

Weekly News Roundup

May 21, 2021

Visit our website

Upcoming Events

Energy Retrofits for Older Vermont Buildings

On-Line Course: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8:00am - 3:30pm

This course will focus on residential and small commercial buildings with a panel of experienced professionals discussing best practices. Run as a forum, this course invites all interested professionals, from those with experience to those who have basic questions. *6 Credits: AIA-HSW, EEN & BPI. [More Information here.](#)*

Notice of Public Hearing - Plainfield Town Plan (Rescheduled)

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will hold an electronic public hearing on June 3, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. This hearing can be joined by computer at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877928188> or by phone at +1(929)436-2866. Meeting ID: 878 7792 8188

The purpose of this hearing is to consider approval of the 2021 Plainfield Town Plan, as adopted on April 12, 2021; to confirm the Town of Plainfield's planning process under 24 VSA Section §4350; and to review and consider the plan for an affirmative determination of energy compliance under 24 V.S.A §4352.



Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy
– Creating Networks in Central Vermont

Workshop - Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy – creating networks in Central Vermont

June 9, 2021 | 4:30-6:00 PM via Zoom

We will work to share ideas and opportunities in the Central Vermont region to plan for a connected trail system and regional recreation economy. This event will bring together local leaders, volunteers and business owners working to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, from trail infrastructure, equipment, activities and downtown development.

This initiative is the first of a series of two workshops to strategize and prioritize next steps to advance regional initiatives, and is made possible by the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (VOREC) and the City of Montpelier. The goal is to strengthen participation, quality and extent of outdoor recreation and active transportation; and through that create opportunities for outdoor recreation businesses and strong local economies.

Please register for this virtual workshop to receive the zoom link and login information. Link to register is; <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-qoqzsjGtQvLTjPAC-rSpCQeyC9DF8m>

We will send out an agenda with further information closer to the workshop date. Please circulate this invitation and attached flier with your colleagues, staff, board, and others who may be interested.

Questions, please contact Clare Rock, Senior Land Use Planner, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission at rock@cvregion.com or (802) 229-0389 or Elena Juodisius, Assistant Planner, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission at juodisius@cvregion.com or (802) 229-0389 ext. 08

Community News



FULL PLATES VERMONT

The USDA has announced that May will be the final month of the Farmers to Families program. However, the Vermont Foodbank is excited to announce the launch of Full Plates VT. Full Plates VT will distribute food boxes at drive-thru style distributions throughout all fourteen counties in Vermont. The

program is currently scheduled to run from June to September.

To keep wait times to a minimum, reservations will be required for the distributions. Registration will go live on May 24th and new dates will be added to the registration website every two weeks. To register and see the dates and locations, please visit vtfoodbank.org/gethelp or call 833-670-2254 for assistance.

Each reservation will receive fresh produce along with other fresh and self-stable products. Each household must register for their own food box and self-certify that they meet the income guidelines. You will not be asked for proof of income. If you are unable to attend the event in person, you may register for a food box and designate another person to pick it up from the distribution.

Veggie Van Go

All Veggie Van Go's are a drive through event. You can just show up to your local event and get fresh produce - you do not need to sign up in advance. Visit their [website](#) for more information. Next Washington County event: Friday, May 28th @ Barre Auditorium, 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre 9 - 10:30 am.

Vermont Telecommuting Study

Last year the Center for Research in Vermont circulated a survey about working from home. **At the time more than half of the respondents (55%) said they expected to work from home more** when things returned to something more "normal" and more than two thirds (72%) said that their employer could do more to make work from home possible. The May 2020 survey [report is here](#). With more background info [here](#).

They now ask the same questions as Vermonters start to emerge from the pandemic. Will you be returning to the workplace on a regular basis, or perhaps you already have? Have you come to enjoy working from home and expect to continue to do more of it? Has your employer made it easier to work from home? Take the 2021 [SURVEY](#). Responses are confidential.

Town of Waitsfield is Hiring!

The Town of Waitsfield is looking for a Planning & Zoning Administrator and Town Treasurer. For more detail on both jobs, including preferred qualifications, a job description, and detail on how to apply, please see the following:

[Planning & Zoning Administrator Job Description](#) (application due Monday, June 7th)

[Town Treasurer Job Description](#) (application due Friday, June 11th)

COVID 19 Updates

Celebrate EMS Week with a COVID-19 shot!

May 21-23, EMS stations across Vermont will open their doors and host appointment-free vaccination clinics. Say thank you to your local EMS workers this year by getting vaccinated. Clinics include:

- 05/22: Thatcher Brook School
- 05/22: Barre Town Elementary
- 05/23: Twinfield Union School

Clinics will offer Johnson & Johnson vaccine, for anyone 18 and older. You can walk in without an appointment. The schedule is available at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. You can also register for a vaccine and find the latest walk-in, mobile and pop-up clinics near you.

New guidance for mask-wearing, travel and gathering

As of May 14, based on updated CDC guidance and Vermont's progress in vaccination, Vermont has new guidance around mask-wearing, cross-state travel and gathering sizes.

MASKS: People who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a mask or maintain a 6-foot distance from others. There are some exceptions, including in schools, on public transportation, and in healthcare settings, long term care facilities and correctional facilities. Fully vaccinated means 14 days have passed since your final shot. Anyone who is not vaccinated, or is partially vaccinated, including children must follow [the current mask requirements](#).

TRAVEL: Travel to and from Vermont no longer requires testing or quarantine. (Rules for visitors from other countries are different. Learn more about [international travel](#).)

GATHERING: For indoor gatherings, there can be one unvaccinated person per 50 square feet up to 300 unvaccinated people (whichever is less), plus any number of fully vaccinated people. For outdoor gatherings, there can be 900 unvaccinated people, plus any number of fully vaccinated people.

- To view the full Vermont Forward Plan, visit vermont.gov/vermont-forward.
- To view the updated executive order, click here.
- For vaccination information, visit healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine
- [Read the May 14 press release](#).

Vaccination Now Open for Ages 12 to 15

Vermonters aged 12 to 15 are now eligible to make vaccination appointments by visiting healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. Parents can create an account, or use an existing account, adding the child as a dependent. Those making appointments for this age group will only see clinics with the Pfizer vaccine. If you need assistance, call 855-722-7878. Parental/caregiver consent is required for vaccination of this age group. Consent can be given as part of the online registration process or at a clinic in person.

The Health Department is working in partnership with the Agency of Education to offer school-based clinics with daytime and evening hours. These clinics will be updated in the vaccine registration system as soon as they are scheduled, and a listing can be found at the [Agency of Education's website](#).

Tourism and Hospitality Worker Vaccine Clinics Announced

In partnership with the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Tourism and Marketing, the Department of Health will host walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics for restaurant, hospitality, and tourism workers over the coming weeks. The initial wave of clinics will take place at seven locations, with each site offering Johnson & Johnson vaccines for tourism and hospitality workers on a walk-in basis. Clinics will be staged at restaurants, lodging properties, ski resorts, and other tourism attractions in an effort to bring the vaccine directly to the workers of this sector.

To see all dates, times, and locations for these tourism and hospitality worker vaccine clinics, please visit the [ACCD Recovery Resource Center](#).

More than a dozen additional clinics are being planned now and will be added as details are confirmed. If a tourism or hospitality business would like to host a clinic for industry employees in their area, please contact [Amy Spear](#) at the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

Walk-in vaccine opportunities now available

Vermont is offering vaccines without an appointment while supplies last. [See here](#) for a list of walk-in clinics. Check out the latest opportunities on our website: healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine and follow our [social media feeds @healthvermont](#) to stay up to date.

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

US Treasury Launches State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program

On Monday, May 10, the U.S. Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which will distribute \$350 billion in emergency funding to state, local, territorial and Tribal governments.

- See here for details on the ways funds can be used: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRP-Fact-Sheet-FINAL1-508A.pdf>
- See here for VLCTs ARPA webpage with additional information: <https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>

USDA Grants for Local Food Systems

USDA is now accepting applications for three different grants that support the development, coordination and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and enterprises and value-added agricultural products. Over \$93.5 million dollars is available in total.

Special consideration will be given to projects that assist underserved local and regional agricultural businesses, producer networks and associations, and local and tribal government in responding to COVID-19 disruptions and impacts.

- [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#): supports direct-to-consumer markets like farmers markets and CSAs. The deadline to apply is June 21st.
- [Local Food Promotion Program](#): supports indirect-to-consumer markets like food hubs and value-added product incubators. The deadline to apply is June 21st.
- [Regional Food System Partnership Program](#): funds public-private partnerships that build and strengthen viability and resilience of local or regional food economies. The deadline to apply is July 6th

Funding Available to Establish Municipal Composting Plans

The USDA [Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction \(CCFWR\)](#) pilot program is offering up to \$90,000 to assist local governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans that will: Generate compost; Increase access to compost for agricultural producers; Reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer; Improve soil quality; Encourage waste management and permaculture business development; Increase rainwater absorption; Reduce municipal food waste; and Divert food waste from landfills. A 25% match is required. CCFWR applications are due by July 16, 2021.

Funding Available to Support Arts Integration into Community Life

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) [Grants for Arts Projects \(formerly ArtWorks\)](#) is offering up to \$100,000 for arts and culture projects that enhance communities through the humanities, complement revitalization, and better connect cross-sector stakeholders. Projects should focus on creativity and/or cultural heritage, livability, learning, and engagement. Partnerships are strongly encouraged. A project may consist of one or more specific events or activities. Organizations may apply for any or all phases of a project, from its planning through its implementation. Small projects that can make a difference in a community or field are welcome to apply. Applicable arts disciplines include: Artistic Communities, Arts Education, Dance, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Media Arts, Museums, Music, Musical Theater, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater, and Visual Arts. Eligible applicants include U.S. based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations; units of state or local government; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes. A 1:1 local match is required. Grants for Art Projects applications are due by July 8, 2021.

Upcoming Meetings

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

MAY

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 31 Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed

JUNE

June 1 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

June 8 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

June 8 **6:15** pm Board of Commissioners Annual Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

June 9 2 pm Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

June 9 4:30 pm Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy – Creating Networks in Central Vermont Workshop

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

June 24 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)



Nancy Chartrand | 29 Main Street, Suite 4, 29 Main Street, Suite 4,
Montpelier, VT 05602 802-229-0389

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