



Visit Our Website

Director's Notes:

The RPC recently hired Otis Munroe as an Assistant Planner. Otis has been working in the office just over a year as a temporary staff person. His responsibilities include working on issues related to Emergency Management Planning, GIS and Land Use. In addition, Otis is the "office expert" on issues related to the Emerald Ash Borer. In his spare time, Otis serves in the Vermont National Guard and likes to play the Bag Pipes. Welcome, Otis!

The staff has been busy developing loan and grant agreements for the cleanup of some important properties in the region. In Windsor, the RPC is working with the Windsor Improvement Corporation, Springfield Regional Development Corporation, Town of Windsor and the Connecticut River Development Corporation to remove contaminated construction waste. Once the site has been remediated, a 500KW solar facility will be built on the site.

In Springfield, the RPC has been working with Housing Vermont and the Springfield Housing Authority to provide funding for asbestos remediation at the Woolson Block in downtown Springfield. After the building has been rehabilitated, it will provide housing on the upper floor with office and commercial space on the ground floor.

This past legislative session, a number of significant bills related to water quality, solid waste, tax credits and housing were passed. Please click [here](#) to review a summary of these important bills.

I hope everyone has a great summer, winter is just around the corner.

Tom
Thomas Kennedy, Executive Director

Website Under Construction

Over the last few months we have been working to improve our website. We needed to bolster its security, make it simpler to navigate and generally simplify the content. To that end we hired an intern, Kennedy Moore, with a knowledge of WordPress. Kennedy is a sophomore at Colby- Sawyer College and has been a real asset.



In our effort to simplify content we have purged a lot of information that was dated or thought to not be of valuable to site visitors. One risk in such a rebuild is that we may have removed something that IS useful to YOU. Please, if you go to look for something and can't find it, let us know; we'll do our best to add it back. Thanks!

Please, check out the new site at the same old address SWCRPC.org.



2nd Annual Vermont Community Leadership Summit

Registration is now open for the 2nd Annual Vermont Community Leadership Summit on August 12th at VTC in Randolph! Vermont communities thrive with local leaders getting big things done - [Register](#) today to review

action since 2018, share success stories, gain new skills, and build a vision for the future of Community Leadership in Vermont.

Municipal Cybersecurity Training - Funding Opportunity

Qualified organizations may apply for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds to support municipality and private sector cybersecurity education. The RFP has been posted [here](#), along with available application documents. Applications are due to the [Homeland Security Unit](#) by 3 p.m. on August 1st.

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact [Natalie Elvidge](#) or at (802) 241-5445, Homeland Security Program Manager, or [Jessica Stolz](#), Deputy Homeland Security Advisor.

New Town Highway and Bridge Standards

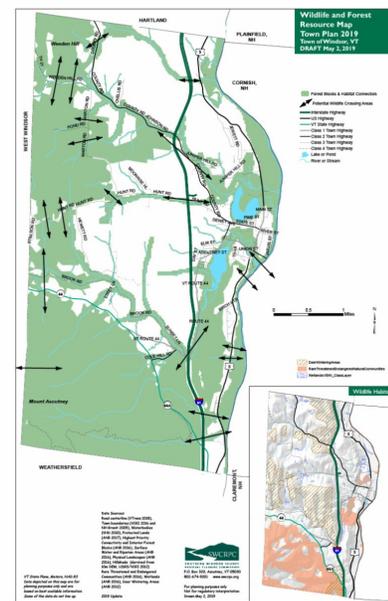
The state released new model Town Highway and Bridge Standards recently. Local adoption of the most up to date standards is a requirement to receive reduced local match for funding programs, including the Class 2 Town Highway Program, Structures Program, and Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). Please be aware that the existing (January 2013) model standards can remain in effect through July 31, 2019. After that date, the January 2013 version of the Town Road and Bridge Standards will no longer be considered the State approved template. Municipalities are encouraged to consider adopting the new 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards template prior to August 1, 2019. Please contact [Chris Yurek](#) or [Jason](#) with questions.

Addressing Forest Fragmentation in Town Plans

Planning commissions in Ludlow, West Windsor and Windsor are currently working to address the new forest fragmentation requirement per Act 171 in their ongoing municipal plan updates. Plans being updated after January 1, 2018 should address this new required plan element as detailed in [24 V.S.A. 4382\(a\)\(2\)\(D\)](#). Monica Przyperhart, of VT Fish and Wildlife's Community Wildlife Program, has been assisting Windsor with their update. In and around Windsor, the forests surrounding Mount Ascutney serve an important function as a route for wildlife to cross

between Vermont and New Hampshire. Windsor's Planning Commission is currently reviewing a draft map identifying priority forest blocks and habitat connectors, and developing policies to limit forest fragmentation and protect the function that these existing forest blocks serve (see image).

If you have questions about how to address this in your town plan, please contact [Jason](#) or [Otis](#). For more information, see the [Act 171 Guidance](#) document, a webinar on [Implementing Act 171 Land Use Planning To Address Forest Fragmentation](#), and ANR's natural heritage [mapping guidance](#).



FY 2020 Municipal Planning Grant Program

Municipal Planning Grants (MPG) can help to fund town plans updates, preparing zoning bylaws amendments, and other planning projects. Municipalities without a confirmed local planning process may only apply for funding to obtain confirmation. Applications for the next funding round are due September 30, 2019. State funding priorities include housing, infrastructure planning, vibrant community centers, active transportation/recreation, "placemaking", water-related bylaws, planning for village wastewater, and projects that have potential to serve as a statewide model. For more details, see the [MPG program website](#). Please contact [Jason](#) with questions.

VT Emergency Preparedness Conference Registration is Open

To register, please visit [here](#). Meet fellow state and local responders and learn the latest practices in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. To attend, please complete the registration form at the link above by August 16th.

Click [here](#) to view a list and descriptions of breakout sessions. The breakout sessions are organized into three tracks: Prevention and Protection, Recovery and Mitigation, and Response. Morning refreshments, lunch, and snacks are provided at the conference.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Open

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications are due to VEM by Friday, May 24th. Typical hazard mitigation projects include: mitigation of local roads and bridges, home acquisition (buyout), structural elevations or relocations, replacement of undersized culverts, mitigation outreach and education, etc. Project proposals do not need to be directly connected to damages incurred from the most recent declared disaster. Questions? Contact [Allie](#).

Design/Implementation Block Grant Forthcoming

The SWCRPC was recently awarded \$1,500,000 from the VT DEC Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) for statewide administration of the Design/Implementation Block Grant. These funds will be used to support projects that reduce sediment and/or nutrient loading in Vermont's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Examples of eligible projects include stormwater management/treatment infrastructure,

replacement of undersized bridges/culverts, river corridor/floodplain restoration, and other similar projects. Eligible project phases include preliminary design, final design, and construction. This program does not require local match.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact [Chris Yurek](#) or [Cindy Ingersoll](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

The fall 2019 household hazardous waste collections have been scheduled for:

- Wednesday, September 18 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Springfield Transfer Station
- Saturday, October 5 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Hartford Transfer Station



For a printable list of what to bring and what not to bring, click on the [Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District](#).

The next collections will be in the spring of 2020. Call us at 674-9235 with questions.

STAY CONNECTED:

