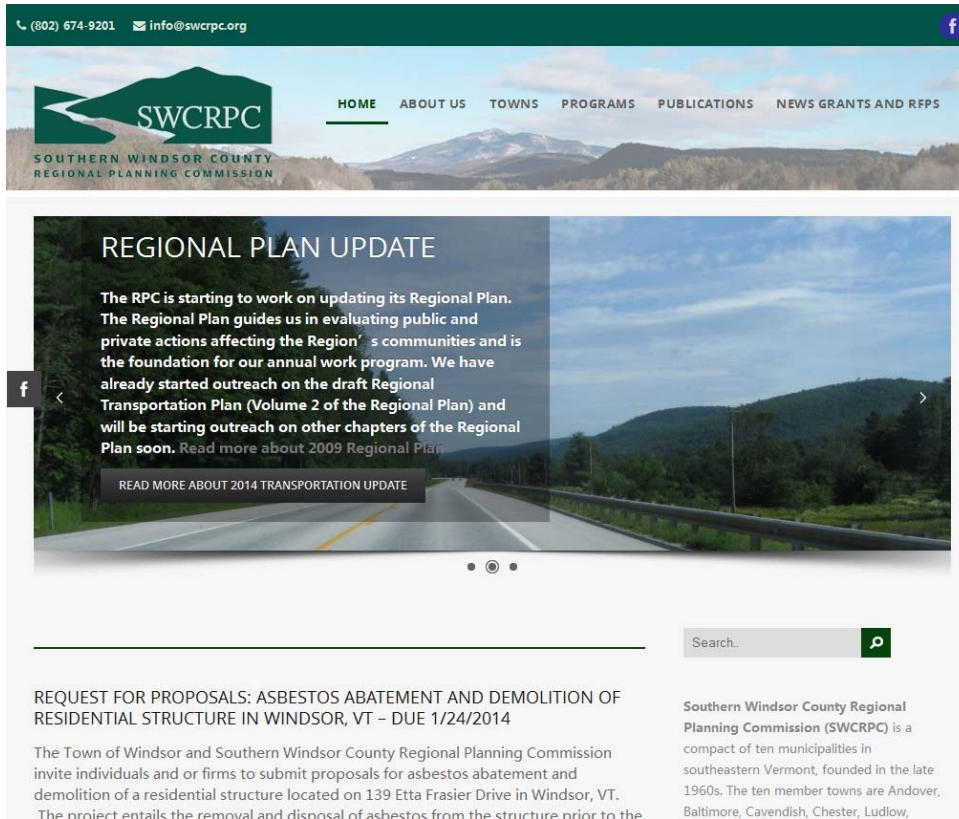


## Website Redesigned



It's here! The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission has re-designed their website, including new features of a calendar and a search function. It is a useful source of information including reports published by the RPC, current and upcoming projects, grant opportunities, committee minutes, and more! Check it out at <http://swcrpc.org/>.

## Tools to Plan for Flood Resiliency

Flood resiliency is now a required element for both regional and town plans, which must:

- Identify flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas;
- Designate those areas to be protected in order to reduce the risk of flood damage; and
- Recommend policies and strategies to protect these areas and mitigate flood and erosion risks.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Don't forget to check us out on Facebook and also our website for the most up to date information.**

## Winter 2014 Edition

What's inside:

- "New face a the RPC"
- *Regional Transportation Plan update (page 3)*
- *VNRC releases a new guide for local action (page 5)*

### COMMISSIONERS:

**Peter Daniels, Chair,**  
Weathersfield

**Tom Bock, Vice Chair,**  
Chester

**Carol Lighthall, Secretary/  
Treasurer,** Baltimore

**Joseph Fromberger,** Andover

**Shep Thomas, Alt.** Baltimore

**Etienne Ting,** Cavendish

**Derek Suursoo., Alt.** Chester

**Norm Vanasse,** Ludlow

**Rose Goings, Alt.** Ludlow

**John Mitchell,** Reading

**Don Barrett,** Springfield

**Joe Wilson, Alt.** Springfield

**deForest Bearse, Alt.**  
Weathersfield

**Hal Pyke,** West Windsor

**Clayton Paronto,** Windsor

**Tom Marsh, Alt.** Windsor

### STAFF:

**Thomas Kennedy,**  
Executive Director

**Jason Rasmussen,**  
Senior Planner

**John Broker-Campbell,**  
Regional Planner

**Daniel Potter,** Planner

**Katharine Otto,** Planner

**Cynthia Porter,** Financial  
Administrator

**Christina Titus,** Administrative  
Assistant

## Flood Resiliency cont.

The following tools are now available to help address this new requirement:

- The Department of Housing and Community Development's website includes links to a number of different resources that can assist in this effort. See the [Plan Today for Tomorrow's Flood](#) section of their website.
- Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources developed a Flood Resilience website to help guide communities through this planning process. Type in "tinyurl.com/floodresilience" in the browser to access this website.
- Related mapping data can be found at both FEMA's [Map Service Center](#)
- or ANR's [Natural Resource Atlas](#). SWCRPC staff can assist in finding the most current data to map flood and erosion hazard zones.

A list of possible recommendations to achieve greater flood resiliency, based on some of the resources cited include:

- Restore floodplains through the removal of berms and levees
- Buyout flood-prone structures
- Conserve land and wetlands that serve as important floodplain storage areas or are prone to flooding and/or erosion
- Amend land use bylaws to control development along rivers and floodplains
- Mitigate risks for village areas by:
  - Make strategic infrastructure investments (e.g. storm drainage upgrades, dams, dikes, etc.)
  - Avoid building new critical facilities sited in flood or erosion hazard zones
  - Flood-proof existing buildings within flood hazard zones
  - Prevent the storage of valuables in flood-prone areas (e.g. town archives, library collections, etc.)
- When planning for a new development, identify suitable locations outside of areas with higher levels of flood and erosion risk.
- Improve stormwater management to retain water onsite and prevent runoff to reduce downstream flooding
- Avoid development and maintain forest cover on steep slopes (25% and greater)
- Manage runoff from steep roads and driveways
- Adopt current road and culvert standards to accommodate the bank full flow of streams
- Maximize onsite stormwater infiltration to help recharge aquifers and limit the potential for severe flooding
- Update local All-Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Develop or update a Capital Budget and Program to finance priority mitigation strategies for municipal infrastructure and facilities

## New face at the RPC Office



Chris Titus came on board in September as the new Administrative Assistant. Chris' background is in the recreation field which brought her here to Vermont in 1993 to take a position as at the Woodstock Recreation Center. Before leaving to be a full time Mom in 2000, she was the Assistant Director. She has been active in her town of Reading through many volunteer leadership roles including the Reading Recreation Commission Chair, PTO and currently the Reading Friends & Neighbors and WUHSMS School Board member. Her work experiences include Assistant Town Clerk in Reading, Woodstock Inn and Resort, and Educator for the Farms For City Kids Foundation at Springbrook Farm. She is a buckeye from Ohio but moved to Colorado as a child and graduated from the University of Northern Colorado. She also manages her husband's logging and excavating company and has two teenage children. Enough said.....

## Regional Transportation Plan Update

SWCRPC is in the process of updating its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which was last adopted in 2009. Last year the SWC Transportation Advisory Committee started to compile a list of needs and recommendations for major road corridors. Earlier this year Town Selectboards, Village Trustees, and Town Road Foreman added to this list of needs and recommendations. SWCRPC staff now have working drafts for a few chapters of the plan and are seeking your input.

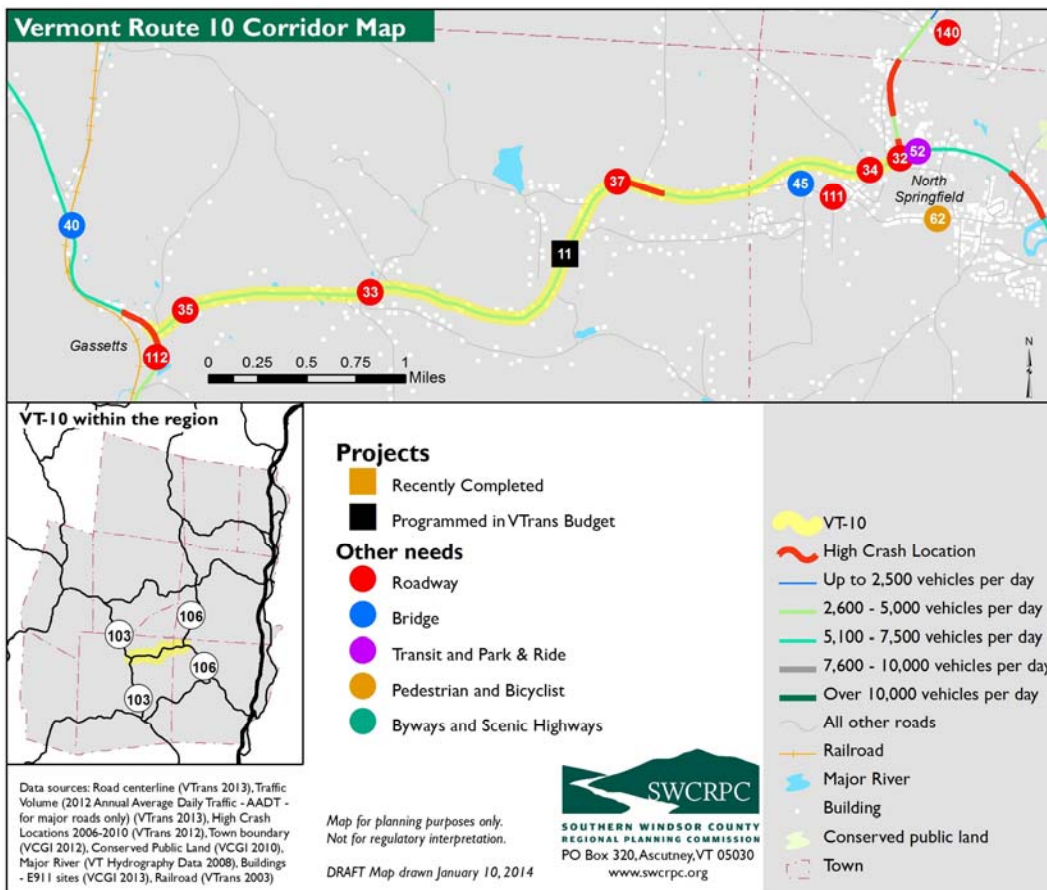
What kind of feedback would we like from you? Any? You have a unique perspective on the services and users of our transportation network in the Region. More specifically, we'd like to know:

- \* Does the description of the Region, its services and facilities make sense? Is there anything we've missed, should change or delete?
- \* Do the Goals, Policies and Recommendations make sense? Is there anything we should add, change or delete?

Why do we need a regional transportation plan?

- To inventory existing conditions, evaluate recent trends and identify improvements and future needs
- To guide future Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) projects – the primary transportation program of the Regional Planning Commission
- To use as a basis for reviewing Act 248 and Act 250 applications
- To provide guidance for prioritizing projects

Please let Katharine Otto or Jason Rasmussen know if you would be interested in reviewing all or specific sections of the plan as they become available (e.g. Transit, Goals and Policies, Freight). More information about transportation projects in the Region and the Regional Transportation Plan update can be found online at <http://swcrpc.org/transportation>.



Map showing locations of transportation needs and recommendations around the VT-10 area.

For example:

- Point 11** - Repave VT-10 ~ Chester & Springfield. Currently scheduled for construction in FY2015. [State responsibility]
- Point 33** - VT-10 from Gassetts to North Springfield ~ Chester & Springfield ~ Improve advanced warning signs for intersections to improve safety. Should be addressed in paving project. {High priority} [State responsibility]
- Point 111** - Improve industrial site access in North Springfield ~ Springfield. Implement North Springfield Truck Study 2008. {High priority} [Town responsibility]
- Point 140** - Airport Rd ~ Weathersfield ~ Improve paving. Improve access road to Hartness Airport. Springfield SB, VTrans. {High priority} [Town responsibility]

To see information about the other points, as well as other places across the region, visit <http://swcrpc.org/transportation>

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) Rule Change

Following presidentially declared disasters, the State of Vermont and FEMA provide Public Assistance (PA) funding to towns to assist in rebuilding and repairing municipal infrastructure. FEMA funding provides 75% with the remaining 25% being split between the State of Vermont and towns. During the 2013 legislative session, the State's contribution for match will be contingent upon the following factors:

1. Adoption of Flood Hazard Regulations
2. Adoption of VT Agency of Transportation 2013 Codes & Standards
3. Adoption of Local Emergency Operations Plan prior to June 1st every year
4. Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program

Towns which meet all four requirements will have local match reduced to 12.5%. Those towns which do not meet the minimum standards, will be required to pay a 17.5 % local match.

Status of SWCRPC Towns that meet the four requirements discussed above:

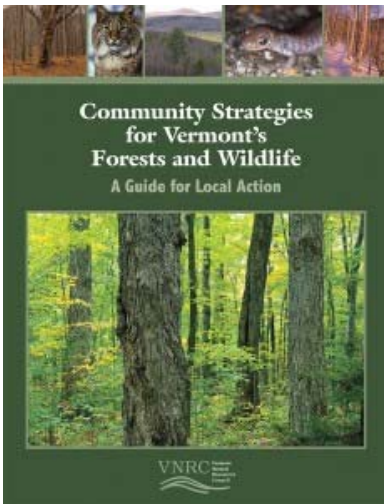
	<b>Flood Hazard Regulations</b>	<b>National Flood Insurance Program Participation</b>	<b>Local Emergency Operations Plan Adoption</b>	<b>Town Highway Codes &amp; Standards</b>
Andover	X	X	X	X
Baltimore	X	X	X	X
Cavendish	X	X	Unknown	Unknown
Chester	X	X	Unknown	Unknown
Ludlow	X	X	X	Unknown
Reading	X	X	Unknown	Unknown
Springfield	X	X	X	Unknown
Weathersfield	X	X	X	Unknown
West Windsor	X	X	X	X
Windsor	X	X	X	X

X = compliant with current rule

A town may reduce their local match further to 7.5% by adopting flood management regulations which exceed the minimum state standards or by participating in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS). No towns currently meet these additional requirements.

If you have any questions on the new rule change or your towns' status, please contact John Broker-Campbell.

### New resource! Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife



VNRC is very pleased to announce the release of Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife: A Guide for Local Action. Over the years, VNRC has supported Vermont communities by offering proactive solutions to reduce forest fragmentation and parcelization in Vermont to maintain the rural character of our state. There are many different ways that communities can help sustain forests and wildlife at the local and regional levels, and the Guide provides town officials and interested citizens with details about the many implementation strategies - both regulatory and non-regulatory - to do just that. We hope that it will become a go-to resource for you.

Please download a copy and share it with your communities, clients, constituents, and colleagues: [www.vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/](http://www.vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/).

#### Did you know.....

- VT is the 3rd most forested state in the lower 48
- 86% of VT forest land is privately owned
- Amount of forest land on parcels 50+ acres decreased by about 34,000 acres between 2003 and 2009
- Despite the fact that 87% of town plans identify forests as a valuable habitat type, a small percentage of municipalities that have zoning bylaws include a specific district that is geared towards the maintenance of forestland, such as a forest reserve district.

### Green Infrastructure Grant

The SWCRPC has been awarded a grant through the VT Department of Environmental Conservation and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to identify barriers to the adoption and implementation of green infrastructure within the SWCRPC Region. Specifically, RPC staff will collaborate with two towns within the Region to review current land use regulations and town plans to identify gaps and barriers to greater green infrastructure implementation and adoption. Following the review, the RPC will coordinate with other regional planning commissions within Vermont to develop a toolkit and training opportunities for town staff, development review boards, and planning commissions on how to implement green infrastructure adoption in SWCRPC member towns.

When rain falls in a developed landscape, such as a downtown or residential neighborhood, the run-off is unable to filter through soil to remove pollutants prior to re-entering the ground water supply. One component of green infrastructure is the process of treating storm water runoff by natural processes prior to being captured and drained into water systems. Examples of green infrastructure include town tree planters, vegetated swales, and permeable pavement. By utilizing alternative treatment methods such as green infrastructure, a town may reduce costs typically associated with traditional 'end of pipe' solutions stormwater solutions.

## BROWNFIELDS

### Money Talk

The SWCRPC was recently awarded \$200,000 in Brownfields Assessment Funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to assist towns, property owners, or prospective purchasers of properties contaminated or suspected of being contaminated by hazardous substances. New site assessment funds will be used to complete site assessments and remedial action plans on sites contaminated by hazardous waste in the SWCRPC region. For more information, contact Dan Potter at (802) 674-9201 or email [dpotter@swcrpc.org](mailto:dpotter@swcrpc.org).

### Cynthia's Corner

Did you hear that the IRS changed the standard mileage rate? Beginning January 1, 2014 the new rate is 56 cents per mile which is reduction from the previous year.



### Cans for Cookies

If you stop by the RPC office on a Thursday, don't forget to bring a non perishable food item and you'll get a home made cookie! The staff started before the holidays collecting items that are donated to the local food shelf.

## News from the Solid Waste District

### New Paint Product Stewardship Law - Act 58



On average, 2.3 gallons of paint is sold per person per year in the United States, of which 10% is leftover. Less than half of that is collected for proper disposal or recycling. Part of the reason for this is that up until now convenient, year-round proper paint disposal has not been available. Improper paint disposal has negative impacts on our environment and is a waste of resources. Through Vermont's new paint stewardship legislation, paint recycling and disposal will be handled by a paint stewardship organization (PaintCare) funded by paint manufacturers. All

manufacturers of architectural paint who wish to sell paint in Vermont will have to participate in an approved paint stewardship program plan. Architectural paint is defined as interior and exterior architectural coatings. This includes interior and exterior water and oil based coatings, primers, sealers and wood coatings that are sold in containers of five gallons or less.

The collection program is set to begin no later than July 1, 2014. Vermonters will be able to bring latex and oil-based paint to participating paint retailers or to participating transfer stations. The transportation and hauling costs of the program will be funded through the fees paid on each container of paint sold in Vermont. The fees are not yet set but a one-gallon pail will probably have an additional 35 cents tacked on, while a five-gallon bucket's fee will be about \$1.85. Residents will be able to clean out their barns, garages, and basements of all their accumulated paint and bring them in to collection locations at no cost.

Depending upon the quality of the product, the paint will be screened and reformulated into new paint, burned as fuel blend, or landfilled. Latex paint is currently thickened and thrown in to the trash in Vermont which is not the best and highest use. The program is expected to collect upwards of 160,000 gallons of leftover paint in the state during the first year.

## OTHER NEWS

### Take a trip... along a Byway



Looking for new places to explore? The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (VDTM) has recently coordinated a project to identify interesting sites along all the Vermont Byways. They are all profiled online at [www.vermont-byways.us](http://www.vermont-byways.us) – and are perfect for afternoon drives and identifying other places that are easy to visit. Click on the Byway name on the left and then look for the “Travel Itineraries” tab on the right. SWCRPC is involved with the efforts of both the Connecticut River and Scenic Route 100 Byways which run through the region. For more information see <http://swcrpc.org/wp/programs/byways/>.

### East Central Vermont - What We Want

The next East Central Vermont Consortium meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 9:30am at the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction. Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and SWCRPC plan to present the following chapters at the Consortium meeting: Housing (including the Fair Housing Equity Assessment), Climate, Energy, and Habitat. These plans will be open for public comments for approximately 4 weeks after the meeting. Any and all interested people are encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Dan Potter at [dpotter@swcrpc.org](mailto:dpotter@swcrpc.org).

### Front Porch Forum Makes Announcements Easy

Do you wish there was an easy and timely way to let everyone in town know about meetings, special events, projects, and other planning issues? Front Porch Forum (FPF) offers just that and at no cost.

FPF is a modern-day cross between bulletin boards and virtual town greens, FPF uses technology to bring neighbors closer together. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

While neighborhood FPFs are in place statewide, individuals do need to sign up as members before they can join in. The more people that sign up, the more interesting the forum becomes and the bigger the audience for any news you want to share. Share this great tool and help your forum take off! To learn more and sign up for this free service, visit [FrontPorchForum.com](http://FrontPorchForum.com). At the website, you'll find ready made flyers and other ideas for sharing this news.

Front Porch Forum is winning national accolades for its community building innovations. People use their local FPF to update road conditions, provide background for upcoming meetings, rally volunteers for pie suppers, trade equipment, and describe wildlife sightings. Because the service is moderated and real names accompany postings, the discussions remain civil, engaging, and relevant. In times of need, such as during and following natural disasters, your FPF becomes even more powerful.

FPF and the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Vermont Digital Economy Project are teaming up to bring this service to all Vermonters for free. Vermont's Congressional delegation played a crucial role in getting this project funded and off the ground in our state.



## How well do you know your region?

The towns in the SWCRPC region include Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Reading, Springfield, Weathersfield, West Windsor and Windsor.

*Do you recognize this historic birch tree? If so, then email Chris Titus at [ctitus@swcrpc.org](mailto:ctitus@swcrpc.org) to correctly identify the road and town where it currently stands.*

*Hint: It is in one of the towns of the SWCRPC region and is near a historic landmark.*



## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **CDBG Disaster Recovery Grants**

[http://accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/opportunities/funding/cdbgdgr](http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/cdbgdgr)

Due: Deadline is ongoing and reviewed monthly

From: US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) via the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development

What: To help communities after a major federal disaster declaration.

### **Vermont Community Development Grants**

[http://accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/opportunities/funding/vcdp/applicants](http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/vcdp/applicants)

Due: Deadline ongoing

From: Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
What: Housing, economic development and other community development projects to benefit primarily low-to-moderate income persons.

### **Lists of other grant opportunities**

Federal Grants [www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities](http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities)

### **Brownfield Funding Opportunities**

<http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cpr/Brownfield%20Funding%20Agencies%20able.pdf>

### **Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development Funding and Incentives Opportunities**

[http://accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/tb2/DEHCD](http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/tb2/DEHCD)

### **Historic Preservation Funding Directory**

[http://accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/preservation/grants](http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/preservation/grants)

### **Our Town (Grants for Creative Place)**

<http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town>

Due: January 14, 2013

From: National Endowment for the Arts

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **January**

TBD in January 2014 – Zoning Administrator Roundtable

9 – Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 3) meeting & Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP) workshop. Location TBD

15 – Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at 6pm, RPC Conference Room, Ascutney

21 – Brownfields Steering Committee Meeting at 11:30 a.m, Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney

21 – Regional Planning Commission Meeting at noon, Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney

22 – Public Meeting about Passenger Rail – Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative, 7 p.m. Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction.

### **February**

11 – Orange and Windsor Counties Road Foreman meeting, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Strafford Town Garage

11 – East Central Vermont Consortium Meeting 9:30 a.m., Hotel Coolidge, 39 South Main Street, White River Junction

13 – Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 3) meeting & Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP) workshop. Location TBD

18 – Brownfields Steering Committee Meeting at 11:30am, Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney

18 – Regional Planning Commission Meeting at noon, Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney

19 – Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at 6pm, RPC Conference Room, Ascutney