



# 2011 Town Report

The Regional Commission is a multi-purpose governmental organization formed by and serving the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners. Northwest Regional Planning Commission implements a variety of projects and programs tailored to local, regional and statewide needs.

## Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projects & Programs:

**Municipal plan and bylaw updates and related technical assistance:** Focus on predictable and effective local permitting through education and training, bylaw modernization and plan updates.

**Brownfields:** Complete environmental site assessments and fund clean-ups so properties can be sold, developed or re-developed to benefit the economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

**Transportation planning:** Coordinate local involvement in transportation decisions through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and provide services such as intersection studies, corridor plans and traffic counts.

**Emergency response planning:** Better prepare our region and state for disasters by coordinating with local volunteers and VT Emergency Management on emergency response planning, exercises and training.

**Energy conservation and development:** Implement projects to support municipal energy conservation to save energy and tax dollars, support job training programs, and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation.

**Watershed planning and project development:** Implement water quality projects and programs to protect water resources, ensure safe water supplies, enhance recreational opportunities and address known sources of pollution.

**Regional plans:** Coordinate infrastructure, community development and growth at the regional level through the development, adoption, and administration of a comprehensive regional plan.

**Geographic information services:** Provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

**Special projects:** Complete special projects such as downtown revitalization, recreation paths, farmland preservation, economic development and affordable housing projects.

**Grants:** Provide assistance identifying appropriate grant sources, defining a project scope and writing grant applications.

## In Highgate the Northwest Regional Planning Commission:

- ☞ Provided technical assistance on planning and zoning issues and GIS.
- ☞ Delivered a hazardous materials tabletop exercise designed to test planning and response capabilities for transportation incidents.
- ☞ Attended Tri-Town Recreation Committee meetings to provide assistance with studies related to the future of the Highgate Arena & Field House.
- ☞ Prepared a Municipal Planning Grant on behalf of Franklin, Highgate and Swanton for a feasibility study for the Highgate Arena & Field House.
- ☞ Updated the Basic Emergency Operations Plan.
- ☞ Planned and coordinated a school crisis exercise in conjunction with LEPC#4 and VT Homeland Security for Missisquoi Valley Union High School.
- ☞ Coordinated High Risk Rural Roads sign review/replacement project for Rice Hill Road.
- ☞ Updated the E-911 poster map, road atlas and road map.
- ☞ Provided assistance to the Town in organizing a public assembly and compiling public comments in response to the Department of Homeland Security's Decision to close the Morses Line Port of Entry in Franklin.
- ☞ Provided response and recovery support and ensured state and federal officials coordinated with municipal officials during the spring 2011 Lake Champlain Floods.

**Highgate  
Regional Commissioners:**  
Pete Paquette & Tom Racine

**Transportation Advisory  
Committee:**  
Georgette Johnson

In the coming year the Commission will continue our 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 activities and to provide matching funds needed for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for local and regional planning is greatly appreciated. NRPC is your resource -- please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, mapping, or other needs.