

## Weekly News Roundup December 18, 2020

Visit our website

### Upcoming Events

#### Time Change: Municipal Energy Committee Roundtable: December 21 at 6:00pm

Join us for a brief virtual conversation on district heating in the region, as well as an energy committee year in review. What did you accomplish in 2020 – and what are you looking forward to in 2021? Visit the [CVRPC website for more information](#)

### Community News



#### CVRPC To Assist State Tactical Basin Planning

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is pleased to announce expanded outreach and services to municipalities and the public to enhance water quality and tactical basin planning efforts for the Lamoille River (Basin 7). “As Watershed Planners, we value the role regional planning commissions play given their strong ties to the municipalities. This collaboration makes our plans stronger and more tailored to the communities the plans are written to serve,” said Danielle Owczarski of the Vermont Department of Environmental

Conservation (DEC). The work is supported through a grant provided by the DEC. Activities began this fall and will continue through July 2021. [Read the full Press Release.](#)

(photo credit - LCPCVT)

#### Ash Tree Management Grant Recipients in Central Vermont

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission congratulates East Montpelier, Montpelier, Waterbury and Williamstown as recipients of the 2021 Ash Tree Management Grant program.

East Montpelier will remove 80 ash trees in the municipal right-of-way and plant two new trees of non-ash species at U32.

Montpelier will purchase a portable sawmill to process public ash trees into lumber.

Waterbury will remove and re-use at least 13 roadside ash trees that are dead or in poor condition in town right-of-ways. They will plant at least 15 trees at Hope Cemetery in Waterbury Village.

Williamstown will remove at least 35 high hazard trees from town right-of-ways and provide up to 50 free trees to residents to offset lost carbon storage.

#### Is Your Zoning Stuck in the 1970s?

It may have lost its groove. Many municipalities are learning how mid-century zoning values can suppress housing supply, drive up housing costs, and widen racial and economic disparities. While complete zoning overhauls are out of reach for most communities, -- smaller, [incremental changes](#) can make a big difference. Learn more about ways to make your community more inclusive and economically stronger by registering for interactive online training sponsored by AARP-VT, ACCD and CNU. Learn more and [register here](#).

#### CVRPC Recruiting Planner | Senior Planner

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission seeks an adaptable, self-motivated Planner or Senior Planner to work with our team of dedicated professionals. Apply to join our team if you

enjoy leveraging the power of people working together to achieve shared goals!

This position requires broad knowledge of municipal and regional comprehensive planning and plan implementation techniques. It focuses on fostering improvement and maintenance of road infrastructure, rail corridors, airports, public transportation networks, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and the connections among them using lenses of energy, land use, natural resources, and economics. Candidates should be highly creative with a passion for building collaboration among volunteer boards, municipalities, and State and Federal agencies.

Successful candidates will enjoy working in rural areas, have a degree in planning or related field, and have a minimum of 3 years (Planner) or 7 years (Senior Planner) experience in regional or local planning. Excellent oral and written communication skills and experience using Microsoft products required. Attendance at evening meetings required. Experience with local or regional transportation planning preferred.

Information at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org). This is a full time, permanent position with a salary range of \$40,000-58,000 (Planner) or \$50,000-70,000 (Senior Planner). Salary is commensurate with demonstrated technical and soft skills. Excellent benefit package and outstanding team environment. Submit a cover letter, resume, three references, and salary expectations to [waninger@cvregion.com](mailto:waninger@cvregion.com). Position open until filled; application review begins January 4, 2021. CVRPC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and maintains a drug-free workplace.

### **Berlin Seeks Town Administrator**

The Town of Berlin Vermont seeks an energetic, forward-thinking leader to continue the Town's ascension as one of central Vermont's most desirable places to live, work and recreate. Berlin has been a regional employment center for decades and seeking to attract housing development and new residents over the next decade.

Berlin anticipates receiving New Town Center designation creating the third New Town Center in Vermont. Earmarked for 500+ housing units, expansion of commercial enterprises and additions to the Central Vermont Medical Center campus, the NTC positions Berlin for double digit growth in population and grand list. The community has a rich history, and its two distinct villages are surrounded by beautiful natural assets. Berlin hosts two interstate 89 exits and a state airport. It offers easy access to rail, air, and public transportation. It is only 2.5 hours from Boston and Montreal and minutes from the academic opportunities, cultural attractions and sporting events at Norwich University and in neighboring Montpelier and Barre City.

A bachelor's degree is required with 5-7 years of progressively responsible private or public management or planning experience. An equivalent combination of background and education will be considered. The Town Administrator is a hands-on position responsible for direction and oversight of all municipal operations, working in cooperation with a five- member Selectboard. Salary will be based upon experience and qualifications.

Email a cover letter and resume as PDF files in confidence to [zoning@berlinvt.org](mailto:zoning@berlinvt.org) by January 25, 2021. Resumes will be reviewed as they are received. EOE.

## **COVID 19 Updates**

### **Vaccine information on VDH Website**

The Vermont Department of Health website has is working closely with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other partners to prepare for vaccines as they become available. Visit this [webpage](#) for information, and check back often as VDH updates this page with new information.

### **Sign up to VT Alert for COVID-19 Updates**

VT-ALERT is used by the state and local responders to notify the public of emergency situations including evacuation information; chemical spills; shelter-in-place alerts; severe weather advisories, and more. Residents can tailor the alerts to specific locations, types of alerts and on which devices they will be notified. VT Alert will now provide COVID-19 information including changes in safety guidance, availability of vaccines, and other important info.

• Sign up here: <https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert> and select "COVID information" under the "Health Alerts" tab.

- If you already have an account, [log in](#) to update your subscriptions and receive COVID information.

## Updated Resources from Vermont League of Cities & Towns

The links below provide some great guidance from VLCT:

- [Town Meeting COVID FAQs](#) - New FAQs added 12/9.
- [Model Town Meeting Articles](#) – Updated with new COVID-19 -related information.
- [Open Meeting Law FAQs](#) – Re-formatted for easier viewing.
- [Municipal Governance](#) – New webpage focuses on local governance.
- [Australian Ballot Checklist](#) – Act 162 temporarily allows a municipality to apply the Australian

## Central Vermont Pop-Up Testing Expands Locations

Due to increased COVID-19 activity in central Vermont, testing has yet again expanded in the region for the next several weeks ([dates and locations here](#)). If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing- to schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.

Pre-registration is required here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

## News from CVRPC

The status of many municipal offices has changed in recent days - please see our [Municipal Status](#) chart for the latest information (in red). If your community has a need we can assist you with, please contact us at [CVRPC@cvregion.com](mailto:CVRPC@cvregion.com). Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

## RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

### Funding to Create Better Places

ACCD and the Vermont Community Foundation, along with funding partners the Vermont Arts Council, Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the National Life Group Foundation, are pleased to announce \$90,000 in grant funding to launch [Better Places](#), a statewide partnership that will help communities reimagine and reopen public spaces for safe dining, shopping, and recreation, while showcasing the unique sense of place their community offers. Applications are due January 22, 2021.



### 2021 Downtown Transportation Fund Grants Now Available

The Department of Housing and Community Development is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$490,000 in Downtown Transportation Fund Grants (DTF) to support revitalization efforts in [Designated Downtowns](#) and an additional \$67,000 in Clean Water Initiative funding for eligible storm water implementation projects.

The Downtown Transportation Fund is a financing tool which assists municipalities in paying for transportation-related capital improvements within or serving a Designated Downtown. Past projects include streetscape improvements, bicycle & pedestrian amenities, park enhancements, utility relocation, street lighting, way-finding signage and other transportation related projects. Investment in the infrastructure of public spaces stimulates public investment and creates a sense of identity and pride in downtowns across Vermont. Since its inception in 1999 the program has awarded over \$11 million for 124 capital improvement projects in all 23 designated downtown communities leveraging over \$30 million in investments.

**Grant applications for Downtown Transportation Fund Grants are due March 8, 2021** and will be awarded April 26, 2021.

See the [2021 Downtown Transportation Fund Program Description](#) for eligibility, funding and application requirements. Any municipality with a Designated Downtown may apply for funding so long as they don't currently have two or more open DTF grants open. The maximum grant amount

is \$100,000 with a 50% match is required. Projects must demonstrate the ability to start the project within 18 months and complete within 30 months. Projects that have been identified, described, and well supported through a downtown area master planning process such as [Better Connections](#) or other planning process focused on the downtown, will receive additional bonus points.

#### **Additional Clean Water Initiative Funding Available:**

This year the Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) has an additional \$67,000 in funding from the Agency of Natural Resources, Clean Water Initiative (CWI). DTF projects may apply for up to \$67,000 of "add on" clean water funding for eligible storm water implementation projects. A 20% match is required for these funds. Examples of eligible projects can be found on the Department of Environmental Conservation [Green Stormwater Infrastructure](#) (GSI) web page. The [Vermont Green Streets Guide](#) is a resource to help you plan, design and maintain your clean water project. The Clean Water Initiative will provide additional funds for DTF projects to implement stormwater management practices that help control flooding, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. The project must primarily mitigate nutrient or sediment pollution.

Please contact [Gary Holloway](#), the Downtown Program Manager at 802-522-2444 if you have questions or need assistance with the DTF application.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

***Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings***

#### **DECEMBER**

Dec 21 6:00 pm Municipal Energy Roundtable, [Via Technology](#)

Dec 22 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Dec 25 Christmas Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

#### **JANUARY**

Jan 1 New Year's Day Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

Jan 4 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 4 6:30 pm Local Emergency Planning Committee #5, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 12 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 14 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 18 Martin Luther King Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

Jan 20 9 am Green Mountain Byways Steering Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 26 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 28 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

STAY CONNECTED



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