



Weekly News Roundup January 7, 2022

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Upcoming Events

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 Town Plan*, and to confirm the Town of Calais' planning process under 24 VSA Section §4350.

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>

Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy – Creating Networks in Central Vermont

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

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. More details coming soon. Questions?

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

Community News

Vermont Bond Bank announces Capital Plan Contest and Forum - By Mia Watson on Dec 27, 2021

Vermont Bond Bank has announced its first annual Capital Plan Contest as well as the Vermont Capital Planning Forum. In sponsoring the contest, the Bond Bank seeks to recognize best practices in communities of all sizes while allowing all



Vermonters to benefit from exemplary models of capital planning throughout the state.

Submissions may include all formats of capital plans used by communities and organizations. To be considered, complete a [short questionnaire](#) and email your capital plan to [this address](#). Submissions are due by February 1, 2022.

Awards will be reviewed by a panel of statewide experts in infrastructure planning, including VHFA's Managing Director of Community Development, Seth Leonard. Awards will reflect the state's diversity across communities, with enterprise or utility submissions also welcome.

Winners will be featured in the Bond Bank's future publications on capital planning. Additionally, winners will receive professional photography of a related project and special recognition at the Bond Bank's upcoming capital planning forum, and all will receive technical assistance on capital plan implementation.

The award ceremony will take place at the virtual Vermont Capital Planning Forum on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Vermont Adopts CDC Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) recently adopted updated COVID-19 guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control including shorter isolation and quarantine periods. The VDH [guidance](#) also recommends an additional layer of protection beyond the CDC guidance, calling for individuals with COVID-19 to stay home for at least five days. Isolation can end on day five if symptoms and fever have not been present for 24 hours and with two negative antigen tests performed at least 24 hours apart, beginning no sooner than day four of the isolation period. Businesses are strongly encouraged to read the [full guidance](#).

AIA to offer free design services for affordable housing

By Mia Watson on Dec 22, 2021 08:19 am

The [Vermont chapter of the American Institute of Architects \(AIA\)](#), will host a design charrette session with pro-bono services for affordable housing projects. AIA-VT invites Vermont nonprofits, municipalities, and community-based groups to submit specific affordable housing projects in the early or conceptual stages for review.



Selected projects will be part of a design charrette event on March 25th, 2022 on the campus of Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph. The event will include a panel discussion with experts in affordable housing and a 2-hour participatory planning process that assembles an interdisciplinary team to create a design and implementation plan for the selected projects. Participating groups will come away with a better understanding of what they might be able to accomplish with their proposed affordable housing project.

Information on how to apply is available on [AIA-VT's website](#). The application period closes on January 24, 2022. Selected projects will be announced by January 31.

RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines



Funding Available to Support Fire Department Staffing

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response \(SAFER\) grant program](#) is offering funding to support the hiring of career firefighters or the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The goal of the SAFER program is to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. SAFER offers grants to support activities in two categories:

- The Hiring of Firefighters category seeks to hire new, additional firefighters to improve staffing levels, change the status of firefighters who are part-time or paid-on-call to full-time, rehire laid off firefighters, or retain firefighters facing layoff. Eligible applicants include combination and career fire departments. The period of performance will be 36

months.

- The Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters category will assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response. Eligible applicants include volunteer and combination fire departments as well as nonprofit organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters. The period of performance will be 12 to 48 months.

With enhanced staffing levels, recipients should experience a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the accident scene. Volunteer, combination, and career fire departments operating in any of the 50 states, territories, or any federally recognized tribal organization are eligible to apply for funding. Municipalities and fire districts may submit applications on behalf of fire departments lacking the legal status to do so, such as those under the support of the municipality or district. No cost share or matching is required.

Applications for SAFER grants are due by February 4, 2022.

Food Hub Infrastructure Support

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) has received funding from the [Northern Border Regional Commission](#) (NBRC) to expand capacity and market access for Vermont's nonprofit food hubs. Funding will support two to eight food hubs to help with critical infrastructure needs, enabling hubs to support more farm and food businesses, expand their workforce, and advance their ongoing efforts to access larger metropolitan markets. Applications are due February 25, 2022 at 2:00pm EST.

Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 with available funding totaling \$300,000. Applicants are required to have a 25% match of requested award, which can be cash or in-kind. Projects will run from Spring 2022 – Spring 2024 and are subject to both state and federal program provisions.

Funding priorities include projects that demonstrate:

- Large infrastructure investments that will significantly increase the amount of Vermont products reaching new or expanded markets
- Increased capacity for food hubs to expand to large metropolitan markets outside of Vermont
- Increased sales to large-scale markets, measured in dollars and number of markets, both retail and wholesale, inside and outside of Vermont
- Increased purchasing from Vermont farm and food producers going to in state or out of state metropolitan markets
- Increased number of jobs and percentage of jobs at Vermont Livable Wage, which as of 2020 is \$13.39/hour

Applicants must have federal nonprofit status, be located in Vermont, and operate a food hub in Vermont. The organization must be able to demonstrate they have federal grant experience and organizational capacity related to economic development.

For information and application materials, visit [Food Hub Infrastructure Support | Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets \(vermont.gov\)](#). Program questions can be directed to Julia Scheier (she/her), Emerging Issues Specialist, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, at Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov.

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.

JANUARY

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 (February meeting)

FEBRUARY

Feb 8 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners

Feb 10 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee

Feb 21 Office closed - Holiday

Feb 22 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee

Feb 23 5 pm Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)

Feb 24 4 pm Project Review Committee

Feb 28 4 pm Executive Committee (March meeting)

STAY CONNECTED

