

# ACRPC *update*

May 2020

## This Month's Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 13	7:00pm	Full Commission Mtg (Zoom)
Wed. 20	6:30pm	TAC meeting (Zoom)
Wed. 27	6:30pm	ACRPC Exec. Board (Zoom)
Tues. 2 (June)	3-4:30pm	Energy Meeting (Zoom)

**Meetings held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, are currently postponed**  
**Zoom meetings are open to the public and call-in information is provided by invitations and by 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.*

## New EV Car Chargers at ACRPC

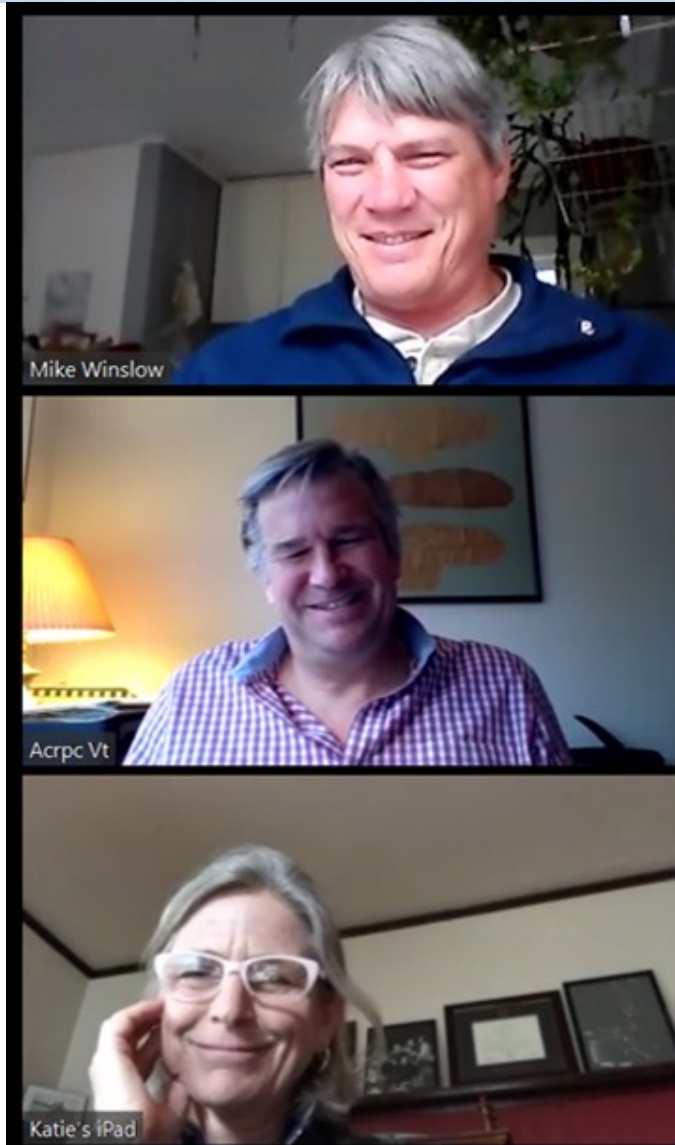
This month ACRPC replaced our original (installed in 2012) ChargePoint stations with two newer model ChargePoint level 2 electric vehicle charging systems with a total of four ports at the same location on the east side of our offices at 14 Seminary Street, in Middlebury. These ports will be available to the public at fair market hourly rates, and great for drivers attending ACRPC meetings or shopping nearby!



One of the biggest sources of emissions in Vermont comes from transportation, which accounts for 41% of our energy use and 45% of our greenhouse gas emissions. There are currently about 3,500 electric vehicles in the state, and it is estimated that the state will need to add 90,000 EVs to reach the Paris Agreement goals (as well increasing the Miles Per Gallon of non-EV vehicles by 5% and reducing solo commutes).

You can find our chargers and additional charging stations in the region and state at:  
<https://www.driveelectricvt.com/charging-stations/public-charging-map>

# ACRPC Staff Updates



## **Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner**

Mike continues to manage transportation planning initiatives projects. The May TAC meeting on May 20 will host a workshop on budgeting for road maintenance. This will be a valuable meeting for anyone involved with highway budgets and we invite you to join us. The agenda and call in information will be posted on the TAC webpage (<http://acrpc.org/about-acrpc/committees/tac/>) a week before the meeting. Work continues on a study of means to improve pedestrian access between Lovers Lane and Airport Drive in Bristol. An on-line survey collecting public input is currently live and a virtual public meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 7PM. Details on the meeting and links to the survey are on the ACRPC website at <https://acrpc.org/bristol-ped-path/>. The Triangle Bike Loop project is nearing completion. Last month we hosted phone meetings with all the Road Foremen in affected towns. The window for filling out the public survey on the project is narrowing. Mike continues to answer questions on Better Roads and Grants in Aid projects. As of April 20, DEC confirmed that Grants in Aid work can resume, and Mike is looking forward to coming out to inspect completed projects.

## **Katie Raycroft Meyer, Community Planner**

During the month of April my work has focused primarily on updating the Population and Housing Section of the Regional Plan. Last week I sent out a draft outline to the Housing Committee to review and comment on. The recently completed **2020 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment**, produced by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, has been an excellent source for current housing, demographic and income data for Addison County and the State. It will be interesting to see how this data, based on the U.S. Census Bureau, 3-5 year American Community Survey results compares with the 2020 Census. As we work on this project, we are all very aware that the current Covid-19 crisis will affect housing in our region in ways that could not have been predicted. This month, I completed the final review of Vergennes's Town and Enhanced Energy Plans and am close to wrapping up Monkton's Town and Enhanced and Energy Plan. Both communities have done an excellent job at updating their plans and developing enhanced energy strategies for their communities.



# ACRPC Staff Updates

**Andrew L'Roe,**

## **Emergency Management Planner**

This month I've continued working with municipalities to update and approve their annual Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) for the state's May 1 deadline. We've continued providing information to town municipal officials and Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) about the continuing COVID-19 outbreak, and coordinating with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). For more information, see our ACRPC COVID-19 webpage (<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/>). I've also been working with the Energy Committee to organize conversations of local Energy Committees and Coordinators, and putting together our annual mailing.



**Kevin Behm,**

## **Assistant Director & GIS Data Manager**

Kevin worked with the Natural Resource Committee to draft a position recommending that ACRPC apply to become the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin that was approved by the Commission. Mike subsequently developed the draft application. He and Adam reviewed the opportunity to submit a Broadband Innovation Grant. He has helped Benton to begin adding and revising web pages on our site that host the Addison County River Watch Collaborative. The ACRWC will be enhancing their site with a landowner survey and also a volunteer/training page as an effort to move in-person content online because of limited opportunity for meetings. Kevin and Benton have also continued to update town culvert inventories. Finally, municipal road name maps of all the towns have been prepared for inclusion into the annual mailing.

**Benton Wright, ECO AmeriCorps**

The past month I have been continuing to collaborate with the Addison County River Watch Collaborative to complete tasks such as initiating a landowner survey and updating and adding to the River Watch website. I also have been assisting Katie with her project in Shoreham which involves securing funding for planning a trail through a newly acquired town park. I have finished formatting culvert data collected during road erosion inventories and successfully uploaded it to the state's database for a few member towns and a couple of towns in Rutland County. I am still editing a draft RFP for proposed Community Solar Arrays (CSA) which any town may use to solicit bids for CSA projects. In my free hours I am continuing to volunteer at Vermont Meals on Wheels, packing and preparing meals.

# Trainings



## Biofinder Training

<https://anr.vermont.gov/content/upcoming-trainings>

Are you interested in learning about your town's wildlife habitat and its most important ecological areas? BioFinder, a free online portal, mapping tool, and go-to resource for exploring Vermont's biodiversity. You'll learn what's new with the recently released version of BioFinder 3.0

### Using BioFinder 3.0 for Land-Use Planning

This course will explore how BioFinder can help planners access important ecological data, identify significant forest blocks and habitat connectors, and comply with Act 171. This workshop is intended for members of conservation commissions, planning commissions, development review boards, as well as professional planners and interested citizens. Join us as we work towards planning a vibrant, ecologically healthy future in Vermont.

**Session 3:** Monday, May 11; 1:00-2:00PM

**Session 4:** Friday, May 29; 10:00-11:00AM

*Note: This workshop will be offered on four dates; participants need not attend multiple sessions, as the content will be the same.*

VERMONT  
ARBOR DAY  
WEBINAR SERIES

Thursdays at 10am

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/community/story/arbor-day-webinar-series>

## Essentials of Community Cybersecurity

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 1-5pm

Vermont Emergency Management will be hosting this course to provide individuals, community leaders, and first responders with information on how cyber attacks can impact, prevent, and/or stop operations and emergency responses in a community. The course also provides a cursory introduction to cybersecurity vulnerabilities, risks, threats, and countermeasures. It explains vulnerabilities of computer systems and networks and how these vulnerabilities can affect communities, organizations, and daily workplace operations.

**Registration:** Students will need to register via the Learning Management System. Students will also need to complete the registration process electronically via the TEEX website prior to the delivery. VEM will provide registered students with the TEEX URL.

Register here: <https://vermont.csod.com>

**For questions, contact Brittany Marquette,** State Training Administrator and State Training Officer, [DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov](mailto:DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov)

**Wetlands: Restoring Vanished Landscapes**  
<https://vlt.networkforgood.com/events/20552-wetlands-restoring-vanished-landscapes>

Vermont Land Trust is working to restore wetland areas, along with the benefits they provide to wildlife and humans. Follow along with VLT ecologist Allaire Diamond as she shows you our work to replant wetlands and recreate wetland topography around the state.

This free webinar is designed for anyone interested in the natural world, particularly high school through adult learners. All are welcome, but space is limited, so please sign up early!

# Announcements

## May TAC Meeting

The meeting will be at **6:30 pm on May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
The May meeting of the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee will feature a presentation from Robert Betsold from All States Material Group on budgeting for local road maintenance. Mr. Betsold has created some easy to use Excel based work sheets that can help towns figure out if they are budgeting sufficiently to maintain their infrastructure. The program should be very helpful to Selectboards and town managers. It is free and open to the public.

Contact Mike Winslow, [mwinslow@acrpc.org](mailto:mwinslow@acrpc.org) if you would like to participate in the meeting.

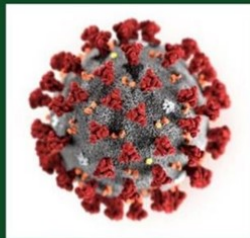
## Green Up Day postponed to last May Saturday

<https://greenupvermont.org/>

Usually the first Saturday in May, Green Up Day is a special day in Vermont when thousands of volunteers get involved in a community wide spring clean up of roadside litter. It is the largest statewide volunteer event in Vermont with over 22,500 taking part, and the longest running statewide Green Up Day in the United States.

## Tri-Town Bike Loop Feedback

The March Public Input Meeting on the tri-town bike loop was cancelled, but we are still asking for feedback on the project. Go to <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=41d3c98ddee74b85b898b527c1deae9e> to review the project, and click the "Community Feedback" link to leave us your thoughts.



## Protecting the Safety and Health of Workers

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

*Using OSHA/CDC Guidance to protect workers as we bring workplaces online*

## Protecting the Safety and Health of Workers

The Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Agency (VOSHA) has developed training and other materials to inform Vermonters on appropriate safety measures necessary to return to work amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Training and other materials were developed in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

All businesses and non-profit and government entities in operation must complete and document mandatory health and safety training by **May 4, 2020**.

"As we begin to reopen our economy and get people back to work, it is important that everyone understand the safety measures necessary for accomplishing safe and healthy workplaces," said Interim Commissioner Michael Harrington. "

All employers must provide training and details of standard operating procedures to their employees. Training developed by VOSHA includes:

*To take the online training visit*

<https://labor.vermont.gov/document/protecting-safety-and-health-workers-vosha>

*Want to print the training and review offline? visit*

<https://labor.vermont.gov/document/protecting-safety-and-health-workers-vosha-printable>

# Grants

## Place Your Orders!

### ACORN's Online Farmers' Market

Shop and pay directly online at a variety of "vendors" in ACORN's new online market. (Orders must be placed by 6PM the night prior to pick-up).

The market includes a number of vendors and more are added weekly, as the growing season progresses.

Your orders will be ready for curbside pick-up at one of two distribution sites:

- **Tandem, 26 Main St, Bristol on Wednesdays 4PM-6PM**
- **Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave, Middlebury on Thursdays 10AM-12PM**

Social distancing measures are in place at pick-up. Any orders not picked up within the designated time slot will be donated to HOPE.

The online market can be found at <http://www.acornvt.org/onlinemarket>

ACORN has also created an **interactive online map** at the above website that lists nearly 250 farmers and food producers in the Champlain Valley who sell food locally. There is also a map for non-food products and services such as seedlings, compost, hay and more.



**MEAT**



**FRUIT**



**Vegetables, Herbs,  
Flowers, CBD/Hemp**



**GRAINS**



**DAIRY**



**HONEY**



**EGGS**



**MAPLE**



**CSA**



**Specialty Foods**

## AARP "Quick-Action" Grants to Make Communities More Livable for People of All Ages

### Applications due by May 15, 2020

AARP invites you to submit applications for quick-action projects that can help your community become more livable. Applications are now being accepted for grants to improve housing, transportation, public space, smart cities, civic engagement and more. Projects must be completed by December 18, 2020.

Applications must be submitted through [www.aarp.org/communitychallenge](http://www.aarp.org/communitychallenge)

### VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program

Over the past several years, the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian grant program has opened its solicitation process at the end of April. At this time, due to uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the magnitude of impact to state revenues and how soon the Transportation Bill completes the Legislative process, the grant solicitation for new projects will need to be delayed until more is known. VTrans will be back in touch once they are able to.

### Christopher K. Jarvi Scholarship for the Advancement of Partnerships

<https://www.recpro.org/christopher-k-jarvi-scholarship>

The scholarship period opens on May 1st and will remain open until July 31, 2020.

This scholarship was created to encourage parks and recreation professionals to continue to explore how partnering efforts can help achieve park, recreation and community goals. Scholarships range from \$500 - \$1,500 and may be used over the 18 months following the award.