

ACRPC *update*

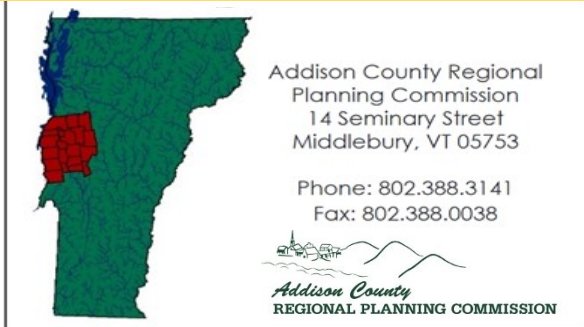
September 2020

This Month's Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 9	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting (Zoom)
Wed. 16	6:30pm	TAC Meeting
Thurs 17	7:00pm	ACSWMD
Wed. 23	6:30pm	ACRPC Exec. Board (Zoom)
Wed. 30	5:00pm	LEPC Meeting

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.

Broadband Survey Assistance Needed

Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, the need for quality internet access at homes to support children's educational needs, medical care, or work from home has significantly increased. In response, the State has committed over \$17 million dollars to bring expanded broadband access to communities without adequate service. The Vermont Department of Public Service is collecting information to see what can be done to help more residents get better internet at their homes.

DPS has created an interactive map that allows users to view reported broadband speed information for all addresses, along with an integrated survey with simple questions about K-12 students, Telehealth, and Telework needs. Please take the survey for your address and help us distribute the information to other community residents.

The ACRPC Broadband website has more information and a link to the State's interactive map here:

<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/broadband/>

We appreciate your attention to this matter during this busy time- Thank you!

ACRPC Staff Updates

Kevin Behm, Asst Director & GIS Data Manager

Kevin has been busy with office upgrades over the past month in addition to a municipal mapping projects. Recently he has been negotiating a lease for a new office copier. The existing Canon copier has served us well and it will be replaced with an updated Canon at a slightly lower cost per copy. He has continued reviewing operating requirements for a more modern website with easier to use plug-ins for uploading and organizing reports, documents and other media types as well as meeting ADA requirements. Also, in preparation for a new ECO AmeriCorps service member due to arrive in September we purchased an office laptop and loaded all the necessary software and configurations necessary for her to operate remotely and login to the office.

Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner

Katie is working with Salisbury in applying for a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG). The Planning Commission wants to continue updating their Town Plan by developing a Forest Fragmentation section to incorporate into the Natural Resources and Land Use chapters. MPGs are due Oct 1st, so there is still time to put an application together.

Both Vergennes and Panton are scheduled to have their municipal plans and **Enhanced Energy Plans**, regionally reviewed. Once approved, there will be six communities in ACRPC region that have completed this effort.

As the Ferrisburgh Planning Commission works to update its zoning, Katie has been working with a sub-committee to conceive of mix-use, design scenarios that would support compact development and increased housing opportunities in the town. This project is a continuation of a MPG, **Visualizing Density**, that Ferrisburgh received in 2020. To illustrate these concepts, graphic examples of possible scenarios will be generated and shared with the community.

Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner

Mike is working with the Town of New Haven to develop a grant application for a Scoping Study to widen Munger St. to better accommodate bike traffic. The project is a direct outcome of the recently completed Triangle Bike Loop Master Plan. TAC funded planning studies are nearing completion for Bristol and Salisbury. Mike has been working on a few major projects that are in the early development stages. First, VTrans has approved a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for the Vergennes Economic Corridor. ACRPC and VTrans are in discussion about developing an Advisory Committee and a Technical Committee for that project. Second, ACRPC has been involved in discussions about DEC's rule-making for Clean Water Service Providers for the Otter Creek Basin and other watersheds around Vermont. Grants in Aid projects are slowly being completed. As of this writing, 9 projects have been completed and inspected, 1 additional project is scheduled for inspection, 2 towns have cancelled projects for FY20, and 9 towns still need to wrap up their work and schedule a post-construction site visit before October 15.

Andrew L'Roe, Emergency Management Planner

Andrew has been working with community EMDs and town officials to begin recovery from COVID-19 and prepare for additional challenges due to the pandemic or other hazards. He is working with towns to apply for Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) Grants and organizing events for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Emergency Management Directors. Working with Katie he is finishing up updates to the Bristol Town Plan with the Planning Commission. Finally, Andrew is working with Energy Committees to organize Button Up Energy events in October.

Trainings and Tools

Chainsaw Safety Trainings Game of Logging

<http://familyforests.org/category/take-part/events/>

The Watershed Center, 4783 Plank Rd, Bristol VT Vermont Family Forests is hosting these one-day courses (8am-4pm):

- **Basic Chainsaw Use & Safety, 9/15**

This course is designed to introduce the safe handling of the chainsaw as well as boosting the confidence level of anyone who has very little or no experience with a chainsaw.

- **Level 1: Precision Felling Techniques, 9/17**

This workshop introduces open-face felling and the development of techniques to safely use it.

Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength.

- **Level 2. Maximizing Saw Performance, 9/24**

This workshop focuses on maximizing chainsaw performance through basic maintenance, carburetor setting, and filing techniques. Limbing and bucking techniques are introduced, spring pole cutting is covered and more felling is practiced.

- **Level 3. Limbing, Bucking, & Difficult Trees, 10/1**

This workshop training includes dealing with lean when felling trees; limbing and bucking downed trees; felling difficult and hung-up trees

There is financial assistance available from the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 8) for municipal road and public works employees to take part in this training.

Please contact ACRPC planner Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org for more information.

Guide: Municipal Engagement for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

<https://bit.ly/DEI-for-Municipalities>

This guide will help Vermont cities and towns to go further in their efforts to promote a welcoming and inclusive spirit in their communities. The ideas and recommendations in the guide come from Vermonters and in many cases have been implemented with success in communities throughout our state.

Produced by the Vermont Council on Rural Development for the Local Support and Community Action Team.

A banner for the Addison County COVID-19 Recovery Forum. The background is a scenic landscape of Addison County, Vermont, with rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky. The text is overlaid in white and yellow.

Addison County COVID-19 Recovery Forum

From Recovery to Renewal and Resilience

Virtual Forum

Thursday, Sept 17, 6:30-8:30pm

To register, visit www.vtrural.org/recovery

The COVID-19 Local Solutions & Community Action Team established by Governor Phil Scott invites you to join a virtual recovery forum to connect with others in Addison County to share challenges and ideas for community response and recovery, connect to others working to respond, recover and build long-term resilience, and meet with a "Visiting Team" of leaders who will share strategies and ideas for resources and support.

Breakout sessions will include,

- Business support & Recovery
- Building Community Unity
- Telecommunications
- Family & Individual Needs

If you have questions or plan on joining by phone & need registration assistance, contact info@vtrural.org or 802-223-6091.

Grants

Ash Tree Management Grants

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/programs/financial-assistance/2021-ash-management-grants>

Applications due October 30, 2020

The Urban & Community Forestry Program announces a new grant opportunity to support municipalities ready to engage in ash tree management. Applications are for cost-share grant funds between \$5,000 and \$15,000 that will support projects in at least one of the following categories:



- Removal of ash trees on municipally owned or managed land and replacement plantings of species other than ash.
- Development and implementation of effective and/or innovative management techniques and use of ash wood from public trees.
- Assessment, management planning, and active management of ash trees in high-use municipal areas such as parking areas, trailheads, and along trails in town forests or natural areas.

Due to budget constraints, it is very unlikely that Vermont UCF will sponsor any other grant programs in 2021, including the Caring for Canopy grants that have historically supported local tree management programs.

SFY21 Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant Program

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>

Applications must be received by 1pm, Oct 9

In a commitment to improving the quality of state waters and providing funding to municipalities to assist in their efforts, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is pleased to announce this funding opportunity.

Municipalities are eligible to apply for the following project types:

- Planning Studies
- Salt/Sand Sheds
- Bank Stabilization
- Culvert Replacement/ Re-sizing
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Detention Ponds
- Check Dams
- Swirl Separators
- Permeable Pavers
- Infiltration Basins
- Gravel Wetlands
- Subsurface Detention Systems
- Bio Filters
- Bio Retention Systems

All applications require a letter of support from their Regional Planning Commission. Please contact ACRPC planner Mike Winslow, mwinslow@acrpc.org with questions.

2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program

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

Due Wednesday, September 30 by 1PM

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Program goal is to provide safe and convenient facilities for those Vermonters who desire alternative transportation opportunities.

Please contact ACRPC transportation planner Mike Winslow, mwinslow@acrpc.org with questions or interest.



Grants

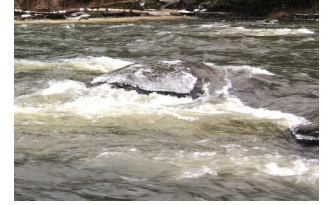


FEMA Mitigation Funding Programs

<https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation>

Application periods open September 30, 2020

with a State deadline of January 6, 2021



Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):

[replaces what was previously the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program]

- **Eligible Applicants:** State agencies, Regional Planning Commissions and municipalities. Note: Municipalities must have an approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan at the time of application submittal.
- **Eligible Projects:** Everything that was previously eligible under PDM will still be eligible, e.g. home buyouts, culvert projects, Local Hazard Mitigation Planning grants, etc. In addition, under BRIC, applicants can apply for:
 - Project Scoping (previously Advanced Assistance)
 - Capability- and capacity-building activities
 - Non-financial direct technical assistance

Management Costs: 5% of total project costs will be available to sub-applicants for managing the grant award.

Cost Share: 75% federal, 25% local non-federal (cash and/or in-kind); up to 90% federal share for small, impoverished communities.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA):

FMA funds must benefit an NFIP-participating community; ideally those with Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss properties

- Up to **\$600,000** is available per State for **Project Scoping** to develop community flood mitigation projects that reduce future NFIP flood claims.
- Up to **\$30 million** can be applied for per sub-applicant for **Community Flood Mitigation Projects** to address community flood risk to reduce future NFIP flood claims.

Cost Share: 75% federal, 25% local non-federal (cash and/or in-kind); or up to 90% for Repetitive-Loss and up to 100% for Severe-Repetitive Loss properties.

For questions or interest on either program, contact ACRPC planner Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org or 802-388-3141

FY2021

Municipal Planning Grant

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

Applications due October 1st

If you are interested in developing a proposal and applying, please contact ACRPC Community Planner, Katie Raycroft-Meyer at 802-388-3141 or kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org

Announcements

Regional Review: Town of Panton Energy and Municipal Plan

Thursday October 8th at 7 pm

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing for a regional review of Panton's Enhanced Energy and Municipal Plan. This meeting will be held remotely during the Panton Planning Commission's regular meeting time.

Town Public Hearing: Town of Bristol Energy and Municipal Plan

Tuesday October 6th at 7pm

The Bristol Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing for Bristol's Enhanced Energy and Municipal Plan. This meeting will be held remotely during the Bristol Planning Commission's regular meeting time.



Acorn and CEAC
present



Climate and Energy Resource Guide <https://climateenergyguidemt.org/>

Acorn Energy Co-op (Acorn) and the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC) have developed an online guide offering free listings to local businesses and organizations doing work related to climate and renewable energy in our region. The Climate and Energy Resource Guide is intended to highlight the good work going on in these areas and to make information accessible to consumers and businesses.

Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits

In July, downtown and village center revitalization initiatives received a big boost from \$3.2 million in state tax credits for 30 projects, supporting over \$160 million in building improvements and public infrastructure. Since 1998, almost 400 projects in more than 75 communities have used more than \$34 million in tax incentives to open new businesses, create new housing opportunities, and add vitality to Vermont's community centers. Projects in Addison County this year include:



64 Main Street, Middlebury – This project will restore and preserve a mixed-use building with major improvements along Frog Hollow Alleyway façade. State tax credits will also support code improvements to ensure the building's two apartments are more marketable and remain affordable.

Total Project Cost: \$64,693; Tax Credits Awarded: \$18,173



34 North Street, Vergennes – In support of an expanding assisted living community, the City of Vergennes will complete several infrastructure projects to better connect the Vergennes Grand Senior Living with the City Green and Main Street. This includes paving, lighting, and stormwater infrastructure improvements. The facility will expand from 10 to 54 units, providing space for up to 78 residents within steps of the Green and the City's many amenities.

Total Project Cost: \$21,656,400; Sales Tax Reallocation Awarded: \$181,030

More information on projects and the tax credits is available at:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/HTC/CPR-FY2021HTCSummaries.pdf>