



SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5
Post Office Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030
(802) 674 9201 phone (802) 674-5711 fax
www.swcrpc.org

Fall 2010

Special points of interest:

- *Chester develops unified standards bylaw*
- *New highway signs coming soon*
- *October 4th Public Hearing on State Transportation Program*

COMMISSIONERS:

Don Barrett, Chair, Springfield

Peter Daniels, Vice Chair,
Weathersfield

Tom Bock,
Secretary/Treasurer, Chester

Joseph Fromberger, Andover

Carol Lighthall, Baltimore

Shep Thomas, Alt., Baltimore

Etienne Ting, Cavendish

Cecil Waldo, Alt., Chester

Norm Vanasse, Ludlow

Rose Goings, Alt., Ludlow

John Mitchell, Reading

Hal Pyke, West Windsor

Steve Cottrell, Windsor

STAFF:

Thomas Kennedy,

Executive Director

Jason Rasmussen,

Senior Planner

Daniel Potter,

Assistant Planner

John Broker-Campbell,

Planner

Cynthia Porter,

Financial Administrator

Angela Esslinger,

Office Manager

EPA Awards \$400,000

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission was recently awarded \$400,000 in Supplemental Revolving Loan Funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist towns, property owners, or prospective purchasers of properties contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with

hazardous waste. The public is invited to review the application and provide

comments. The RPC will be holding a **public informational meeting** as part of their regular monthly board meeting on **Tuesday, September 21** at noon at the Martin Memorial Hall in Weathersfield, VT.

The RPC is a cooperative agreement recipient of a previously awarded RLF grant and has significantly depleted existing available funds. The RPC is also authorized to make subgrants and loans outside the ten towns comprising southern Windsor County. To date, all available subgrant funding (\$346,000) has been

awarded through five subgrants (4 inside and 1

outside the Region). In addition, all of the available funding for loans (\$519,000) has been encumbered for one loan at a site in the Region. Projects that have benefited from this low/no interest loan or subgrant

opportunity include the Proctorsville Green Housing Project in Cavendish, the Windsor Waypoint Welcome Center, the Bellows Falls Historical Society, Precision Valley Development Corporation, and 100 River Street, LLC in Springfield, VT. Copies of the application are available online at

www.swcrpc.org and at the SWCRPC offices in the Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5 South, Ascutney, VT. For more information or to submit comments, contact Dan Potter. dpotter@swcrpc.org.

*The next RPC meeting is Tuesday
September 21st 12:00pm at
Martin Memorial Hall.*

Brownfields Program Changes Hands...Again

Please welcome our newest Brownfields Coordinator, Dan Potter. Dan grew up in Hartland, VT and graduated from Hartford High School. He then attended UVM where he majored in Community and International Development with a

minor in Green Building and Community Design. While at UVM Dan had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects which included assisting with the preparation and production of energy efficiency workshops specifically designed for mobile homes. Outside

of work Dan enjoys hiking, camping, skiing, and live music.

Sad News...

April has left the SWCRPC for South Carolina. Best of luck to April and her family as they start their new adventure!



Can you see me now?

Required Town Highway Signage Upgrades.

A new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rule requires that towns must develop a program to inspect and upgrade roadway signs. The intent is for all signs along public roads to meet the new retroreflectivity sign standards, which increase the amount of light bouncing off of the signs making them easier to read at night.

Key compliance dates:

January 2012 – All local governments must inventory their signs, assess sign retroreflectivity and establish a process to upgrade existing sub-standard signs.

January 2015 – All local governments must ensure that all regulatory, warning and ground-mounted guide signs comply with the new rules.

January 2018 – All local governments must ensure that all street name and overhead guide signs comply with the new rules.

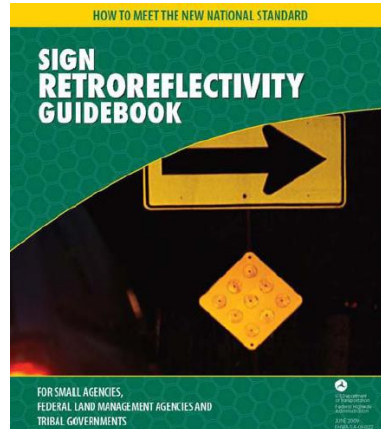
Since retroreflective sign materials degrade over time, local

governments will also be required to regularly update their inventory and upgrade signs in order to maintain compliance.

Vermont Local Roads is developing a training package for local highway department personnel.

A guidebook is available online to assist local governments to

address the new FHWA rule: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/night_visib/retrotoolkit/



Windsor Energy Usage

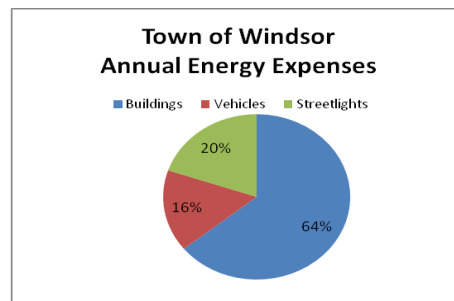
The SWCRPC is developing a regional baseline energy study in order to profile greenhouse gas emissions, energy use and its associated cost for local governments. Based on the draft analysis for Windsor:

- Total cost of municipal energy use in 2009: \$249,549
- Total municipal energy use in 2009: 8661.1 MMBtu

Total municipal CO2 emissions in 2009: 1,891,690 lbs of CO₂

Following energy audits that are being conducted this fall, we hope to identify cost-effective strategies to reduce energy use and costs. Please contact Dan Potter or Jason

Rasmussen for more information.



911 What's Your Emergency?

SWCRPC is currently working on a number of projects related to emergency management and planning including:

✦ Updates to the 2006 All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and associated town annexes. This is a FEMA required plan that addresses current hazards the region faces along

with potential mitigation activities to lessen the impacts of each threat.

✦ In coordination with LEPC 3, creating an All Hazards Resource Guide that can be utilized by town emergency personnel during an emergency event. The new guide will be a quick reference for towns that

will outline potential preparedness, response and recovery activities along with listing additional resources that may be utilized or needed.

Assisting the Town of Windsor with addressing the potential flooding and other issues related

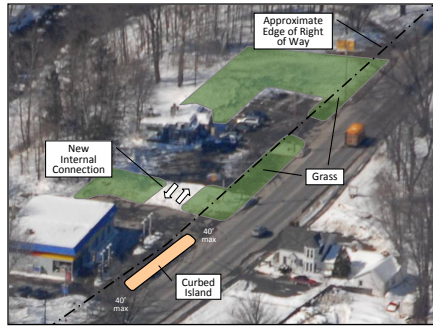
Changes in Chester

The Town of Chester hired the SWCRPC to develop a unified development bylaw [24 V.S.A. §4419], funded by a municipal planning grant awarded this past spring. The unified bylaws will consolidate the zoning, subdivision and flood hazard regulations into one document to make land use regulations more user friendly.

This process will also update the existing zoning district standards and allowable uses in order to be in conformance with the newly adopted 2010 Chester Town Plan.

Staff will also work with the Chester Planning Commission to consider appropriate ways to incorporate the VT 103 Corridor Management Plan (CMP) into the Bylaws. The CMP includes recommendations such as:

- Improve access management along the VT 103 corridor (see example photograph above);



- Modify zoning standards to encourage a more attractive, mixed-use and pedestrian-friendly "Village East" in the Commercial District along VT 103 South;
- Examine the minimum lot sizes/densities and allowable uses to be more appropriate for village and rural areas, respectively (generally increasing densities within the Village and decreasing densities in the R80 and R40 districts);

- Explore regulatory changes to encourage the preferred alternative for the R40 district along VT 103 South (see the graphic below).

Chester will be working on this project over the next 1 ½ years, and hopes to develop a public



hearing draft unified development bylaw by winter 2012.

For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

October 4th Public Hearing on State Transportation Program

At 7 PM on October 4, 2010, there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for federal fiscal years 2011-2014. The STIP is a plan for how VTrans will spend federal transportation money over the next four years.

It lists project and program funding for highways, bridges, sidewalks, public transit, discretionary funding for certain projects, maintenance and other transportation activities. A draft STIP is usually released about a week before the hearing. The hearing

will be held at Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) sites with the Howard Dean Education Center in Springfield, Community College of Vermont in Wilder the closest VIT locations in our region. For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

Water Quality

Kristen Underwood of South Mountain Research and Consulting presented results from Phase 2 Stream Geomorphic work completed on the Black River Main Stem connecting Echo Lake and Lake Rescue along with Patch Brook, Buffalo Brook and Reading Pond at the Lake Rescue Association annual meeting on August 7, 2010. The project goal

was to identify areas of river channel movement and streambank erosion that may be contributing to the sediment build-up in the lakes. The presentation highlighted both the current and past land uses in the area adjacent to Lake Rescue. There was also a discussion of methods to control erosion along Lake Rescue. A detailed Phase 2

report will be completed by South Mountain Research and Consulting after the data collected has thoroughly examined and checked for quality control. The report will outline specific mitigation projects that can be undertaken by landowners.

For more information please contact John Broker-Campbell.

Upcoming Fall Events and Workshops



September 21, 7:00-9:00 pm PRESENTATION TRANSFORMING & PRESERVING VERMONT'S CITIES & TOWNS THROUGH FORM BASED PLANNING

Sugar Maple/Summit Room, 4th floor
[Davis Center](#) at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Free public presentation and facilitated discussion introducing form-based planning and regulation, designed for municipal planning commissioners, selectboard members, managers/administrators, regional planners and commissioners, developers, realtors, engineers, architects, academics, students and others with an interest in community planning and design. No registration required.

September 22, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 pm PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP FORM BASED PLANNING & REGULATION FOR VERMONT MUNICIPALITIES

Richmond Town Library Community Room, Richmond, Vermont A hands-on workshop based on [The ABC's of Form-Based Codes: Special One-Day Introduction](#) geared towards professional planners, architects, landscape architects, land use lawyers, civil engineers and others. Lunch will be provided. Stay tuned for more details on registration and fees. **Co-sponsored by [Vermont Planners Association](#) and the Town of Richmond**

October 7: VLCT Town Fair

Robert E. Miller Expo Center, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Jct.

CONTACT: Jessica Hill (jhill@vlct.org)

PHONE: 802/229-9111

WEBSITE: <http://www.vlct.org/events/calendar/townfair/>

Come join VLCT staff for a great day of training, networking, recognition and exhibitors! At Town Fair, you'll be able to learn from a variety of workshops, network with your peers, attend local government organizations' annual and special meetings, and help set VLCT's legislative priorities for the upcoming year. More details are available on the Town Fair page
<http://www.vlct.org/events/calendar/townfair/>

October 7&8: NNECAPA Annual Conference

Portsmouth Harbor Events Conference Center, Portsmouth NH

CONTACT: Julie LaBranche, NNECAPA NH State Director, NNECAPA / NH Planners Association

PHONE: (603) 778-0885

EMAIL: jlabranche@rpc-nh.org

WEB SITE: <http://nnecapea.org/resources/2010-annual-nnecapea-conference/>

For more information on any of these upcoming events and workshops please visit www.vlct.org



RPC Calendar of Events

September 2010

- 21 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:00 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office
- 21 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield

October 2010

- 8 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 11 **Observance of Columbus Day; RPC office will be closed.**
- 13 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 19 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 19 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 20 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 28 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield

November 2010

- 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 12 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 16 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 16 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 17 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 25/26 **Observance of Thanksgiving; RPC office will be closed.**