

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, April 2021

F: 802-223-1977

All CVRPC staff continue to work remotely per the Governor's order to support remote work for employees to the extent possible. (Addendum 12 to Executive Order 01-20)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com, or Zach Maia, maia@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:

- Updated web map application for the Northfield Forest Stewardship Committee to facilitate decision making about the Town Forest.
- Created cell coverage download speed map for East Montpelier to assist with a Town Plan amendment.
- Began process with Middlesex to update its GIS parcel data and parcel tax maps.
- Prepared preliminary zoning findings for Moretown and presented at PC meeting. Continued work on finalizing the report which will include zoning recommendations.
- Drafted Sense of Community town plan chapter and created presentation to share information with the Woodbury Planning Commission.
- Began Woodbury Town Plan story map and survey for community outreach on future land use element.
- Revised draft Flood Hazard Regulation and presented to Middlesex Planning Commission.
- Attended the Downtown Board Hearing continuation of the Berlin New Town Center application.
- Met with Middlesex Selectboard to confirm scope and finalize contract for the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Finalized the 2021 Plainfield Town Plan to aid in adoption and Plan approval.
- Presented to the Calais Planning Commission on the potential North Calais Village Center Designation and required updates to the municipal plan.
- Met with the Orange Planning Commission to continue project development for trail construction in the Town Forest. The Town will be working with CVRPC to map trails this summer.
- Met with new Berlin Town Administrator to discuss CVRPC services and Town activities.

Training & Education:

- Presented to the Mad River Valley Energy Coordinators on energy data and planning efforts as part of Efficiency Vermont's Targeted Communities program.

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):
 - Updated the Draft Regional Economic Profile with refined and new data.
 - Began compiling county-specific summaries for review by the Strategy Committee.
 - Collaborated with partners to finalize and circulate a Request for Proposals for engagement activities to engage a wide variety of stakeholders, including underrepresented groups.
 - Provided partners with Central Vermont imagery for the West Central Vermont CEDS website.
- Hosted CCRPC/CVEDC meetings with nine applicants to the Northern Borders Regional Commission State Economic and Infrastructure grants to discuss projects, provide application coaching, and discuss regional plan conformance.

- Participated in Urban and Community Forestry Council Leadership Committee meeting.

Partnerships for Progress:

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC): Participated in Board meeting. Met jointly with Northern Border grant applicants.

THRIVE: Participated in Design Team meeting, weekly Leadership Partners check ins, and monthly Community and Leadership Partners meetings.

Washington County Hunger Council: Chaired Council meetings

Barre Area Development Corporation (BADC): participated in monthly meeting with IF presentation by White and Burke Consultants. The City is looking to identify projects which would benefit from the incentive.

Washington County Mental Health Services: Met with staff to discuss potential water line extension project, potential funding sources, and municipal contacts.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

Contact Grace Vinson, vinson@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Local/Regional Planning:

- Attended monthly VEM/RPC meeting.
- Held abbreviated LEPC meeting to provided an update on Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) transition process.
- Participated in VEM/VAPDA Emergency Management Committee meeting on REMC legislation.
- Exported Montpelier Tier 2 facility information for inclusion in 2021 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP).
- Sent Roxbury and East Montpelier LEMPs to VEM for approval.
- Provided information to Calais regarding FEMA funding opportunities for Kent Hill culvert replacement.
- Participated in State Hazard Mitigation Project Review Committee meeting.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Calais – Updated text based on Planning Team comments. Held meeting to discuss mitigation strategies, actions, and maintenance process. Presented to Calais Selectboard. Finalized draft plan for public comment

Marshfield – Distributed public engagement survey via Survey Monkey and analyzed responses. Met with Selectboard to discuss survey responses, hazard identification and finalized ranking for 2021 hazards.

Montpelier – Updated plan text. Hosted two meetings on plan updates, mitigation goals and activities, and maintenance process. Distributed draft plan to LHMP Planning Committee for feedback.

COVID-19 Response & Recovery:

- Participated in State Emergency Operation Center and Health Operation Center meetings to maintain situational awareness regarding response and recovery needs/actions.
- Finished COVID-19 interviews with municipal officials and staff to gather best practices and lessons learned in COVID response and recovery. CVRPC staff communicated with all 23 municipalities. Summarized interview findings and hosted an Emergency Management Director roundtable.
- Updated municipal office status regarding closures and updated COVID webpage to facilitate access.

- Connected VEM, AHS, and Berlin Town Administrator regarding options for cost recovery associated with Berlin's COVID-19 emergency response in support of the non-congregate emergency housing site at Hilltop.

TRANSPORTATION

Contact Christian Meyer, meyer@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Field Services: Contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com, for 2021 counts and inventories.

Public Transit: CVRPC represents Central Vermont on the Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Board of Commissioners. Staff participated in the following GMT meetings:

Board of Commissioners – See Committee updates.

Leadership Committee – Held Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining negotiations. GMT is in negotiations with three different bargaining units: rural drivers, urban drivers, and the maintenance unit. Discussed zero fair policy for FY22.

Operations Committee – Did not meet.

As GMT Board Chair, participated in VBSR Equality & Equity training on marrying the legal, moral and business cases for valuing diversity, and creating inclusive, high-performing cultures.

Municipal Assistance:

- Assisting Cabot and Waitsfield with development of an ash tree management plan.
- Creating road maps for East Montpelier emergency services.
- Notified towns that had been previously placed on the Grants in Aid Equipment wait list that they could now purchase equipment, and helped with a few questions relating to purchasing.
- Attended the Grants in Aid FY21 field season kick off meeting
- Completed a Grants in Aid site visit for Montpelier
- Presented to Barre City on the importance of meeting the Municipal Roads General Permit
- Provided an update on the Central Vermont Path to the Barre City Council at the Mayor's request.
- Assisting Calais with determining best funding for replacement of culvert vulnerable to flood damage.
- Provided Plainfield with information about the Municipal Roads General Permit (fees, deadlines, grants).

Regional Activities:

- Coordinated with VTrans and participated in the VPSP2 (new project prioritization process) for RPCs meetings. Sent TAC the projects and the preliminary scores created for each by CVRPC and VTrans.
- Participated in the monthly RPC Transportation Planning Initiative meeting.
- Participated in a MyRide Advisory Committee meeting.
- Completed review of the Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT) damage, vulnerability, and road importance data for the Central Vermont portion of the Winooski River Basin. Coordinated subcontracting to other RPCs for assistance on completion of statewide coverage of the TRPT. Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.
- Participated in Capstone Community Action mobility project interview to vet Travel Demand Management concept involving electric vehicles, low wage workers, and carpooling.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Attended Mad River Valley Ridge to River outreach presentation on floodplain restoration project prioritization.
- Updated the status on implementation strategies for the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan.
- Presented to the Barre City Council on their Stormwater Master Plan and how to forward projects for final design and implementation.
- Updated Winooski Basin Planner on status of 60% designs and final designs for stormwater projects in Calais, Woodbury, Moretown, and Berlin.

Design Implementation Block Grant Program (DIBG, formerly Clean Water Block Grant Program):

Woodbury Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs – Executed contract amendment. Cancelled consultant stop work order and authorized work on alternative site. Contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com.

Calais Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs – Contractor worked with adjacent landowners to describe gully restoration project and obtain approval. Contractor is updating designs to 90% to incorporate comments from last stakeholder meeting. The 90% designs are expected by August.

Berlin Town Office Stormwater Implementation – Construction began but was paused due to encountering bedrock. The engineer has revised the design for the contractor to work around the bedrock.

Moretown Elementary School Stormwater Final Design: 60% designs were presented to stakeholders for comments. Based on feedback, the team will reach out to neighboring property owners before finalizing the plans. A site visit was conducted to discuss a Selectboard member's concerns regarding standing water in the gravel wetland. Standing water in a gravel wetland will be temporary by design following a flood event and would not pose threats to mosquito breeding.

Plainfield Restoration: CVRPC was awarded a \$224,749 grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for construction of the stormwater mitigation and gully restoration at The Health Center. This project was identified during CVRPC's Stormwater Master Plan process.

Forest Integrity: Coordinated subcommittee meetings focused on municipal strategies to promote the forest economy; discussed strategies for inclusion in the updated Community Strategies resource. Contact Clare Rock at rock@cvregion.com.

Water Wise Woodlands: Participated in meeting coordinated by Friends of the Winooski working towards continuing the efforts of the original grant, increasing flood resilience through maintaining forested headwaters. Contact Clare Rock at rock@cvregion.com.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Distributed Request for Proposal for new office space.
- Distributed [Winter/Spring Newsletter](#)

- Hosted Bryan Davis of CCRPC at a staff meeting to collaborate with staff on utilization of their utilization of the Equity Impact Worksheet for project planning and implementation.
- Hosted an outdoor staff meeting/gathering in Waterbury Center to bid farewell to Zach Maia, Assistant Planner as he departs CVRPC to work for the Town of Colchester.
- Conducted all staff interview with Finance Manager candidate.
- Reviewed draft FY20 audit and management letter.
- Reviewed VISTA candidate applications and scheduled candidate interviews.

Professional Development/Leadership:

- Pam continued to participate in the New England Arc Users Conference (NEARC) Board meetings and planning the 2021 Spring Conference.
- Pam participated in the Vermont Enterprise Geospatial Consortium (EGC) monthly meeting where updates on GIS data standards and VCGI products were discussed including but not limited to Vermont lake and pond bathymetry data and Town parcel data.
- Bonnie, Nancy, Pam, and Grace participated in an Inclusive Work Environments Workshop hosted by Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) to learn about making work environments affirming and supportive for people of all genders and sexual identities.
- Zach participated in a monthly *Vermont Changemakers Table* meeting focused on Attracting and Retaining BIPOC residents in Vermont, where the discussion focused on the systems in place that make Vermont a difficult place for non-white residents to feel welcome, safe, and accepted.

Upcoming Meetings:

All CVRPC meetings currently are being held as virtual meetings. Meeting access information is provided on agendas at www.centralvtplanning.org.

May

May 11	11 am	Bylaw Work Group
May 11	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
May 13	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee
May 14	10 am	Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Committee
May 19	5 pm	Municipal Plan Review Committee
May 25	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
May 27	4 pm	Project Review Committee
May 28	11 am	Bylaw Work Group
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed	

WEEKLY NEWS HEADLINES

Click on a specific week to read more about the headlines listed. *To receive Weekly News via email, sign up on our [website](#).*

[April 9th](#)

- Agency of Transportation Announces Restart of Amtrak and Inter-City Transit Service
- Tiny Grants RFP 2021
- State Offers Free Online Municipal Day Training For Town Officials and Community Members
- Vermont Forward Roadmap -- Changes in COVID Guidance Going Forward

- VCRD Climate Economy Model Communities program
- April is Fair Housing Month
- Earth Day – April 22nd
- Governor Scott’s Proposed Budget for ARPA

[April 16th](#)

- 2021 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program
- Funding Opportunity on COVID-19-Related Health Disparities Available
- SAVE THE DATE: Summit on the Future of Vermont
- 2021 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Program
- EAB Awareness Week is Coming – Get Your Community Kit Today
- VT Long-Range Transmission Plan & Public Review
- Vermont Center for Independent Living RISE Fund
- Request for Proposals for Office Space
- FEMA Financial Assistance Available for COVID-19 Funeral Expenses
- American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Information from VLCT

[April 23rd](#)

- ACCD Vermont Forward Webinar Link
- Vermont Emergency Management Effective Facilitation Course – May 26 to 28
- Wetland Screening Tool for the State of Vermont
- Local Food in Your Community Grant
- Arbor Day Planting Grant Awards
- Historic Preservation Grants Awarded in Washington County
- Ask an Arborist Webinar Series
- Outdoor Recreation Trails Ethics
- Vaccination News
- Reminder – LEMPs due May 1st
- VLCT Guidance on Vermont Forward Plan

[April 30th](#)

- UVM Transportation Research Center Study
- Summit on the Future of Vermont
- Do You Have an Innovative Project That Needs Funding?
- VLCT Provides Guidance on ATV Law Changes
- Economic Recovery Bridge Grants Announced
- Virtual FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Training
- Share Your Thoughts on the 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan
- American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Information from VLCT
- Vermont Moves to Step 2 of Vermont Forward Plan
- Updates to CDC and State Mask Guidance
- Appointments now open for part-time Vermont residents and out-of-state students

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