



2009 TOWN REPORT

The Regional Commission is an organization formed by and serving the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. The Commission has been providing planning and development assistance to communities for over thirty-five years. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners. **Berkshire is currently represented on the Board of Commissioners by:** Claude Charron (one vacant seat), and on the Transportation Advisory Committee by: Claude Charron.

This year the Commission provided region-wide municipal assistance in the following areas:

- ❖ municipal plan and bylaw updates and related technical assistance
- ❖ geographic information services, including mapping
- ❖ transportation and watershed planning and related project development
- ❖ grant writing and administration
- ❖ emergency response planning
- ❖ community development

The Commission also helped Berkshire with specific local projects: Provided general technical assistance on planning and zoning issues and began work on a Town Plan (including maps) update. Updated the E-911 poster maps, road atlas and road map. Completed project development for a Rail Trail parking area. Completed paper and digital maps with new 2007-2008 orthophotos, roads, surface waters and flood plains.

The Commission sponsors regional planning programs, provides a forum for inter-municipal cooperation, and participates in state regulatory proceedings for projects that have impact across municipal boundaries. Regional planning projects this year included:

- ◆ Hazard mitigation planning and emergency response planning/exercises
- ◆ River and stream assessments to assist with related water quality improvement projects
- ◆ Educational programs for local volunteers
- ◆ Site assessments to enable redevelopment of brownfield properties
- ◆ Management support for the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail
- ◆ Development of a regional energy program
- ◆ Update of the regional transportation plan and assessment of select high-risk locations
- ◆ Completion of a new website with expanded access to municipal and regional information

In the coming year the Commission will continue our ongoing programs in local and regional planning and project implementation and will provide other needed services to our member municipalities.

The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to provide local matching funds needed for state and federal programs. For the coming year, the Board of Commissioners did not increase the municipal assessment rate so it remains at \$0.86 per capita, based on the 2000 US Census population.

Your continued support for local and regional planning is greatly appreciated. Remember, we are your resource -- please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, mapping, or data needs. For more information, please visit our office at 155 Lake Street in St. Albans, contact your municipal representatives, give us a call at 1-800-564-5958, or visit our website www.nrpcvt.com.