



### This Month's Calendar

Digital calendar located at  
<http://acrpc.org/calendar/>

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 10	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting (Zoom)
Fri. 12	8:15pm	ACTR Board
Wed. 17	6:30pm	TAC meeting
Thurs 18	6:00pm	ACSWMD
Wed. 24	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board meeting
Thurs 25	11:00am	Elderly and People with Disabilities Committee

Meetings held at 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, are currently postponed due to COVID-19.

Virtual meetings are open to the public and call-in information is provided by invitation and request.



*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 ADA accessible.*

### ACRPC Welcomes our New GIS Planner, John Van Hoesen!



John joins the ACRPC after most recently working for the United States Geological Survey as a hydrologist. Prior to that, he was a faculty member at Green Mountain College in Rutland County and taught courses in geology, natural resources, and GIS. He was first lured into the world of GIS as an undergraduate studying geology at SUNY Albany. Over the last 20+ years, he has incorporated this tool into a wide range of projects focused on natural resources, hazard mitigation, water quality, climate change, and community decision-making. He is excited to meet and support the needs of all stakeholders in the Region.

# Announcements

## Virtual Road Roundtable Forums

<https://localroads.vermont.gov/>

DEC and the VTrans Local Roads programs will be offering a series of virtual Road Round Table Forums starting in February 2021. These Forums provide town officials, road foremen, and road crew members a crash course and discussion of MRGP standards, timelines, road practice installation, and grant funding.

**Virtual Roundtables are currently scheduled for the following dates and times:**

- February 24, 2021 from 9:00-10:30
- April 28, 2021 from 9:00-10:30
- July 14, 2021 from 4:00-5:30

Check the VTrans Local Roads Program website for specific dates and registration information.

## Tier II Hazardous Material Reporting

<https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/epcra>

Each year, facilities are required to report storage of hazardous materials to the State of VT, the local fire department and to the Addison County Local Emergency Planning Committee. All businesses or municipal facilities that have hazardous materials above certain quantities on site during any portion of the previous year (2020) are required to report so by **March 1, 2021**. The reports are especially important to your local firefighters and emergency planners so they can know what to expect when responding to emergencies at your facility.

Trainings for submitting Tier II reports using the **EPA Tier2Submit software** will be held on:

- February 4, 2021 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- February 11, 2021 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

For more information, contact ACRPC Emergency Planner Andrew L'Roe, [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)

## Information Technology Disaster Resource Center free community Wi-Fi installations

<https://www.itdrc.org/covid-19/projectconnect>

The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) established a nationwide initiative this year to provide *free community Wi-Fi installations* to community organizations in order to connect students and families to the internet, especially those living in rural and underserved communities. They have agreed to help the state fill our unmet needs.

They have a range of equipment available (Ubiquity and some Cisco Meraki) and are open to adding to existing networks.

If an organization previously applied to the PSD program but was not served, those locations have been shared with ITDRC. If your organization could use new equipment or an upgrade, please fill out the form at the link above.

If you have questions or would like to set up a call, please contact [projectconnect@itdrc.org](mailto:projectconnect@itdrc.org)

## Town Meeting Day

**is Tuesday, March 2, 2021!**

### Town Meeting Guidance and Resources

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

<https://www.vlct.org/municipal-assistance/municipal-topics/town-meeting>

The VLCT Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) maintains a comprehensive set of town meeting resources including general information, models and templates, and FAQs on a variety of town meeting topics. They are also available to assist town officials with any town meeting related questions regarding their roles and responsibilities. Email them at [info@vlct.org](mailto:info@vlct.org) or call 1-800-649-7915. Please contact them as soon as possible during this busy time of year.



# Grants & Funding

## Spark Connecting Community Vermont Community Foundation

<https://vermontcf.org/our-impact/programs-and-funds/spark-connecting-community/>

**Applications must be received by 5pm Monday, March 29 in order to be considered**

This grassroots grantmaking model focuses on strengthening community connections that lead to action and impact. This is a grant round for local champions who are collaborating with others; we want to help you turn your idea into a reality!

The first round of 2021 Spark grant funding will prioritize applications whose efforts:

- Demonstrate creative strategies for keeping people engaged and connected to each other and their communities while maintaining physical distance as appropriate;
- Propose thoughtful strategies to educate communities on topics of racial equity and justice; and/or
- Facilitate local conversations on topics of diverse and welcoming communities.

Typically, applications will be accepted from groups or organizations working in one community. Some examples include:

- Out of school and/or experiential learning opportunities for students to connect with local community members;
- Establishing a garden at a child care center;
- Community-created public art to support downtown revitalization;
- A nature trail to support environmental education and encourage healthy exercise;
- A creative program for people in recovery from drug and substance abuse; and
- A community diversity event and dialogue in a town experiencing changing demographics.

For more information on the status of your application, please contact [grants@vermontcf.org](mailto:grants@vermontcf.org)

## Project Priority List (PPL) applications Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

**Due February 25, 2021**

A project must have submitted a draft preliminary engineering report (PER) in order to be included on a priority list for construction funding. Planning funding is available at anytime.

**For the Clean Water SRF:**

<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/cwsrf>

A Priority List Application must be completed for each existing and new project each year. The completed applications must be submitted via email to [ANR.CWSRFplist@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.CWSRFplist@vermont.gov)

For questions regarding the CWSRF program please contact Tom Brown at (802) 622-4205 or [thomas.brown@vermont.gov](mailto:thomas.brown@vermont.gov)

**For the Drinking Water SRF:**

A Priority List Application must be completed each year. Completed applications must be submitted to [ANR.DWSRFplist@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.DWSRFplist@vermont.gov)

If you have questions regarding the DWSRF program please contact Celia Riechel at (802) 585-4904 or at

[celia.riechel@vermont.gov](mailto:celia.riechel@vermont.gov)



# Grants & Funding

## 1772 Foundation Matching Grants for Private Non-Profit Organizations

<https://ptvermont.org/help/grants/1772-foundation-grants/>

**Letters of Interest due February 15, 2021**

Funding in the form of 1:1 matching grants of \$5,000 – 10,000 is available for the following historic preservation projects in Vermont:

- Exterior painting, finishes and surface restoration
- Installation or upgrading fire detection, lightning protection and security systems
- Repairs to/restoration of porches, roofs, windows
- Structural foundation and sill repair/replacement
- Chimney and masonry repointing

The 1772 grants are for buildings that are owned and operated (or leased long-term) by non-profit organizations. Schools, churches, municipally-owned buildings, and buildings owned by for-profit entities are not eligible.

If you have questions about this application, please contact [jenna@ptvermont.org](mailto:jenna@ptvermont.org)

## Grant Deadline Reminders

### Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

<https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/fy-2020-assistance-firefighters-grant-afg-application-guidance-materials>

**Application closes 5pm, Friday, February 12**

### Better Connections

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>

**Grant applications due Friday, February 19**

### Downtown Transportation Fund

#### & Additional Clean Water Initiative Funding

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

**Grant applications due Monday, March 8**

## Small-Scale Bike/Pedestrian Grants

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>

**Applications due by 1pm Friday, February 19**

Program is to improve access and safety for people walking and/or bicycling through the construction of simple physical improvements. Grants are to reimburse construction costs only and will be awarded in the range of \$5,000 to \$75,000. The local share of projects is 50%. Local match may be cash, in-kind labor, donated materials, or any combination thereof. Small-scale projects may consist of the following:

- Bicycle lanes (on-road facility delineated with pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-feet wide to accommodate bicyclists)
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements, including median pedestrian refuge islands
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that address requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Shared-use paths (designed for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians)

Projects may be combinations of any of the above facilities. Ideal candidate projects for this round of grants are those that are ready to go to construction in 2021. Making improvements to support walking or bicycling is important to local communities and the investment will support local economies as Vermont emerges from the economic downturn resulting from COVID-19 in 2020. Projects that involve right of way acquisition, utility relocation or complex structural elements are not good candidates. Projects may be bid out or done by local forces. These grants may not be used to match federal funds on a larger project.

For questions contact Jon Kaplan at (802) 498-4742 or at [jon.kaplan@vermont.gov](mailto:jon.kaplan@vermont.gov)

# Tools & Trainings

## Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association

### Virtual Webinars

<https://nne.planning.org/meetings/>

#### Architectural Review and Regulations for Planners and Planning Boards

**Thursday February 11, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

*Michael Behrendt, Durham Town Planner* will provide the basics for talking about architecture and for crafting and implementing architectural regulations as part of site plan review.

#### Main Street After COVID-19: What Do Towns Need to Adapt?

**Thursday March 11, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

What will help Main Street survive, adapt, and thrive after the pandemic? Jeff Levine, AICP, will present the findings and recommendations of his recent study outlining strategies for the next 5 years and beyond, as identified by small business owners and downtown planning organizations in 6 small cities in the northeast.

#### 1st Academic Resilience Collaborative panel: How do we protect the environment without impacting property rights or stifling industry? February 16, 2021, from noon – 1pm

The panel features Deb Markowitz, Massachusetts State Director of The Nature Conservancy, Jon Groveman, Policy and Water Program Director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, and Dr. Seth Soman from Norwich University's school of business. It will be moderated by CGRS Faculty Fellow, Dr. Simon Pearish.

Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6772551135133657613>

## Vermont Land Trust Webinars

<https://vlt.org/events>

#### Bark, Buds & Branches: Learn to identify trees in winter

**February 18 or February 22, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

Many of us can identify trees like maple and oaks by their leaf shape but once those leaves are on the ground tree identification can be a little tricky. How do you identify a tree in stick season?

#### What Animal is it? Virtual wildlife tracking tour through the winter woods

**March 11, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

Join us for a virtual wildlife tracking tour through Vermont's woods. We will learn how knowing animal behaviors, identifying habitat, and recognizing the type of gait can help identify tracks in the snow.



## Vermont Community Leadership Network

<https://www.vtrural.org/leadership/workshops>

The Leadership Network supports members with online workshops on community development initiatives, skills training, and the sharing of best practices and inspiring success stories. Workshops are held bi-weekly on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am:

- **Feb 9 - Local Approaches to Strengthen Our Communities And Confront The Global Climate Challenge**
- **Feb 23 - Sustaining Motivation, Purpose, Cohesion and Focus Amongst our Teams (for Volunteers Leaders and Managers)**

Registration is required. To register, visit website and select the the workshop(s) of interest.



# Community Involvement



## Go Vermont Transportation Survey

<https://govermont.typeform.com/to/qFmBhmrB>

**Survey Open:** Thursday 1/28 - Sunday 2/13

Go! Vermont is looking to hear from Vermonters on how they get around and what types of transportation programs help them the most. How do you commute and take transportation trips? What programs are the most beneficial to VT residents? Your responses will guide Go! Vermont and give important feedback on what resources are valuable to Vermonters. Take the short survey about transportation in VT and be entered for a chance to win \$100 in Vermont Coffee Company coffee or one of three \$50 Hanaford gift cards. The Survey is open until Sunday, Feb 13th.

**Raffles Picked:** Mon 2/22



## Vermont Winter Bike/Walk Challenge

**Dates:** February 1 - 12, 2021

Crush your cabin fever! Grab your bike, boots, or shoes and join Local Motion, Vital Communities, and GoVT! for the 2021 Vermont Winter Bike/Walk Challenge!

The Challenge starts on February 1st and runs through February 12th, concluding on National Winter Bike to Work day. Participants who record a bike ride, a walk, or a run on the GoVT! Smartphone app or GoVT! Website at least twice during the Challenge timeframe will be entered to win prizes from Vermont businesses.

Most years this ride, walk, or run needs to be a commute, but for 2021, we are excited to open the challenge to anyone who gets outside and get moving, even just for fun!

Download the app by visiting:

<https://govermont.agilemile.com/>

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE



**Vermonters age 75 and up are eligible to receive a vaccine.**

**More than 10% of Addison County has been Vaccinated!**

<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/>

See webpage above for Addison County-specific information about COVID-19, including:

- Vaccine distribution info and resources,
- Updated case counts, and
- Municipal webpages

Or contact Andrew L'Roe at [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)