



Weekly News Roundup July 23, 2021

Visit our website

Upcoming Events



Vaccine Clinics in Central Vermont

Ongoing

Are you ready to join the 83%+ of eligible Vermonters who've been vaccinated for COVID-19? Walk into one of the vaccine clinics happening daily across Vermont! Check the Department of Health's website for details healthvermont.gov/myvaccine.

Save the Date -- Hybrid EMD Roundtable

CVRPC is hosting a virtual/in-person Emergency Management Director (EMD) roundtable on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.

Meeting access information:

- Physical location: Central VT Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin (Facial coverings are required for in-person participation)
- Remote participation via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85786978673?pwd=VFgrRGJRay9Nc25yUGViUjgxZStCdz09>
- Dial in: 301 715 8592; Access code 857 8697 8673; Passcode: 880643

Agenda:

- VT Alert presentation/ training needs discussion
- CVRPC Assistance Available
- Open Q&A/Discussion: EMD support needed
- VEM Updates

Please reach out to vinson@cvregion.com if you have specific topics related to the agenda items you'd like to address at the roundtable.

Community News

Hybrid Meetings and Open Meeting Law

VLCT has published a Hybrid Public Meeting Toolkit to assist public bodies in adhering to Open Meeting Law while holding hybrid meetings (physical location with remote access). Find their guidance [here>>](#).



CVRPC Planning Technician Opening

CVRPC seeks to hire a Planning Technician to assist our team through the end of September 2021. Major areas of work include inventories, transportation counts, and data analysis. More details available [here>>](#).

UVM Center for Research on Vermont Town Government Survey

Complete UVM's five-minute survey that relates to town government and civic life in Vermont. UVM will share survey information with VLCT. Survey available [here>>](#).

Calais Seeks Zoning Administrator

The Town of Calais is hiring a Zoning Administrator. This position requires about 20 hours per month on average. Salary is \$400 per month for up to 20 hours / month. Familiarity with State required permits, Calais Land Use Regulations, and Calais Town Plan a plus. Position may require site visits to development sites. Good communication required to guide permit applicant to applicable State permits when needed. A complete job description is available on <https://www.calaisvermont.gov/>. If interested, please send letter with a resume to jgohlsson@gmail.com or mail to Calais Town Office; Attn: Chair, Planning; 3120 Pekin Brook Rd., East Calais, VT 05650. Application deadline is July 23, 2021.

Zoning Survey

Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) has developed a survey about local housing and zoning policies in Vermont. It is hoped this survey will help highlight how zoning decisions impact the supply of affordable homes and be a valuable resource for local housing and planning commission members. Please complete the survey by **end of the day on Friday, 7/30**.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HJJXFZT>

Vermont Everyone Eats

Vermont Everyone Eats will continue to source food for Vermonters through September 30th. For more information on where to access this food resource; visit their [website](#).



Waterbury Seeks Assistant Planning and Zoning Administrator

The Town of Waterbury seeks to hire an Assistant Planning & Zoning Administrator (PZA). The successful candidate will assist with the administration and enforcement of the Town of Waterbury's zoning and subdivision bylaws, as well as general planning functions. The Assistant PZA will also assist with the regulation and management of the 100-yr. floodplain. The Assistant PZA will assist the Planning & Zoning Director, Development Review Board, and Planning Commission when necessary. Experience with floodplain management and a demonstrated ability to review and write zoning by-laws is desired. This is a full-time position with benefits, 40 hours per week. Pay is commensurate with experience. Seeking to hire as soon as possible. Please send applications and resumes by Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to: Stephen Lotspeich, Planning & Zoning Director, 28 N. Main Street, Suite 1, Waterbury, VT 05676. For further information contact Stephen Lotspeich at 802-244-1012, or via e-mail: slotspeich@waterburyvt.com

Town Forest Governance Survey

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the Urban and Community Forestry Program supports towns, commissions, and volunteer groups in managing community trees and forests. The Northern Forest Center, in partnership with the state, is currently undertaking an assessment of the governance models of town and community forests to learn how the local committees, groups, or individuals that manage these forests are structured, how they operate, and what challenges they face. This survey is part of this assessment project: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTTFGov>. Please complete this survey by July 26th. If you have questions or need assistance completing the survey, please contact Julie Renaud Evans with the Northern Forest Center at jevans@northernforest.org or 603-724-8322. Please note that this survey has already been sent directly to some select town officials, but to ensure every town is represented, please coordinate to have at least one relevant person from your town take this survey.

My Ride GMT & Amtrak Updates

On July 19th, VTTrans and local officials celebrated the resumption of Amtrak service throughout the state with events at all Amtrak stations and 1\$ train fares for travel within Vermont.



One of the partners in these events in Central Vermont was Green Mountain Transit's MyRide. If you've not had an opportunity to access this service yet, check it out - **GMT's MyRide**

(<https://ridegmt.com/myride/>) is an on-demand public transit service that will pick you up at your requested location at no cost and services the Barre Montpelier area, including Montpelier Junction.

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

FY22 Municipal Planning Grant Program

Vermont's communities face tough challenges and unprecedented funding opportunities because of the pandemic. **The State's flexible [Municipal Planning Grants](#) are ready to support projects for long-term recovery, and now is the time to begin thinking about projects.** For more than 30 years, Municipal Planning Grants have helped communities like yours implement town plan recommendations and jump start initiatives like zoning updates to welcome new homes, plans for a state designated area, or economic recovery strategies.

Individual towns may apply for up to \$22,000 and joint applications from several municipalities (a consortium) may apply for up to \$35,000. A wide range of municipal planning and implementation activities are eligible for funding with a small local match of 10%. I encourage you to reach out to stakeholders now to discuss local needs, opportunities, and strategies for adaptation and change.

Please review the [Program Description](#) for eligibility requirements and application guidelines. Even the [smallest Vermont towns](#) can write a winning application and open doors to a better future. Questions, please feel free to contact Clare Rock - rock@cvregion.com

Application Schedule for FY2022 Grants:

- Online application (GEARS) opens for use: September 1, 2021
- RPC confirmation of municipal planning process (for eligibility): September 30, 2021
- **Application Deadline: November 1 @ 6:00 p.m., 2021**
- Award Decisions: Early December 2021
- Project completion: June 2023

NBRC Announces 2021 Regional Forest Economy Partnership Grant Round

The Northern Border Regional Commission announced the 2021 Regional Forest Economy Partnership (RFEP) Grant Round earlier today; the press release appears below. Details on the competition can be found on the NBRC website: https://www.nbrc.gov/content/RFEP_2021 including the competition timeline, program overview, program manual and information on the advisory board. Commission staff anticipate offering information sessions (2 per state) in the coming weeks.

Recall that the RFEP competition has some differences from State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) NBRC's core competition. The RFEP Program Overview one-pager provides clarity on the purpose of the funding. Further note, the RFEP competition requires the submission of a letter of interest (LOI). The Advisory Board reviews the letters of interest and determines which prospects advance to the application stage. Application is by invitation only.

Special FY2022 Funding for Bylaw Modernization

Local and statewide leaders increasingly recognize the need to grow housing opportunity, and Act 74 of 2021 makes \$650,000 available for bylaw modernization. This one-time State funding will be available to support municipal bylaw modernization amendments in FY22 to expand opportunities for housing, confront the State's housing crisis, and ready communities for housing investment. Program details for this special funding are in development and will be announced as soon as possible.

If you are interested in developing a proposal and applying, please contact Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission at cvrpc@cvregion.com

Upcoming Meetings

Please note that in addition to a physical location of Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce @ 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin; CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings (see agendas on our website for details)

JULY

- July 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
- July 28 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group

AUGUST

August 2 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting

August 10 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group

August 11 5 pm Emergency Management Directors Round Table

August 12 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee

August 25 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group

STAY CONNECTED

