



Weekly News Roundup March 4, 2022

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Community News

CVRPC Welcomes New Staff

We are pleased to share that CVRPC has filled its Climate and Energy Planner and Natural Resources Senior Planner positions.

Samantha Lash joined the CVRPC team on February 14th as Climate and Energy Planner. Sam recently served as the Municipal Resilience Program Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island. For 10 years, she led and supervised teams of up to 50 students in archaeological field work around the world for Brown University, writing grants, managing data, and managing community and institutional relationships. Sam earned a Masters of Arts in Classical Art and Archaeology and a Masters of Science in Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences. She currently is a Ph.D. candidate in archaeology at Brown University and is working for UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program as a field archaeologist. Sam grew up in Chittenden County, currently lives in Williston, and is a member of the Williston Energy Committee.

In her CVRPC role, Sam provides assistance for addressing Vermont's climate change and clean energy goals. She develops enhanced energy plans, supports energy committees, and integrates energy and climate actions into the municipal and regional plans.

Brian Voigt joined the CVRPC team as Natural Resources Senior Planner on March 2nd. Brian is a natural resource planner and quantitative geographer (GIS mapping, analysis, and modeling). Since 2010, he has been with the University of Vermont in lecture and research positions, teaching GIS and acting as project lead for state and federal-sponsored grants related to analyzing emerging and persistent natural resource, land use, social, and economic issues to facilitate planning and decision-making. He simultaneously works as an independent GIS contractor for natural resource-based projects. Prior to moving to Vermont, he was an environmental planner focused on natural resource, hazard mitigation, and land use planning with the Washington State Department of Ecology. Brian lives in Waitsfield. He has served as a member of the Waitsfield Planning Commission for ~10 years and is the Planning Commission's current representative to the Mad River Valley Planning District.

In his CVRPC role, Brian will help municipalities and CVRPC plan and implement projects and programs involving water and mineral resources, agriculture, forests, and wildlife habitat and habitat connectors; foster a robust working landscape economy; and address invasive species impacts. He will lead CVRPC's Clean Water Service Provider effort, water quality programs, and forest integrity work.

We are excited to have Sam and Brian join the CVRPC team. Sam will be joining the Board meeting on March 8th. The Board agenda includes a presentation of the Vermont Climate Action Plan and a Board exercise to focus CVRPC's climate initiatives. Brian will meet the Board in April or May.



Cross VT Trail Association Completes Funding to Reach Route 14

The Cross Vermont Trail Association announces that it has met a \$75,000 challenge grant awarded by the Northern Borders Regional Commission in 2021 to build the last phase of the Winooski Bridge Project that will extend the trail from the new bridge to Route 14 in East Montpelier.

With donations from over 125 local individuals at the end of last year and a recently announced \$75,000 grant from the State of Vermont, the CVTA has raised the \$200,000 needed to complete the trail on both sides of the new Winooski Bridge built last summer. In all, the trail will go from the existing Montpelier Bike Path at Gallison Hill Road in Montpelier, up to U-32 School, then over the new Winooski Bridge and upstream along the Winooski River, finally cutting cross country to join the existing rail trail at Route 14. Read more in the press release >> and access their website at http://crossvermont.org/about_us/gallery_bigproject.htm

Vermont Big Trees Program and Map

Announcing the reinvigoration of the **Vermont Big Trees Program**. While at times robust, the program has been mostly dormant for about a decade. Over the past year VT UCF staff has invested time and resources into updating the program, with the support of the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation and the Agency of Digital Services.

Updates to the **Vermont Big Trees Program** include:

- Locating, remeasuring, and verifying 53 Big Tree Champions across the state.
- Creating a searchable, sortable **Vermont Big Tree database and map** experience.
- Updating the **nomination form** and verification schedule for new Big Tree candidates.
- Developing a **Big Trees FAQ** page.

In the coming months, VT UCF will be launching a campaign to solicit nominations for Big Tree candidates for approximately 70 vacant species. Stay tuned for more information in the April edition of TREEmail.



RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines

Proposals Reminder for Transportation Planning Services and/or Studies

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is requesting proposals for transportation planning studies to be completed during the spring and summer of 2022. Help us make getting around easier, safer, and more convenient for everyone by contributing your ideas. Proposals are due **March 8, 2022**.

CVRPC will complete transportation special projects and studies using funding from the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Transportation Planning Initiative. Project work will need to be completed between May and September 30, 2022, therefore limiting the scope of work that can be completed in this short time. Project estimates should not exceed \$30,000 without prior staff coordination. Inter-municipal and regional projects will be prioritized. These funds are meant to facilitate planning that will help shape future capital improvements; however, we are unable to fund construction directly.

For project suggestions, more details and an intake form, go to our website @ www.centralvtplanning.org Questions regarding the above can be directed to Senior Planner Christian Meyer- meyer@cvregion.com

Upcoming Meetings

CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings (see agendas on our [website](#) for details).

MARCH

Mar 8 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners

Mar 9 2 pm Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities
March 22 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
March 24 4 pm Project Review Committee

STAY CONNECTED

