

Regional Plan Update: New language developed through the Plan Central Vermont process is now being amended into three sections of the 2008 Regional Plan. These amendments will allow the Commission to work under more focused and specific goals and strategies, as well as ensure compliance with statutory requirements for these elements of a regional plan. The three sections of the 2008 Regional Plan proposed for amendment are:

- 2008 Economic Element
- 2008 Utilities, Facilities & Services Element
- 2008 Land Use Element, including a Future Land Use Map

These amended elements may be viewed on the Plan Central Vermont website at <http://plancentralvermont.org/the-plan/2008-amendment/>. The first public hearing on the amendments was held May 12, and the second is scheduled for June 9 at the regular Regional Commission meeting. At the May 12 hearing, comments received from the public were reviewed and Commissioners provided additional comments that were compiled by staff. It was determined that the Commissioners would like further discussion on proposed policies in the amendments. This discussion, and further comments from the public or Commissioners will be taken up at the June 9 hearing. Comments may continue to be submitted to Assistant Planner, Gail Aloisio, at aloisio@cvregion.com

The Health and Communities Element of the 2016 Regional Plan is not currently being considered for amendment or adoption. The working group developing this new Plan element has finished a first draft. This element covers a number of Regional issues, ranging from food security to healthy community design. The draft will be discussed by the Regional Plan Draft Review Committee later in the summer, and will go to the full Commission for discussion and approval in the fall.

Forest Stewardship: Staff continues this work in partnership with the Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation, as well as seven other regional planning commissions. Analysis and strategies from the Forest Stewardship Regional Report have been incorporated into two completed sections of the 2016 Regional Plan: Strong & Diverse Economy & Environment & Natural Resources. Staff has begun work with the Town of Marshfield on incorporating forest conservation into revisions to their land use regulations. Please contact Gail Aloisio at aloisio@cvregion.com.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Twenty towns have received final FEMA approval of their local hazard mitigation plans (LHMP). Waitsfield's LHMP team met in early May to develop strategies for reducing damage from natural hazards. A final draft LHMP will be reviewed by the select board in June. Marshfield's draft LHMP was reviewed by the Marshfield Village Trustees. Staff is completing additional data updates before resubmitting the Plan to DEMHS. If your community is interested in getting involved with any of the current LHMP updates or is interested in technical assistance from CVRPC, please contact Gail Aloisio at aloisio@cvregion.com.

Flood Resilience/Flood Hazard Area Regulations: Staff continues to assist municipalities with flood hazard area and fluvial erosion hazard bylaw adoption processes, as well as impacts from flooding and planning for flood resilience. For assistance with developing your town's flood resilience element, please contact Gail Aloisio at aloisio@cvregion.com.

Town Technical Assistance: A training on *The Essentials of Land Use Planning* will be held in Williamstown on Wednesday, June 10. Officials from throughout the Region are invited to attend. Newly appointed planning commission, DRB and select board members are especially encouraged to participate. The training will be held at 7 pm at the Williamstown Public Safety Building, 249 Meadow Street. There is no cost for the training. Staff is also preparing a training on *Sharing Municipal Services*. Communities interested in participating in either training may contact Gail Aloisio at aloisio@cvregion.com.

Brownfields: U.S. EPA announced \$2 million dollars were awarded to Vermont communities for area wide brownfields assessments. \$400,000 was awarded to Central Vermont. Two grants were successfully obtained: \$200,000 for hazardous substances assessment and \$200,000 for petroleum substances assessment. This funding will provide for characterization and clean up planning for redevelopment of potentially contaminated properties throughout the Region. Many partners provided support on the application: Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation, Capstone Community Action, Downstreet Housing and Community Development (formerly known as Central Vermont Community Land Trust), Friends of the Winooski, Go! Northfield, Barre Area Development Corporation, and Montpelier Bicycle Advisory Committee. CVRPC thanks these partners and looks forward to collaborating with them and other groups working toward redevelopment and revitalization of brownfields in Central Vermont.

Transportation Planning Initiative: Staff is updating the transportation section of the Regional Plan working on the highway section. Staff is assisting the Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, Waterbury, and Middlesex with their byway work. Staff continues to work on the Central Vermont Regional Path with Berlin, Barre City, Barre Town, and Montpelier. Staff did traffic counts in Waitsfield. Work continues on the Berlin US Route 302 bike and pedestrian plan. Consultants are working with Plainfield, Woodbury, Cabot, Calais, and East Montpelier on a road maintenance activity program, and a study on flood resiliency and impacts on the transportation network in the Mad River Valley. Staff is evaluating the effects of safety improvements at VT 63/Miller Road (Barre Town). Staff organized a town staff meeting on using Route 215 as a detour for bridge closure. The TAC is developing the FY 16 work plan. Staff is conducting a complete streets outreach. Vermont Energy Investment Corporation met with business representatives to discuss transportation costs and opportunities for lower costs through the use of electric vehicles. A focus group will be developing a pilot program and doing outreach with local business owners. Staff is working on Worcester, Montpelier and Woodbury's culvert inventories. Staff also assisted the Windham Regional Commission with updates to the Newfane culvert inventory.

Staff assisted Duxbury, Waitsfield, and Middlesex with Better Back Road grant applications. Staff assisted the Agency with updates to VT Culverts. CVRPC hosted a Regional Road Foreman's Meeting. The main topic was H.35 (Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality), and the soon to be required municipal road permit for improved water quality.

Transportation Technical Assistance: Staff continues to provide technical assistance on transportation related issues. Contact Steve Gladczuk at gladczuk@cvregion.com for assistance with special transportation studies and technical assistance that may be needed in your community and are within the scope of work of the transportation contract with the Agency of Transportation. Municipal officials that would like to have bicycle/pedestrian, vehicle volume, speed, or classification studies done for their towns can contact CVRPC staff for assistance.

VT Economic Resiliency Initiative (VERI): Staff continued to identify economic assets and commercial zones within the study area (Barre City and Barre Town along Gunners Brook).

GIS/Fluvial Erosion Hazard: Updated and/or developed the following: provided Woodbury with a road map to help with bus route planning, met with the Marshfield Planning Commission to discuss updating their development potential analysis, participated in the VT Yankee hostile action drill, provided training on the VT Agency of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Atlas, and attended a site visit for the two storm water projects in the Town of Northfield. GIS staff also spent considerable time in the field assisting communities with bridge and road culvert inventories.

Wrightsville Beach Recreation District: Staff provides administrative, fiscal, and technical assistance to the District. The beach and park are open daily from 9 a.m. to dusk through Labor Day weekend. The website for Wrightsville Beach has photos of the shelters and amenities; take a look at www.wrightsvillebeachvt.com. The Agency of Natural Resources has reached out to the Wrightsville Beach board to assess the Board's interest in owning and managing all the land around the Wrightsville Reservoir outside of the dam. More information and further discussion will happen over the course of the next several months.

Community Survey Assistance: If your community is interested in learning more about digital survey services offered through CVRPC, please contact CVRPC at alouisio@cvregion.com.

Emergency Planning and Hazard Mitigation : Staff continued to work with municipalities to complete the LEOP adoption process and submittal for acceptance to DEMHS. Fayston, Roxbury, Moretown, and Barre Town successfully completed the process in May. The three Towns of Worcester, Northfield, and Woodbury have completed their plans and scheduled the adoption process for their first June Selectboard meeting. The CV Region will have all 23 towns with an approved and accepted 2015 LEOP by June 15. With acceptance of the 2015 LEOP's, the municipalities have increased their ERAF rating. Congratulations!

The ICS 200 (Incident Command System) trainings scheduled for May were cancelled due to low registration numbers. Please be reminded that DEMHS tells us that all first responders are required to be trained in ICS 100 and ICS 200 by October 2015. CVRPC will continue to promote and encourage training in our Region. Contact Laura Ranker at CVRPC to schedule trainings in your community. To view the DEMHS Training & Exercise calendar for the latest trainings being offered across the State, go to <http://vem.vermont.gov/event>.

The LEPC 5 Committee met on May 4 for their regular monthly meeting. Staff assisted with pre-meeting preparations, meeting minutes, and follow-up on the proposed bylaw amendments.

Contact Laura Ranker for assistance with any specific emergency management planning and training needs for your community at ranker@cvregion.com.

High Meadows Fund Grant: Staff was notified that our application was not chosen for funding.

EPA Healthy Communities Grant: Staff was notified that our project was not selected.

Project Review Committee: The Committee met on May 6 and May 14. The Committee has developed proposed revisions to the Project Review Committee Procedures. These procedures define when and how CVRPC will participate in development review and also dictates the Commission's definition of "substantial regional impact." The proposed Procedures will be reviewed by the Executive Committee before submission to the Regional Commission for adoption. CVRPC has reviewed the following projects in May:

Section 248a: VTel Telecommunications Tower, Cabot – VTel filed a petition for a Certificate of Public Good for construction of a 90' wireless telecommunications tower at 185 Thistle Hill Road in Cabot. The Committee determined that information regarding the feasibility of co-location of the facilities continues to be inadequate for the Committee to determine conformance with the Regional Plan. These comments have been submitted to the applicant and Public Service Board.

Berlin Mall LLC/Kohl's - The Committee discussed the recent submittals from VTrans regarding contributions by Berlin Mall LLC to planned upgrades at the Fisher Rd./Rt. 62 intersection. No further comment from the Committee were submitted.

Cabot Hosiery Expansion Act 250 Application - Cabot Hosiery Mills, Inc. has applied for an amendment to their Act 250 permit for an expansion of the facility at 364 Whetstone Drive in Northfield. The proposed project will add a 99,500 square foot addition to the south side of the existing manufacturing building. The mill plans to add 295 employees by 2019 over the course of the expansion bringing employment to 450. Currently 155 people are employed. Staff represented CVRPC at a May 20 hearing. The project has been determined to have substantial regional impact.

Remember to visit CVRPC's web site at www.centralvtplanning.org to view our blog and for the latest planning publications and news.