



# November Update



*The ACRPC Newsletter* (also available <https://acrpc.org/newsletters/>) contains Addison County announcements, events, grants, and trainings for the upcoming month. Please contact [mshropshire@acrpc.org](mailto:mshropshire@acrpc.org) with questions.

## ACRPC in the News

*Adam Lougee, ACRPC Director*

*Guest Editorial in the Addison Independent [HERE](#)*

One of the most important topics on your collective agendas lately has been, “How should your town spend the funding it received from the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”)?”

I write to you today with a suggestion. I ask you to close your eyes and take a journey with me. Please think of your community, or your favorite small community in Addison County, or in Vermont for that matter. Now think of the most iconic building in or near the center of that community’s village. Can you see it?

I will wager that you chose your town hall, or library or some other community building. I would also wager that it was constructed sometime in the 19th century, maybe the 1850s. Your community has maintained it, but has never really improved it. Over time, its systems have

fallen out of date. The hall is not ADA accessible, so you no longer hold town meetings there; or it costs a fortune to heat, so it sits unused and unloved all winter. These buildings stand potentially grand, but slightly impoverished and under-utilized in many of our villages.

My challenge to all of you is this: How do we restore not only the buildings themselves, but their use, their purpose and their pride? How do we use the town and state ARPA funding, combined with other funding sources, to reinvigorate these iconic structures as economic engines and community centers in the heart of our villages?

Can they house a daycare, eldercare, or both? Can they serve as a business incubator or a joint community workspace (A short commute from home, but with a sense of community one does not get from their basement office)? Can it serve as the town hall again, enhanced by some other business use or uses that promote economic or community development and enable it to generate an income stream for its upkeep?

We need to be thoughtful and careful. Municipal ARPA funding can only pay for certain types of infrastructure, like broadband, water or wastewater (each of which could be a potentially important part of our project).

However, if we focus on the economic activity and recovery we could generate from our improved facility, I believe we can restore and preserve these cornerstones of our villages and improve them to help drive our communities' prosperity into the future; the intended use of the ARPA recovery funding.

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission stands ready to work with our communities to help you fulfill your vision to drive economic recovery in your community.

## Events

### November Calendar

Date	Time	Meeting
Wed, November 10th	7:00pm	RPC Full Commission
Wed, November 17th	12:30pm	Forest Integrity Meeting
Wed, November 17th	6:30pm	TAC
Thurs, November 18th	7:00pm	ACSWMD
Wed, December 1st	6:30pm	RPC Exec Board

*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 ADA accessible.*

### **VLCT Municipal Tree Law Webinar**

Overview of the roles and responsibilities different municipal officials play in complying with municipal tree law and a new guide written by VLCT MAC attorneys.

When: Nov 4, 2021, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Register for event: [CLICK HERE](#)

### **ACORN's Annual Meeting and Panel of Women in Local Food**

Join ACORN as they host a panel discussion of women in local food, recap the year, and hear what's envisioned for 2022 and beyond.

When: Nov 10, 2021, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Registration is required: [CLICK HERE](#)

### **MALT's Annual Meeting**

MALT invites our community to celebrate a banner year of programming and access to conserved lands. This event will be virtual and you must RSVP to get the meeting link.

When: November 17th at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

RSVP: [HERE](#)

### **VLCT Municipal Financial Auditing**

For information: [CLICK HERE](#)

When: Nov 17, 2021, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Cost: \$78 VLCT; \$48 PACIF

Register for event: [HERE](#)

## **Announcements**

### **Feedback Needed to Shape Future Economic Development Efforts**

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission and Addison County Economic Development Corporation invite you to help shape future economic development efforts in Addison County and Vermont. As you may know, we held a workshop on June 10th to solicit input and feedback from the Addison County community on a Strengths, Opportunities, aspirations, and Results (SOAR) analysis of our region. The primary goal of this workshop was to inform the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for West Central Vermont. It will also inform the next iteration of the Economic Development section of the Addison County Regional Plan. To further both of these goals, we are asking for your continued engagement and guidance. Please review this updated draft SOAR document (<https://tinyurl.com/6krtjtpd>), which was generated after our last workshop.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, you can use this short survey:

<https://forms.gle/rWmgSY4Bi8u4un5Z8> to share your thoughts on specific sections of the SOAR.

### **Regional Priority Project list for state and federal funding eligibility**

ACRPC is partnering with ACEDC to develop a Regional Priority Project list for state and federal funding eligibility. The Regional Priority Project List process is occurring in every region of the state and the final product is provided in December to the Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD), who will use it for funding decisions and share the lists with other state and federal funders for consideration in making decisions on grant programs.

Project Information Form, available here, and submit the form by November 26, 2021.

Learn More: <https://addisoncountyedc.org/regional-priority-project-list-process>.

### **Vergennes Truck Traffic Public Meeting**

On Thursday November 4 there will be a public meeting at the Vergennes Opera House to discuss alleviating truck traffic in downtown Vergennes. The public meeting will review the purpose and goals of the study, and gather community input to help identify and evaluate potential alternatives. For more information, including remote access options, go to <https://vergennesspel.com/>

### **Comment on the Draft Clean Water Budget**

Help Inform Vermont's Clean Water Budget! Vermont's Clean Water Board is asking the public to weigh in on how they would like to prioritize approximately \$46.9 million available through the State Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water Budget to clean up water pollution across the state. The draft budget is available for public review. The Board is asking Vermonters to provide feedback October 19–November 19, 2021, through an online questionnaire, on whether they believe funding levels are sufficient and whether they agree with the Board's proposed prioritization of funding across projects. Complete the brief online questionnaire by Friday, November 19, 2021 at 4:00 pm. Contact [ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov) with subject line "SFY 2023 Clean Water Budget Public Comment" with questions about the clean water budget public comment period and public hearing.

### **Brownfield Community Wide Assessment**

Do you own or want to develop properties in Addison County but think they might have environmental contaminants? These types of properties might include old gas stations, auto repair shops, dry cleaners, landfills, junkyards, industrial buildings, or vacant sites where any of these used to be. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) are working with Stantec Consulting Services to prepare a Community Wide Assessment of Brownfields in the Region. A Brownfield is a property which has, or may have, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. These can significantly complicate the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of these properties, so ACRPC is working to identify sites so that we can work with interested parties to assess and remediate them. If you have site suggestions, please send them to ACRPC planner, Andrew L'Roe ([alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)) or bring them to the Full Regional Planning Commission meeting on **November 10<sup>th</sup>** for discussion.

## Grants and Funding

### November Deadlines

#### **American Recovery Program Act Funding**

Vermont will receive more than \$1.25 billion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from ARPA. Congress directed nearly \$200 million of that funding directly to Vermont's cities, towns, and villages. Find out more and resources to help your town [HERE](#).

#### **Special FY2022 Funding for Bylaw Modernization**

In fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022), the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has \$500,000 available to grant to municipalities for land use, development, and zoning bylaw updates in support of pedestrian-oriented development patterns that increase housing choice and affordability within smart growth areas, and in accordance with Vermont's smart growth principles ([24 V.S.A. §2791](#)).

Application deadline: November 15, 6 p.m.

Contact: ACRPC's Katie Raycroft-Meyer at (802) 388-3141, [kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org](mailto:kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org)  
<https://accd.vermont.gov/content/bylaw-modernization-grants>

#### **EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities 2021 Application**

A planning team will help communities bring together local residents and other stakeholders to decide on strategies and an action plan to grow the local outdoor recreation economy.

Apply by: 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Nov. 22, 2021

Learn more: <https://www.vlct.org/event/municipal-financial-auditing-options-legal-requirements>

#### **Transportation Alternatives Program**

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides funding for projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhancing mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation, trails that serve a transportation purpose, and safe routes to school projects.

Apply by: November 24

For information, contact Scott Robertson, P.E., VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau, (802) 793-2395, [scott.robertson@vermont.gov](mailto:scott.robertson@vermont.gov)

**For more upcoming grant opportunities please visit the ACRPC website:**

<https://acrpc.org/2021/11/november-grant-opportunities/>

## Tools and Training

### **Forest Blocks & Habitat Connectors in Your Town Plan**

Act 171 requires towns to identify and protect forest blocks and habitat connectors. But what exactly does that mean? And how do you figure out which blocks and connectors are most valuable to wildlife and your community? ACRPC has been working with several towns to write updated Natural Resource chapters incorporating local habitat and wildlife information to meet the new requirements. We will discuss how municipalities can modify and adopt these sections into their town plan updates. Members of Planning Commissions and Conservation Commissions are encouraged to attend! For more information, contact Andrew L'Roe at 802-388-3141 or [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)

### **VT Agency of Natural Resources Community Wildlife Program**

List of webinars: <https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings>

To register, email Andrew Wood [andrew.wood@vermont.gov](mailto:andrew.wood@vermont.gov)

### **Vermont Tier 2 & Tier 3 Rivers & Roads Training Program**

Events List: <https://dec.vermont.gov/content/vermont-rivers-roads-tier-2-training>

Contact: Staci Pomeroy (802-490-6191, [staci.pomeroy@vermont.gov](mailto:staci.pomeroy@vermont.gov)), or Todd Menees, [todd.menees@vermont.gov](mailto:todd.menees@vermont.gov), 802-345-3510).