

ACRPC

update May 2018

2018 ACRPC Annual Meeting

ACRPC is pleased to announce that its annual meeting of Commissioners for 2018 will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at Tourterelle Restaurant in New Haven. A social hour will begin at 5:00pm, followed by a guest speaker at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:45pm.

This year we are excited and fortunate to host Jim Blair as our guest speaker. Jim is a Middlebury resident and a retired photographer for the National Geographic Society, whose photography work took him all over the world for many years. The presentation is

entitled, "Past is Prologue," which covers the history of the environmental movement as he photographed it for National Geographic.

It is sure to be a wonderful evening and we at ACRPC look forward to seeing you there.

2018 Addison County Conservation Commission Summit

On Saturday, April 7th, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission held a summit for a group of Conservation Commission members from across Addison County. This meeting offered an opportunity for local Conservation Commissions to gather together and discuss who they are, how they work, and get to know others for collaboration on any current and future inter-town projects.

In Vermont, many towns have established Conservation Commissions to help communities protect and enhance their natural resources. Conservation Commissions act as municipal advisory bodies, and can work on a variety of different projects for a town including things like making inventories of the town's natural resources; receiving gifts of land for conservation purposes; assisting and advising the local planning commission and select board on natural resource issues; and encouraging the public's understanding of their local environment through educational activities.

Eleven of the twenty-three Addison County towns were represented at the networking summit, which included: Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Ripton, Salisbury,

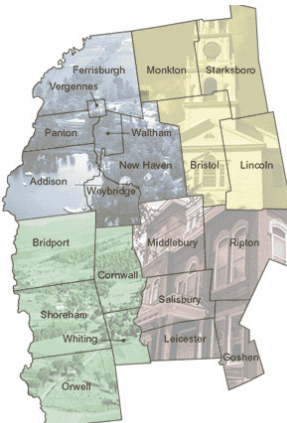
This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

Commission Calendar

May 2018

9	5:00pm	ACRPC Annual Meeting Tourterelle Restaurant, New Haven <i>Social hour begins at 5:00pm</i> <i>Presentation begins at 6:00pm</i>
10	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
16	6:30pm	TAC Meeting
23	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

Funding Opportunities

Shoreham and Starksboro. Members of ACRPC and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) were also in attendance. Each Conservation Commission had an opportunity to share the projects they were working on and conservation issues specific to their town. Monica Przyperhart from VFWD presented information about how Conservation Commissions can get involved with Acts 171 and 174 for their towns, how town policies or initiatives fit in with state-level policy-making, and resources available to help with these and other projects.

Time was also provided for an open discussion between Conservation Commissions in order to share ideas for future growth and development. Many opportunities were identified for increasing the funding and membership of Conservation Commissions, as well as projects that will promote municipal partnership. The summit concluded around noon, and the group agreed to meet again in the near future.

2018 VTrans BikePed Grant Program

As part of its ongoing support for bicycling and walking, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), has issued the annual solicitation for new bicycle and pedestrian projects. The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

Typical projects include sidewalks, shared use paths, crossing improvements and bike lanes. Last year, nearly \$4 million in projects throughout the state were initiated under this grant program.

For a copy of the VTrans 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program Guide and other supporting materials, visit the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian program website: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>.

Applications will be accepted for scoping studies (project feasibility), large-scale design/construction projects and small-scale, state funded, projects. Applications must be received by 1PM, Friday June 22, 2018.

Applicants to the Bike/Ped Program are strongly encouraged to attend one of two workshops to learn about the details of the program. The workshops are being offered in a webinar format and links are found in the Grant Program Guide. The two sessions are scheduled on Tuesday May 8, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. You can participate in the training from any computer connected to the internet. If you don't have an internet connection, you may access the training via phone by calling 1-802-552-8456 and entering the following conference ID:

- May 8 - 59194978;
- May 9 - 12641858.

Reservations are not required for the workshops.

For any questions about this year's Bicycle and Pedestrian program or other VTrans initiatives related to bicycling and walking, contact Jon Kaplan, VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, at 802-828-0059 or jon.kaplan@vermont.gov.

2018 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits

Vermont's Downtown and Village Center tax credit program is one of the primary benefits of Downtown and Village Center designation, and supports revitalization in community centers across the state.

In 2018, \$2,400,000 in state income tax credits are available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial and community buildings in these designated communities. The credits support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, data and network wiring, and exterior improvements, and may be combined with the federal program.

Local Trainings & Events

Applications for the next round of tax credits are due Monday July 2, 2018 and the Vermont Downtown Board will make its allocation decisions when it meets July 23, 2018.

Additional information and the application is now available on the ACCD website here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits>.

Applications must be submitted electronically to caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov or to:

Caitlin Corkins
State of Vermont
Division for Community Planning & Revitalization
One National Life Drive
Davis Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Please feel free to call or e-mail if you have any questions regarding the application or the program itself.

ACRPC Training Opportunity: Essentials of Local Land Use Planning & Regulation

On Monday, June 4th from 5:30-7:00pm ACRPC will be hosting a presentation and discussion for municipal officials titled “Essentials of Land Use Planning & Regulation.” Brush up on your town planning know-how and meet others in Addison County working on planning projects.

The training will provide an overview of municipal roles and responsibilities and the fundamentals of local planning and permitting in Vermont - what every board and commission member needs to know. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. Please do not hesitate to contact ACRPC with any questions and we hope to see you there!

Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference ~ June 8th in Bristol!

The Preservation Trust of Vermont is excited to announce that its annual Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference will be held in Bristol on Friday, June 8th.

The opening plenary will feature keynote speaker Dar Williams, a touring musician and author whose recent book “What I Found in a Thousand Towns” discusses what she calls Positive Proximity or the social capital-building that allows towns to become unique, prosperous and self-reliant. Williams muses on why some towns flourish while others fail, examining elements from the significance of history and nature to the uniting power of public spaces and food. Drawing on her own travels and the work of urban theorists, Williams offers real solutions to rebuild declining communities. (The keynote is approved for .75 AICP CM credits.)

Following the keynote will be the biennial presentation of Preservation Awards, which honor individuals and organizations who have done exemplary work in their communities. For the lunch hour, you’ll be able to explore Bristol’s Main Street shops, historical society, art galleries, and restaurants. There will also be a brown bag meet-up of the Creative Network.

The post-lunch agenda includes a series of “lightning talks” and field sessions all capped off with a closing reception at 5:00pm.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit here: <http://ptvermont.org/our-work/conference/>.

Leftovers...

2018 AARP Community Challenge Grant Program Now Accepting Applications

The 2018 AARP Community Challenge is now accepting applications through May 16, 2018 to fund “quick-action” projects in communities across the country. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand for larger projects. The program is now in its second year and is part of AARP’s nationwide work on Livable Communities, helping neighborhoods, towns and cities to become great places for all ages.

Who Can Apply? The AARP Community Challenge is open to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities. Other types of organizations may be considered on a case-by-case basis. AARP will prioritize projects with permanent or temporary solutions that aim to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and/or access to public and private transit.
- Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.
- Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.
- Other community improvements. In addition to the three areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about communities’ needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. ET, May 16, 2018, and all projects must be completed by November 5, 2018. Applications must be submitted through AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

Last year, the AARP Community Challenge awarded 88 grants to communities representing every state and the District of Columbia; Montpelier and Hyde Park were selected in Vermont.

Visit <http://bit.ly/2017GrantWinners> to see some of the 2017 winners in action as they work to improve public spaces and community amenities, and increase housing and transportation options that benefit residents of all ages.

Please reach out to directly to Kelly Stoddard Poor with any questions: 802-951-313 or kstoddardpoor@aarp.org.

Vermont Airport System Plan

VTrans has developed a webpage for its Aviation System Plan Update. The page contains information on the plan update, the plan development process, project timeline and schedule, and outreach activities.

Over the coming months, VTrans will be populating the page with various analysis documents for stakeholder review as well a schedule of public meetings. All information will be available at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/aviation/vermont-airport-system-plan>.

Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has been hearing from a lot of towns about the MRGP Notice of Intent (NOI) form and related fees as the July 31, 2018 deadline approaches. DEC will be sending out a mailing to all towns that fall under the MRGP later this spring. The mailing will include a link to a fillable NOI form and information about fees and dates.

Regarding the MRGP fees, DEC is awaiting final decisions from the Legislature regarding potential changes in the MRGP annual fees. There is a bill under consideration (H922) that would lower the MRGP annual fee for all towns and be prorated based on population and road mileage.