

ACRPC

June 2020

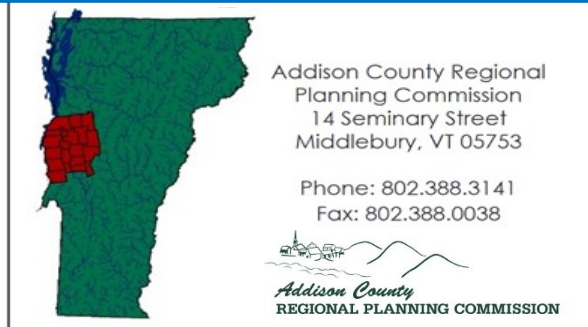
update

This Month's Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Tues. 9	3-4:30pm	Energy Meeting (Zoom)
Wed. 10	7:00pm	Full Commission Mtg (Zoom)
Wed. 17	6:30pm	TAC meeting
Thurs 18	7:00pm	ACSWMD
Wed. 24	6:30pm	ACRPC Exec. Board (Zoom)

Meetings held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, are currently postponed

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

Dear ACRPC members and friends:

This month I would like to speak with you about the Broadband Innovation Grant that ACRPC will be applying for before June 19th. The grant is for \$60,000 to conduct a feasibility study about how best to serve unserved and under-served portions of Addison County and then to write a business plan to implement bringing broadband service to the people in the region that cannot get it. COVID-19 has demonstrated the necessity of broadband for all so that all may keep up with school, healthcare or business. I expect that Vermont will extend some of its federal CARES funding to try to address this issue.

Now is the time to address this challenge and **we need your help** to write a compelling grant application. **If you live in an area of Addison County that is served by slow or intermittent service or unserved, will you write to ACRPC, tell us your story and support this application?** Please send your story and support to either bwright@acrpc.org or alougee@acrpc.org or send a letter to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission c/o Benton Wright 14 Seminary Street Middlebury, Vermont 05753.

Thank you all for your help in advance. These are trying times and we appreciate your help in trying to create better community infrastructure for the Addison Region.

-Adam Lougee, ACRPC Director

ACRPC Staff Updates



Benton Wright, ECO AmeriCorps

The month I have continued working from home on the following projects: I have been updating and adding a volunteer and landowner page to the Addison County River Watch's website, and finalizing the River Watch's landowner survey and mailing to the landowners. I have continued to volunteer at Meals on Wheels in Rutland packing and preparing meals for the elderly, immune compromised, and others who have been effected by COVID-19.

I have also started a new project with the Bristol Rec Club to improve and maintain the Bristol Trail Network's newly created trails. Additionally I have been helping review the commission's draft of a Clean Water Service Provider application. Katie and I also worked on investigating and submitting a grant to the AARP for the creation of an accessible trail network in Shoreham to link the village center to other businesses on 22A.

Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner

Mike has been working on a program for conducting bike and pedestrian counts in the region. He also developed ACRPC's proposal to become a Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Otter Creek Basin which was submitted at the end of May. Under Act 76 of the 2019 legislative session, every Basin must have a CWSP to identify and implement pollution reduction projects. Additionally, ACRPC is sponsoring transportation studies in Lincoln, Bristol, and Salisbury. The Lincoln project, a realignment for South Lincoln Road, should be completed this month and the contractor will be presenting their work at the June TAC meeting. The Bristol project, planning for improved pedestrian access between Lovers Lane and Airport Road, has completed the initial public information gathering and will be moving toward identification of alternatives. The Salisbury project, an intersections assessment of Lower Plains Road and Rt. 53, has just been awarded to Dubois and King and we are in the process of developing a contract. Grants and Aid work continues, and Mike will be conducting post-construction site visits and processing invoices for completed projects. Mike is also assisting Vergennes with their grant to extend the sidewalk along the north side of Main St. between Macdonough Drive and the Otter Creek Falls. If your community is interested in traffic, pedestrian, or bicyclist counts, or has any other transportation-related questions, please reach out to Mike.

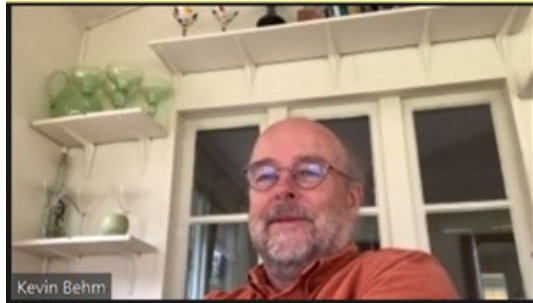
ACRPC Staff Updates

Andrew L'Roe,

Emergency Management Planner

Thank you to the towns that responded to our annual mailing request and a huge thank you to All Municipalities that have successfully updated and approved their annual Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs)! In my work with similar acronyms, the Local Emergency Planning Committee has resumed monthly meetings, doing its first Zoom, and they are finalizing the annual hazardous material plan while contributing refreshment funding to support training by local EMS organizations.

I am excited to have another great **conversation with local Energy Committees and Coordinators in early June**, and working with Katie to wrap up the Bristol Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Plan!



Kevin Behm, Asst Director & GIS Data Manager

Kevin has been working on preparing the Road Erosion Inventory apps for those towns using the Fulcrum mobile tool. Occasionally we seem to have a good field day and some towns are beginning to safely work on required road infrastructure projects. The Natural Resource Committee has been keep apprised of our work on the application to undertake the role of a Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin. We have been helping the Addison County River Watch Collaborative with adding and revising web pages on our site as well revising the mapping tool that provides access to the ACRWC sampling data. Recently, we helped the ACRWC with obtaining a Lake Champlain Basin Program grant to help with this task, since State funding has been withdrawn on several ACRWC water quality projects.

Let us know if you are using the new EV chargers!

Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner

I participated in an Innovations Webinar in May, sponsored by DHCD, titled **Updating Neighborhood Regulations- Legalizing the Homes You Have and Need**. Presented by Vermont planners, this presentation discussed how regulatory and non-regulatory changes and initiatives have made zoning work better for their communities. Many of these concepts and zoning tools would be beneficial to our communities.

In June, the Local Government and Energy committees will be participating in the regional review for Monkton and Salisbury's Town and Enhanced Energy Plans. The reviews for these documents were completed in May and are available on the town's websites. Ferrisburgh is moving forward on municipal planning grant work. We have identified several locations in town to explore the feasibility of increased density and will develop graphics over the summer to illustrate these scenarios.

Announcements



Button Up Vermont 2020

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The statewide Button Up campaign is asking for Button Up Vermont coordinators! ButtonUp is a partner driven information campaign to promote a statewide effort to cut energy use and keep families warm and healthy by promoting weatherization. Events will be running September 1st through November 30th, with free Home Energy Visits scheduled January-March 2021.

For interest or questions, contact Becca White

802-734-3227, bwhite@veic.org

What's Next, Nonprofits? Webinar

<https://www.addisoncounty.com/events/details/what-s-next-nonprofits-5935>

Event: Jun 9, 2020, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

As the world begins to reopen and the need for services continues to increase, nonprofits are turning their attention to the future. Join the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Addison County in thinking and planning for the road ahead with an interactive conversation with a panel of local nonprofit leaders.

Registration is required at <https://addisoncounty.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/5935>

For questions, contact

Rob Carter at rob@addisoncounty.com

Cornfused About the Composting Law? Romaine Calm!

Starting July 1, food scraps will no longer be allowed in the trash in Vermont.

Separating scraps makes your garbage less stinky and could even save you money on trash!

Composting at home isn't your only option—read on for other solutions.

Get started by collecting scraps in your kitchen. Some ideas for containers: reuse a yogurt container, ice cream tub, Tupperware, or another container; store scraps in a bag in the fridge or freezer; or get a dedicated pail: www.acswmd.org/about/resources/containers

You have several options for managing food scraps—choose the one that works for you!:

- Bring food scraps to your town trash drop-off or the Middlebury District Transfer Station

(no paper or compostable plastics/liners): www.acswmd.org/food-scrap/recovery/drop-off

- Compost non-meat scraps at home (if you compost, meat & bones can still go in the trash)
- Feed scraps to chickens—they love food scraps! If you don't have poultry, maybe a neighbor does.
- Get scraps picked up by a waste hauler that offers curbside collection of food scraps:

www.acswmd.org/about/haulers/list

- Compost indoors with worms:

www.acswmd.org/food-scrap/composting/vermicomposting

- Use a Green Cone Solar Digester :

www.acswmd.org/food-scrap/composting/green-cone

Still DOUGHNUT know what to do? LETTUCE help!

For more information, visit www.acswmd.org/food-scrap/recovery/universal-recycling-law, call 388-2333, or email info@acswmd.org

Or take a free workshop in June to learn the basics! (see info on the Trainings page)



Trainings



TOWN FOREST RECREATION PLANNING WEBINAR SERIES

Join the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program for a 5-week webinar series on Town Forest Recreation Planning!

Learn more at: go.uvm.edu/tfwebinars

- Tuesday, June 2nd, 10 a.m. *New Tools for Sustainable Forest-Based Recreation*
- Tuesday, June 9th, 10 a.m. *Trails and Wildlife*
- Tuesday, June 16th, 10 a.m. *Connecting Downtowns with Trails for Economic Vibrancy*
- Tuesday, June 23rd, 10 a.m. *Trail Building & Maintenance*
- Tuesday, June 30th, 10 a.m. *Mountain Biking 101*

Home Composting Workshops - via Zoom

Addison County Solid Waste District is offering free Zoom composting workshops to educate homeowners on composting prior to the enactment of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law, which bans food scraps from the landfill starting July 1, 2020.

There are two workshops in June:

- **Thursday, June 4th 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, June 20th 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

Registration is required for these workshops.

For more information and to register, see

www.acswmd.org/food-scraps/composting/101

ICS 402 Incident Command System for Executives*

June 15, 2020- 1:00-5:00pm (Virtual)

This course provides Executives and Senior Officials (including Elected Officials, City/County Managers, Agency Administrators, etc.) an orientation to the Incident Command System (ICS).

(*Required for at least one town official to sign annual Local Emergency Management Plan)

There will be a max of 15 students per course.

You can register for the courses via the VT

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

Open Meeting Law + COVID-19

<https://www.vlct.org/event/open-meeting-law-compliance-amid-covid-19>

Wednesday, June 03, 2020 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

This webinar will cover the basic requirements of the Open Meeting Law, highlight the temporary changes from Act 92, and provide guidance and resources to ensure compliance during the declared state of emergency due to COVID-19. Act 92 created new procedures that apply to meetings of all public bodies for the duration of Governor Scott's emergency declaration. These changes are intended to enable public bodies to meet virtually so that they can safely continue their work during the pandemic while also retaining the public's right to access and participation.

Grants

Local Food in Your Community Program

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/local-food-your-community-program>

Application deadline: June 30th, at 5:00pm

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) aims to strengthen collaboration between communities and local producers as planning efforts evolve quickly in response to the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants will contribute to implementation of community-driven local food market models to increase points of access to fresh fruits and vegetables and support specialty crop producers through market development activities.

Grants of \$2,000 to \$5,000 will be awarded.

Awardees will be notified in early July 2020.



2020 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits>

Application due July 1, 2020

Vermont's downtown and village center tax credit program has helped rehabilitate hundreds of existing buildings to support new and expanded businesses, create housing and jobs and spark community vitality. This year, \$2.6 million is available to support general rehabilitation, building code compliance, and façade improvements. Applications and additional information are on the website.

For questions, contact Caitlin Corkins at caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov or call 802-828-



<https://benandjerrysfoundation.org/grant-programs/>

Vermont Economic Justice Program

<https://benandjerrysfoundation.org/vermont-economic-justice-grants.html>

Deadline for submissions: Monday July 1st

Each summer, the Ben & Jerry's Foundation offers competitive grants of up to \$20,000 to Vermont-based, non-profit organizations working to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of poverty. They seek out innovative programs that are working toward fundamental change in Vermont and that approach their work through the lens of social justice and equity. Grant decisions are made by a team of Ben & Jerry's employees from their Vermont sites.

VT Community Action Team Program

<https://benandjerrysfoundation.org/vermont-community-action-teams.html>

The Vermont Community Action Teams (CATs) offer general or project support within the broad guidelines and funding provided by the Ben & Jerry's Foundation. Every month, the CATs make small grants, generally under \$2,000, to various local, community-based Vermont non-profit programs. In addition to making small grants, the CATs plan community service projects for all employees at their sites.

As a response to the COVID-19 crisis, they are focusing their funding priorities to address the immediate community needs as they relate to this crisis; access to housing, food, health care, elder and child care, and focusing on populations with the greatest need.