vermont Ecosystem Restoration Grants

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/grants/ecosystem-restoration#Ecosystem%20Restoration>

Applications due March 11, 2019 by 4pm

DEC is requesting proposals for the design and construction of water pollution abatement and control projects that target nonpoint sources of pollution. This grant round will include funds from Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020.

Walter Cerf Community Fund

<https://www.vermontcf.org/NonprofitsGrants/AvailableGrants/WalterCerfCommunityFund.aspx>

Applications due Friday, June 7, 2019

\$500-\$5,000 grants to organizations plus one \$25,000 grant for projects including, but not limited to, the arts, education, historic preservation, and social services in Addison County

Grants & Funding

USDA Broadband ReConnect Program

<https://www.usda.gov/broadband>

Application deadlines in April – June 2019

This recently announced funding aims to bring high-speed internet e-connectivity to rural America. USDA has been investing in rural telecommunications infrastructure for decades, and our current programs offer more than \$700 million per year for modern broadband e-Connectivity in rural communities.

In the coming months, USDA will almost double these longstanding programs with at least \$600 million of additional funds for expanding rural broadband infrastructure in unserved rural areas and tribal lands.

Entities that are eligible to apply for assistance under the ReConnect Program include non-profit entities, for-profit corporations, limited liability companies, cooperative or mutual organizations, states, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof, a territory or possession of the United States, and Indian tribes.

Award Funds may be used to pay for:

- To fund the construction or improvement of buildings, land, and other facilities that are required to provide broadband service.
- To fund reasonable pre-application expenses.
- To fund the acquisition and improvement of an existing system that is currently providing insufficient broadband service (eligible for 100 percent loan requests only).
- To fund terrestrial based facilities that support the provision of satellite broadband service.

Children's Literacy Foundation Literacy Grants

www.clifonline.org

Application deadlines February – April 2019

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) has several literacy grants currently available to public libraries, schools, and organizations serving low-income, at-risk, and rural children in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Grants currently available are:

- **Revive Your Literacy Programming-** for additional literacy programming completed in the 2018-2019 school year, open to any organization that has received a CLiF grant since 2014. Applications are due Feb. 1.
- **Community Building-** to build connections between kids and their communities through a Reading with Seniors program, a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge, a songwriting workshop, or the Young Writers' Project's My Community Story platform. The project must be completed in the 2018-2019 school year. Applications are due Feb. 6.
- **Rural Libraries —** A school-year-long program awarded to public libraries in towns of 5,000 or less includes two storytelling sessions with professional authors/storytellers, new books for the public library and local elementary school library, mini grants for new library programming, and two new books for each child to choose. Applications are due April 2 for 2019-2020 school year.

Tools & Trainings

Local Emergency Management Plan workshop

Time: 12:00PM - 1:00 PM (1200-1300)
Date: 2/13/2019
Location: ACRPC Conference Room,
14 Seminary St, Middlebury VT 05753
Instructors: Max Kennedy, Andrew L'Roe

This workshop will assist town Emergency Management Directors (EMDs and EMCs) to complete the LEMP forms required for 2019.

ICS 402 - Incident Command System Overview for Executives/Senior Officials

Time: 9:00AM-12:00PM (0900-1200)
Date: 3/27/2019
Location: State Police Barracks Conference Rm
2490 Ethan Allen Hwy, New Haven, VT 05472
Instructor: Max Kennedy

This course provides an orientation to the Incident Command System (ICS) for Executives and Senior Officials (including elected officials, city/town managers, agency administrators, etc.)

You can register for these courses via the VT Learning Management System

(<http://vem.vermont.gov/training/trainingprogram/lms>)

Vernal Pool Monitoring Project Training

<https://vtcostudies.org/projects/forests/vernal-pool-conservation/vermont-vernal-pool-monitoring-project/>

Date: Feb 20, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies is coordinating the Vermont Vernal Pool Monitoring Project (VPMon) to establish and maintain a baseline of vital information on Vermont's vernal pools. If you want to participate in local conservation, then attending this training (and becoming a Vernal Pool Monitor) is a great way to do it. This workshop will cover, What a vernal pool is, How to identify the key inhabitants of a vernal pool, methodology of how data is collected and submitted, and a whole lot of vernal pool ecology and amphibian natural history too!

If you'd like to attend, please RSVP by emailing Alex Wells at awells@vtcostudies.org.

Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife Cooperator Training Workshop

www.vtcoverts.org

- May 17-19 at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro,
- September 6-8 at Kehoe Conservation Camp on the shores of Lake Bomoseen

The Coverts Training is for anyone who loves woodlands, and provides an opportunity for those who care about woodlands and wildlife to learn about the resources available to help them define and reach their land management goals. The intensive two-and-a-half-day session features presentations by state and local experts in wildlife and forest management and Coverts alumni from past sessions. In lectures, field tours and demonstrations, participants learn about topics such as wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, invasive control, & land conservation.

All materials, lodging, food and other expenses related to the training are covered through donations by past participants. There is a \$100 registration fee, refundable upon completion of the training. Application at www.vtcoverts.org. For more information, contact Lisa Sausville at info@vtcoverts.org or call 802-877-2777.

Who's Who on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission?

1. *What Town do you live in now and where else do you have experience connections?*

I live in Leicester and have done so for the past 44 years. I have served on the Selectboard for 17 years, the last 10 years as the Chair. I taught school in Salisbury for 41 years and retired in June of 2018.

2. *Why are you interested in serving on the Regional Commission?*

I am interested in serving on the commission in order to learn more about issues and situations that have potential regional impact.

I am the chair of the Leicester Selectboard and, over the years, have learned a great deal about how our town functions. As we have reviewed/renewed our local Town Plan, I have learned that many decisions made impact not only my community but the greater Addison County region. I am particularly interested in addressing the affordable housing situation and am learning more about the impact that Clean Water legislation will have on the region.

3. *What are some of your favorite places in Addison County?*

Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake are two of my favorites, as well as traveling along the shore of Lake Champlain. Being outdoors is one of my favorite things to do, so it does not really matter where as long as I can be out and feel the breeze and the sunshine!



Diane Benware, Leicester

4. *Do you have a Life Mantra or Bucket-List item?*

I don't really have a Bucket List item; I try to enjoy wherever I may be. I aim to treat others the way I would like to be treated.

5. *What kind of projects would you like to see the Commission support?*

I think the Commission and its subcommittees support many facets of life in the county. For example, the Commission is working hard to support safe travel in the area.

Also, the Commission has provided support for Enhanced Energy Plans, thanks to Adam. The new Housing sub-committee as well as the Economic Development sub-committee will explore options and make recommendations to the full board in the coming months.

I feel strongly that the county communities are well served by the Commission.