



Winter 2010 Newsletter

Contact us:

Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5
Post Office Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030

(802) 674 9201

(802) 674-5711 (fax)

www.swcrpc.org

Andover / Baltimore / Cavendish / Chester / Ludlow / Reading / Springfield / Weathersfield / West Windsor / Windsor

SWCRPC

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SWCRPC STAFF:

Thomas Kennedy,

Executive Director

Jason Rasmussen,

Senior Planner

April Harkness,

GIS Planner

John Broker-Campbell,

Planner

Joseph Bonanno

Planner

Cynthia Porter,

Financial Administrator

Angela Esslinger,

Office Manager

Meet Joe Bonanno, SWCRPC's newest planner ...

Joe is originally from New York City (Bronx), but later raised in Mahopac, NY, a northern suburb of New York City. He earned his bachelor's degree in urban planning at the State University of New York in Albany in 2003; in 2006, he was accepted to Hunter College, in New York City, where he earned his masters

degree in urban planning in January 2009. Beginning in June of 2007, Joe began what was supposed to be a summer internship at the Westchester County, NY, Department of Planning, but was asked to continue until December 2009. In his free time, some things that he enjoys doing include bicycling, kayaking, photography; in addition, he has an interest in aviation and is a private pilot.

Joe will be working on a variety of things including Transportation, Energy and Emergency Planning.



Recently Attended Workshops

Joe Bonanno recently attended a Transportation/Land Use workshop presented by the McCormick Taylor Engineering and Planning consulting firm on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration's National Highway Institute. The workshop focused on a multitude of current planning topics, including regional planning, corridor planning, public participation, and the effective integration of transportation and land use. Aspects of this course that could apply to our region include access management techniques, which are methods intended to minimize vehicle ingress and egress access points on main roads, thereby allowing traffic to move smoothly; and methods to combine streetscape improvements with transportation, simultaneously beautifying our main streets and improving their functionality.

For a more information, please email jbonanno@swcrpc.org.

We're collecting corks!

Natural and Synthetic are being collected at Springfield and Rockingham Transfer Stations.

They are then recycled into corkboards!

Thanks for keeping one more thing out of the landfill.



Town Energy Planning Resources

With our new Energy Program as reported in the Fall 2009 Newsletter, the SWCRPC will provide a variety of new planning services to town and county governments. As this new program develops, we will update our website with resources to assist local governments with town plans, land use regulations and the activities of local energy committees. Staff will also be available to provide technical assistance.

A number of towns are currently updating their town plans and land use regulations. A few towns have newly established local energy committees. The following resources and town planning considerations for energy efficiency and conservation may be helpful:

Town Energy Planning

In our Fall Newsletter, we announced that the SWCRPC had received funding from the Vermont Department of Public Service and the Department of Energy to provide planning and technical services to towns and county owned buildings. Initially, the SWCRPC will be focusing on three tasks: updating our website to provide information and links for use by planning commissions, boards of selectmen and local energy committee on a variety of energy topics. The second task, will be to work with interested towns to develop an energy consumption baseline. The baseline will include electricity, oil, diesel, propane and other forms of energy. The purpose of the baseline is to measure the effectiveness of any changes the towns may implement to reduce energy consumption. The third task will be to assist towns with energy audits of their buildings or if a town has performed energy audits, the SWCRPC will cost share with a town purchase energy saving equipment such as light fixtures, bulbs, etc.

Zoning Limitations for Alternative Energy Structures

Any net-metered facility is subject to approval by the Public Service Board (30 V.S.A. §248(a)(2)). In PSB proceedings, town plans play an important role. Therefore, town plans should have clear policies regarding commercial energy production for use in the PSB Certificate of Public Good procedures.

Zoning Bylaws may regulate wind turbines and solar collectors that are not net-metered per 24 V.S.A. §4412(6).

Consideration for local land use bylaws, include:

- Establishing waiver provisions for height for renewable energy structures;
- Adopting special use standards for renewable energy structures, including height, setbacks, noise, visual impacts, maybe even standards for protection of solar access;
- Developing subdivision and/or PUD standards that allow for decentralized heating or power facilities, road layouts that support passive solar building orientation, and other energy conservation standards.

For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

Town of Springfield ~ Congratulations for being such active recyclers!

Recyclable Material	Amount Recycled in 2009	Environmental Impact! This is only one benefit of using this recycled material rather than natural resources (raw materials) to manufacture new products.
Aluminum Cans	6,678 lbs.	Conserved enough energy to run a television for 679,553 hours
Paper	476 tons	Saved 8,088 trees
Plastics	33 tons	Conserved 49,935 gallons of gasoline
Scrap Metal	177 tons	Conserved 177,339 pounds of coal
Steel Cans	68,440 lbs.	Conserved enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for 1,779,440 hours

Four New Town Bridge Projects are Funded

As reported in our Fall 2009 Newsletter, the SWCRPC submitted our top ten regional priority town bridge needs to the state. These ten bridges included structures on town highways that were evaluated based on structural condition, traffic levels and other transportation project criteria required under state statute. Based on this new process, four new bridge projects from this region were submitted by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to be included in the FY 2011 Governor’s Recommended Capital Budget.

These new bridge projects, listed by status category, include:

Development & Evaluation

(generally meaning construction within 3-4 years):

- Bridge #25 (Walker Bridge) over the Black River on Main Street/VT 103, Ludlow

Candidate (construction in 5 or more years):

- Bridge #58 over the Black River on Depot Street, Proctorsville
- Bridge #54 over the Jewell Brook on Pond Street Extension, Ludlow
- Bridge #56 over the Great Brook on Main Street between Fairbanks Road and VT Route 10 West, North Springfield

The Harry Hills Bridge (#57) over the Great Brook on Main Street in North Springfield has been included in the capital budget for many years, and is now scheduled as a “front-of-book” project with construction in FY 2011-12. Candidate town bridge projects will be reevaluated annually based on condition and other factors.

For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

Compost Bin and Kitchen Pail Sale

Keeping organics out of the landfill benefits our air and soil.

Pick up an order form at your town hall or download one at

www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org.

Deadline for orders is March 19, 2010.

Please contact **Mary O’Brien,**
Recycling Coordinator,

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District with any recycling questions: 674-9235 or mobrien@swcrpc.org.

Emergency Management

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission was granted funding for water quality planning under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) to identify town and regional barriers to the adoption and application of Low Impact Development (LID). SWCRPC will develop specific tools and recommendations to address barriers to implementing LID policies and regulations including: zoning, subdivision and town plan model language that addresses stormwater runoff concerns.

SWCRPC will also be working with the town of Windsor to review the areas in or in close proximity to the FEMA identified floodplain or floodway along with the building sizes and the amount of impervious surfaces to identify development constraints and development opportunities in the area east of the railroad tracks.

For more information, please contact John Broker-Campbell .

Brownfields

Using SWCRPC Hazardous Assessment funds provided by the US EPA, the Ludlow Armory Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is now complete and the site has been purchased by the town of Ludlow. Future activities associated with the site include developing a Corrective Action Plan and determining the costs for the redevelopment of the site. The town will be seeking to pass a bond vote for renovation and construction costs at Town Meeting this year.

Phase II ESA work is continuing at the Edgar May Recreation Center in Springfield, VT with all the work being completed by June 2010. In addition, the RPC, using recently awarded EPA funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is requesting the use of funds for remediation and cleanup activities at the J&L Plant 1 and PVDC (100 River St) sites in Springfield, VT.

The RPC has remaining Petroleum Assessment funds and limited Petroleum Cleanup funds.

For more information, please contact April Harkness or Tom Kennedy.



UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS:

SWANA Meeting - Biosolids, Energy, and
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

February 11, 2010

[http://www.swanachapters.org/Default.aspx?
alias=www.swanachapters.org/nne](http://www.swanachapters.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.swanachapters.org/nne)

Local Government Day in the Legislature

February 24, 2010

Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier, VT

[http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/
workshops/Local_Gov_Trifold10.pdf](http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/workshops/Local_Gov_Trifold10.pdf)

The Data Resources Your Town Needs For
Comprehensive Planning

March 10, 2010

[http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/
workshops/web_Data_Resources_VIT10.pdf](http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/workshops/web_Data_Resources_VIT10.pdf)

VCDA Spring Meeting

April 8, 2010

<http://www.vtcda.org>

Summer Retreat for Development Review
Volunteers

June 18-19, 2010

<http://www.vermontlaw.edu/landuse>

NRRA's 29th Annual Recycling Conference
and Expo

June 7, 2010

<http://www.nrra.net>

Free

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Springfield Transfer Station

9:00 a.m.—noon

Rockingham Transfer Station

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

For more information,
please contact Mary O'Brien.

**If you printed this
newsletter,
please remember
to recycle it.
Thank you.**



Calendar of Events

February 2010

- 12 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 16 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 16 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

March 2010

- 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm, location TBA
- 12 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 16 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 16 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 17 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

April 2010

- 9 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 14 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm, location TBA
- 20 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 20 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 21 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 29 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield