



Weekly News Roundup December 30, 2021

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Upcoming Events



Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy
– Creating Networks in Central Vermont

Save the Date: Tuesday January 25th at 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Fostering coordination across the region to plan for a strong recreational economy and connected network.

Join us to learn more about how coordination among trail groups and businesses support access to

recreational opportunities across municipal borders.

Representatives from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and the Mad River Valley Trails Collaborative will share their strategies and tips for success.

We'll also discuss how together we can foster increased coordination in our region and build a stronger connected network.

What might a Trails Alliance or Trails Collaborative look like in Central Vermont?

We'll be providing a virtual and in-person meeting option. Details coming your way in the New Year.

Questions? Contact Clare Rock, Senior Land Use Planner, rock@cvregion.com or Blaine Hoskins, Assistant Planner, hoskins@cvregion.com

Municipal Plan Review Committee Hearing - Calais Town Plan

January 20, 2022 - 4:00 pm

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 20, 2022 beginning at 4:00 pm at the CVRPC Office, 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, Vermont. Masks are required for in person participation. This hearing can also be accessed via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82143077937?pwd=QWMzZVAwcEtRTEg0TWdoWi9nUTk5UT09> or by phone at +1 (929) 436-2866, Access code: 821 4307 7937; Passcode: 738532.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider approval of an amendment to the *Calais, Vermont 2016*

Copies of the Plan amendment can be reviewed at the Town of Calais Municipal Building or at the offices of Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, Vermont. Phone: 802-229-0389. The Plan amendment can also be reviewed online at <https://www.calaisvermont.gov/planningcommission>

Community News

Cross Vermont Trail Association Annual Update

A historic year for trail construction. After 15 years of planning and preparation, Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) completed a new 200 foot bike/ped bridge over the Winooski River in fall of 2021. (See dramatic drone footage of the bridge being lifted over the water, posted online

<https://crossvermont.org/>). CVTA contractors also installed a new safety median rail for 650 feet beside Rte 2, and then a gravel path outside of the rail between the road and the river;

as well as a new trailhead parking lot on Rte 2. CVTA is working now to join these contractor built segments and connect up the first phase of useable new trail which will continue the Montpelier Bike Path from Gallison Hill Rd out across the new bridge and on upstream to the new trailhead parking - with a ribbon cutting late May 2022. This remaining work is smaller scale (though longer distance) and we are getting it done with a combination of staff labor, smaller contractors, conservation corps members - and there is plenty of opportunity for volunteers to make a difference.



The Winooski Bridge is the start line, not the finish line. After the bridge is open to the public in late May, the next phase, to open later in the year, will be a new access trail from the bike path up to the U-32 School, as well as several additional recreation trails in the school forest and along the river. Finally, we will begin the third and final phase of this large project which will keep the bike path going across East Montpelier up to Rte 14 where the existing rail trail begins and runs in various forms to Plainfield, Groton State Forest and beyond.

Thanks to contributions from the City of Montpelier and hundreds of local individuals, the Winooski Bridge and other large contractor built projects were fully funded and built this past year. Fundraising is still ongoing to complete the path all the way to Rte 14, and individual donations to CVTA will be put to work building more trail.

CVTA's mission is to create and maintain a multi-use trail across Vermont through the Winooski and Wells River Valleys between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River. Our vision is: public recreation that is inviting and accessible to all; safe off-road travel to desired destinations; convenient locations for healthy outdoor activity; permanent greenway for easy local access to the natural world; and collaboration of landowners, community groups and local governments to foster regional trail networks with the Cross Vermont Trail as the connection among them.

The Cross Vermont Trail Association, formed in 1999, is an incorporated, private non-profit organization that is member-based and volunteer-driven. CVTA is funded by winning competitive grants and through individual donations from trail users. Residents of all towns through which the trail route passes are invited to get involved. Get better trails near where you live. Maps, guidebook, and more information on the trail routes are available at <https://crossvermont.org/>, or call at 802-498-0079.

What Does the Infrastructure Bill Mean for Your Town? (On Demand Webinar)

This webinar, recorded on 12/9/21 by VLCT, features updates on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act from Vermont's agencies of Natural Resources and Transportation and Department of Public Service. Access it [here](#).

Mitigating And Responding To Covid-19 In The Workplace

Governor Scott has directed the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to host a webinar to further discuss recommendations and implementation of ways to reduce COVID-19 disruption, slow the spread, and how you can extend your reach beyond employees to help customers, clients and your communities as we move forward through the holiday season and

into the New Year. [Watch the webinar](#)

New ACCD Brownfields Assessment Funding Opportunity

In 2021, the Vermont Legislature allocated \$25 million in funding to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) for the characterization and clean up brownfield sites. Of its \$11M allocation, ACCD is providing \$1M of this grant funding to Regional Planning Commissions for site assessment statewide as part of its Brownfields Revitalization Program. For additional information or to request environmental assessment funding for an eligible brownfields site, please [contact us](#).



RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines



Vermont Natural Resources Council's Small Grants for Smart Growth

VNRC offers a special grant round of up to \$5,000 to support community projects aimed at housing, transportation and climate resilience. Apply by January 17, 2022. More information available [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Please note that in addition to a physical location; CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for most meetings (see agendas on our [website](#) for details). Masks are required for in-person participation at the CVRPC office.

DECEMBER

Dec 31 Office closed - Holiday *(Happy New Year!)*

JANUARY

Jan 3 4 pm Executive Committee

Jan 11 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners

Jan 17 Office closed - Holiday

Jan 20 4 pm Municipal Plan Review Committee Hearing (Calais Town Plan amendment)

Jan 25 4 pm Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy – Creating Networks in Central Vermont

Jan 25 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee

Jan 31 4 pm Executive Committee

STAY CONNECTED

