



Weekly News Roundup April 23, 2021

Visit our website

Upcoming Events

Starting a Conservation Commission

April 29, 2021 | 7:00-8:00pm

More than half of Vermont towns already have a Conservation Commission and the activities that Conservation Commissions are engaged in range from land management of town owned forests to land use planning and even development review. Each commission looks a little different and can be incredibly helpful asset to your town. [REGISTER](#)

Vermont RPCs host a learning opportunity with GMP Staff

May 4, 2021 | 6:00 pm

Learn how GMP can help you and your community save while tackling the two biggest sources of carbon pollution in Vermont – driving and heating.

Topics include rebates and other financial incentives on electric vehicles and charging, plus a new program to help businesses, condo associations and other organizations install EV charging easily.

[GMP's Workplace charging program](#) allows businesses to install EV chargers with no upfront costs. A flat, monthly subscription-style charge covers the charger, installation, software and maintenance, and includes optional low-interest financing through the [Vermont Economic Development Authority](#).

Register for this event:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kuIQ5UJ8RRaBTZqo2LlpyA

Ask an Arborist Webinar Series

May 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2021 | 10:00 am

VT Urban and Community Forestry is celebrating trees throughout the month of May with an "Ask an Arborist" webinar series. Each Friday, they will host a conversation with a Vermont-based ISA Certified Arborist about all things trees - from tree selection to planting, pruning, and planning.

[Register for one or more here!](#)

VT Emergency Management: Effective Facilitation Course

May 26-28, 2021 | 9:00 am-12:00 pm each day

This is a highly sought after course, with limited seating. Priority will be given to Local Emergency Management staff. Upon registering, everyone will be wait-listed to determine if they are in a priority group. Registration confirmation will be sent at least 3 weeks before the course.

Registration and additional details are available in the [Learning Management System](#).

Community News

Outdoor Recreation Trails Ethics

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) and trail organizations such as the [Green Mountain Club](#) are promoting outdoor recreation ethics during mud season. Businesses can direct users to FPR's [website](#) or wayfinding tools such as [Trailfinder](#) to learn about trail closures on state and private lands or the location of open trails close to home. A downloadable [infographic](#) encourages the practice of buying local to



Arbor Day Tree Planting Grant Awards

Congratulations to Calais (Adamant Music School), East Montpelier, Montpelier, Northfield, and Waterbury as recipients of Tree Planting Grants in celebration of Arbor Day. Check out Arbor Day [Resources](#) for ideas to celebrate in your community.

Historic Preservation Grants Awarded in Washington County

Congratulations to the Towns of Calais and Moretown who were recently awarded funds under the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation through the 2021 State Historic Preservation Grant program.

- Calais received \$20,000 for the East Calais General Store to repair the building's distinctive two-story front porch, its historic storefront windows, siding and trim, and chimneys.
- Moretown received \$3,550 for work on the Moretown Town Hall which is used for a variety of community uses.

More information about this grant program assist with the cost of repairs, maintenance, and accessibility improvement can be found at <https://acd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/historic-preservation-grants>

New Wetland Screening Tool for the State of Vermont

A wetland screening tool was developed to help you navigate all the mapping layers which indicate a property may have wetlands on it. In addition to the Vermont Wetland Inventory Maps, the tool also screens for nearby hydric soils, wetland projects, wetland permits, wetland natural community types, and wetland advisory layers. The results for a given property are listed for you to see, with explanations of each layer and recommended next steps. You can also produce a map of the results. To get started, all you need is the 911 address or the SPAN number for an undeveloped property. This tool is recommended for realtors, potential buyers, town administrators, conservation commissions, and landowners. It is the best means of gaining a comprehensive view of potential wetlands on a property short of a site visit by a wetland professional, and understanding the layers you are looking at. You can find the wetland screening tool at <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/maps>

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Opportunity

The Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) has announced a new, **time-sensitive opportunity**. If you are aware of locations in your community that would benefit from a Wi-Fi Hot Spot, submit the location and community information here: <https://www.itdrc.org/covid-19/projectconnect>. The Vermont Department of Public Service contracted for the installation of vehicle-accessible Wi-Fi Hot Spots at public locations in Vermont, such as town halls, community centers, general stores, schools and other community-based locations. Nearly two hundred commercial-grade, outdoor Wireless Access Points (Wi-Fi Hot Spots) have been installed around the state. Note: These are community hot spots, not hot spots for an individual home.

Reminder - 2021 LEMPs are due by May 1st, 2021

Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) must be adopted before May 1st, 2021. Please submit your LEMP to CVRPC via email at vinson@cvregion.com. Submissions should include a municipal adoption form and your LEMP. For 2021, VEM has learned that FEMA is no longer typing certain pieces of equipment in their [Resource Typing Tool Library](#) and is requesting that municipalities categorize those resources that are no longer typed as "other". CVRPC is available to assist with this transition.

ACCD Vermont Forward Webinar

ACCD hosted a webinar for businesses to discuss the Vermont Forward Plan and to answer questions about guidance and timelines. For those who missed the webinar, a recording along with the slide deck are now available at the [ACCD COVID-19 Recovery Resource Center](#).

Vaccination Appointments Open for those 16 and Older, and those 16+with High Risk Health Conditions

Vermonters age 16 and above are able to schedule a vaccination appointment. Make an account and schedule your appointment here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

Part-time Vermont residents, including out-of-state college students, can make vaccination appointments starting April 29

On April 29, vaccine registration will open to college students who are residents of another state and do not intend to stay in Vermont for the summer, as well as to people who live part of the year in Vermont. This opportunity will be based on the vaccine supply we receive from the federal government. Visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) to create an account and to get all the information you need to register starting April 29!

Getting calls from the Health Department for a vaccine standby list

If you made an appointment through the state registration system that is three weeks or more away, you may get a call to ask if you are interested in being on the standby list. The call may come from a Vermont number or may appear to come from another state. You will only need to answer “yes” or “no.” You will not be asked for your contact information or any other personal information since you are already in our system.

If you agree to be on the list, don't cancel your existing appointment! It will be cancelled for you AFTER you receive the vaccination if you get called in as a standby. If you don't get called in, keep your original appointment. Please do not call the Health Department to be put on the standby list.

VLCT Guidance on Municipal Operations under the Vermont Forward Plan

See here for a new guidance document from VLCT on municipal operations under the Vermont Forward Plan: <https://www.vlct.org/resource/vermont-forward-plan-overview>

- **Municipal operations that are low contact, have a short duration, and that take place outdoors or are in a controlled indoor environment (e.g., town office activities, highway work, etc.)** fall under Group A and must, at a minimum, follow the required Universal Guidance.
- **Meetings of public bodies and town meetings** are in the Group B sector. These activities must continue to follow section 13.1 sector specific guidance (<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/universal-guidance#group-b-work-safe-guidance-13-1>) until May 5, 2021, at which point they will fall under the required Universal Guidance requirements.

VLCT has also updated their Town Operations COVID-19 FAQs [here](#).

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

Local Food in Your Community Grant

A new round of Local Food in Your Community Grants is open. This grant will fund projects that aim to expand direct-to-consumer or retail markets for Vermont specialty crop producers in Vermont through improved marketing efforts. Eligible applicants include producer cooperatives, food hubs, farmers markets and independent retailers.

A limited number of \$5,000 grants will be awarded for projects that demonstrate how investments will increase revenue and improve consumer access to specialty crops. In addition to grant funds, projects will receive program support from technical assistance providers and/or marketing specialists for improved project implementation valued at up to \$2,000. The grant application closes **May 6, 2021**. [More information here](#).



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

APRIL

Apr 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Apr 28 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

MAY

May 3 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 11 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 11 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 13 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 14 10 am Regional Elders & Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 25 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 26 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 27 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 31 Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed

STAY CONNECTED

