

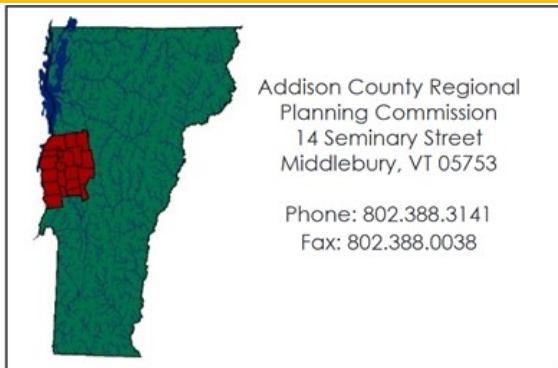
July 2019

# ACRPC update

## This Month's Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 10	6:00pm	Natural Resources Committee meeting
Wed. 10	7:00pm	Full Commission meeting
Wed. 11	1:00pm	Wetlands Reclassification meeting
Thur. 18	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) meeting
Wed. 24	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board
Not held in July	-	Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, LEPC

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



*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.*

## Towns Receive Better Roads Grants

The Vermont Better Roads Program provides towns with funding and technical assistance to implement cost-effective techniques that reduce erosion on town roads while enhancing water quality. Grant funds are provided by the Agency of Transportation in partnership with the Agency of Natural Resources.

Addison County towns received grants for FY2020 in all four categories:

### CATEGORY A GRANTS– road inventory

- Goshen, Lincoln, Panton, Vergennes, Whiting

### CATEGORY B GRANTS– culvert replacement

- Ripton and Salisbury

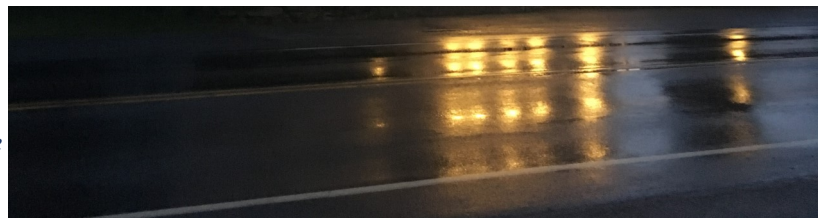
### CATEGORY C GRANTS– streambank stabilization

- Panton

### CATEGORY D GRANTS– culvert upgrades

- Bridport, Middlebury, and Monkton

ACRPC will be working with Goshen and Whiting on their Category A grants.



# Changes in State Statutes

The General Assembly enacted several laws and amendments affecting local planning and regulation in 2019. The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development has issued a memo to inform municipal planning and development officials of changes in statute, as well as provided web links to the pertinent statutory language. The Vermont Statutes Online (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/>) are updated each October and will not include the 2019 changes until then. Links provided below go to the bills as enacted.

## State Designated Centers [Act 71 | H.541, §5]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.541>

The Legislature and the administration worked together on several tax policy changes to expand support for local community revitalization efforts and make housing more affordable.

- **Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits**  
Technical changes that make the downtown and village tax credit program more effective.
- **Affordable Housing Programs**  
Tax credits available to fund VHFA's first time homebuyer program.

## Act 250 Reform

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2020/12/Bill/188679#documents-section>

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy grappled for months on a complicated set of issues -- like how Act 250 could address climate change, discourage forest fragmentation, protect sensitive habitats, and direct more development to state designated areas like downtowns, village centers, and neighborhoods. While there is broad agreement that Act 250 would benefit from modernization, the Committee was unable to find consensus on the details. The Committee will continue its work on Act 250 in January 2020.

## Highway Banners [Act 50 | H.292]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.292>

To accommodate temporary overhead highway banners (such as those used to advertise civic events), the law allows banners with breakaway fasteners over certain highways up less than 21 days and at least 16.5 feet from the ground. Effective July 1, 2019.

## Land Gains Tax Exemption in State Designated Areas [Act 71 | H.541, §15]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.541>

Effective January 1, 2020, the law makes significant changes to the Land Gains Tax such that it will only apply to transfers of land that have been recently purchased and subdivided.



## State-Owned Airport Permitting [TBD | S.162§4]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/S.162>

Permit, waiver and master plan changes to promote development at state-owned airports.

# Changes in State Statutes

## **Municipal Clerk Recording Fees & Record-Keeping Funds** [Act 38 | H.526, §1]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.526>

To support effective public records administration, the law, effective July 1, 2019:

- Increases filing and recording fees for deeds and most documents of public record from \$10 to \$15.
- Increases filing and recording fees for survey plats from \$15 to \$25.
- Requires the creation of a restoration and preservation reserve fund for the restoration, preservation, digitization, storage and conservation of municipal records.



## **Survey Plat Filings & Statewide Digital Survey Library** [Act 38 | H.526, §3]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.526>

In response to a recommendation from the statewide parcels advisory board, experience from the parcel program, and input from multiple related groups, the law:

- Creates an online statewide survey library.
- Requires surveyors to file a digital survey plat in PDF format with VCGI.

Effective January 1, 2020; additional information on VCGI implementation is available here: <https://vcgi.vermont.gov/press-release/coming-january-2020-vermont-survey-library>

## **Affordable Housing Funding** [Act 48 | H.132§9]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.132>

There was continued interest by the Legislature in funding for affordable housing. This act charges the State Treasurer -- in cooperation with Agency of Commerce and Community Development and Dept. of Taxes -- to evaluate options and recommend legislation for affordable housing by Jan 15, 2020., including:

- A plan for the creation of 1,000 housing units over five years.
- Provisions for meeting single-family, multi-family, re-investment in existing stock, and service-supportive housing needs.

## **Health Officers: Rental Housing & Health Code Enforcement** [Act 48 | H.132 §§5-8]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.132>

To better support town health officers and improve the administration of Vermont's rental housing code enforcement. Effective July 1, 2019, unless otherwise specified.

## **Housing Protections for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence** [Act 48 | H.132 §§1-4]

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.132>

Effective July 1, 2019, the law extends a variety of protections to victims of domestic and sexual violence related to rental agreements, security measures, landlord liability, and unfair housing practices.

Prior DHCD memos summarizing the statutory changes starting in 2007 can be found at <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/resources-rules/planning>



# Training and Events

## Vermont Community Leadership Summit Vision, Strategy and Skills for the Future

August 12, 2019

Vermont Technical College, Randolph

Join local leaders working to improve life in their communities at the Vermont Council on Rural Development's 2nd Annual VT Community Leadership Summit!

- Follow up on action and progress since the 2018 Summit
- Hear inspiring stories of community success
- Access skills to support community initiatives
- Engage in envisioning the future of Vermont leadership
- Connect to leadership resources

In democracy, all citizens are called upon to lead – where leaders step up, communities achieve great things.

Local Citizens Make It Happen!

For more information visit <https://www.vtrural.org/Summit19> or the <https://www.facebook.com/events/617426375407797/> or contact the Vermont Council on Rural Development at [info@vtrural.org](mailto:info@vtrural.org) or 802-223-6091

## Knowing Soil from the Ground Up

Saturday, July 27, 1  
pm to 5pm

Wild Water Farm  
in Quechee



[https://nofavt.org/  
events/vital-signs-knowing-soil-ground](https://nofavt.org/events/vital-signs-knowing-soil-ground)

How do we know if our management practices are working? Educator and soil enthusiast, Cat Buxton, will lead a hands-on soil health workshop at Wild Water Farm in Quechee. We'll start with a simple understanding of landscape function and the soil health principles to create conditions for building the soil carbon sponge in your lawn, vegetable and flower beds, and in the orchard. Employing the soil health principles can enhance photosynthesis and capture water, enabling the soil micro biome to flourish and vastly improve nutrient uptake in plants. We'll review the basic practices like composting, compost teas and extracts, incorporating cover crops and green manures, hugelkultur, mulching, and using plant guilds to support ecosystem services. We'll explore a variety of visual soil assessment tools and evidence-based monitoring techniques to measure if our land management practice are improving ecosystem

## RISE & WALK MIDDLEBURY

Walkers meet at **Mary Hogan Elementary School**  
*parking lot near the kiosk and ball field*

**July 16 - October 15**  
**Tuesdays at 5:15PM**

# Grants & Funding

## RiseVT Amplify Grant

<https://addison.risevt.org/addison-amplify-grant-project/>

RiseVT supports a variety of projects by awarding Amplify Grants to community partners whose projects make the healthy choice the easy choice where we live, work, learn, and play. Grants range from \$250-\$1,500-the budget of the proposed project must not exceed \$1,500

After the grant funds have been spent, grantees are required to submit at least one photo and a short blog post (250 to 350 words describing your project) highlighting the most significant change this project provided their community.

For application assistance or any other questions, contact local program manager **Michele Butler**, RiseVT Addison Program Manager, [mbutler@portermmedical.org](mailto:mbutler@portermmedical.org), 802-388-8860



## Lake Champlain Basin Program

Watershed Association Professional Development Mini-Grants

<http://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/available-grants/>

Application Deadline: **last day of each month**

These mini-grants provide professional development funds for the staff and volunteers of qualified watershed organizations in the Lake Champlain Basin, to cover expenses such as travel, meals, registration and accommodations at meetings, conferences, workshops and other venues designed to enhance the organizations' capacity to operate.

Qualifying Organizations: Watershed types of organization within the Lake Champlain Basin may apply for Watershed Association Professional Development Mini-grants. Up to \$500/year is available per organization subject to availability of funds. For more information call (800) 468-5227

## Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agricultural-clean-water-initiative-program>

Proposal Deadline: **August 1, 2019**

The Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program is the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, grant funding program made possible by the Clean Water Fund, created by Act 64 or the Vermont Clean Water Act. Funding is awarded to a wide variety of partner organizations through various grant opportunities such as Education and Outreach, Organizational Development, Farm Conservation Practice Surveys, Innovative Nutrient Reduction activities and more. This funding develops and supports the continual improvement of water quality across the state of Vermont by supporting farmers with education and outreach, technical assistance, identifying and implementing best management practices, planning, and more.

All proposals must be submitted electronically via email to [AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov) using the subject line "AGCWIP Proposal - 2020 RFP"

For questions please contact: **Nina Gage**, VAAFM Water Quality at 802-622-4098, [Nina.Gage@Vermont.gov](mailto:Nina.Gage@Vermont.gov)



# Grants & Funding

## Municipal Planning Grants

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>

Applications due **September 30, 2019**

Make your community more vital, improve community infrastructure, or build a more resilient and diversified local economy with Vermont's Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program .



A wide range of municipal planning and implementation activities are eligible for funding. Competitive applications must demonstrate strong community engagement and buy-in **so start organizing your project now!** The 2019 program guide will be available in early June.

For more info, contact ACRPC's **Katie Raycroft-Meyer** at [kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org](mailto:kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org) or 802-388-3141

## Eastern Federal Lands Access Program

<https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/vt/>

**Application deadline: August 30, 2019**

The Federal Lands Access Program (Access Program) was established to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands. The Access Program supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators. See the website to download the application, review the state's program goals, associated scoring criteria, FAQ's and tips for preparing a good application. Applications should be submitted via email to [EFL.planning@dot.gov](mailto:EFL.planning@dot.gov) to be considered. If required, applications via mail, Fedex, UPS etc. or fax will also be accepted.

For questions contact **Lewis Grimm**, Planning Team Leader, at [lewis.grimm@dot.gov](mailto:lewis.grimm@dot.gov), 703-404-6289 or **Jacinda Russell**, FLAP Program Manager, [jacinda.russell@dot.gov](mailto:jacinda.russell@dot.gov), 571-434-1543

## Building Communities Grants

<https://bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/building-communities-grants>

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 31**

Funding in the following Grants Programs are administered by the Department of Buildings and General Services for the construction and capital improvements to support and strengthen Vermont towns and regions:

- Recreational Facilities Grants \$200,000
- Human Services Facilities Grants \$100,000
- Educational Facilities Grants \$100,000
- Regional Economic Development Grants \$200,000

Descriptions and applications for these grants are available on the website.

If you have any questions, please contact **Judy Bruneau** at (802) 828-3519 or by email at: [Judy.Bruneau@vermont.gov](mailto:Judy.Bruneau@vermont.gov)



*Addison County*  
**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**