



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

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Funding Available for Education and Training!

The Municipal Education Grant program (MEG) provides municipalities with funds for training volunteer boards and commissions to help them perform their duties. The fund is designed to bring trainers directly to the community so that all members of the land use boards and commissions have the opportunity for basic and on-going education. Municipalities may apply for a grant of up to \$800 any time before May 15, 2010.

Communities in our region have successfully used this program to bring training on a variety of topics directly to Board members. Capital budgets, site plan review, village planning and new Board member training are some of the topics covered in the past. NRPC can provide assistance in organizing and providing trainings on a number of topics including:

- ☛ Roles and Responsibilities (Introduction or Advanced)
 - ☛ Conducting Meetings/Hearings
 - ☛ Making/Writing Decisions
 - ☛ Public Participation
 - ☛ Bylaw and Plan Adoption
- ☛ Water Quality and Stormwater Considerations
 - ☛ Downtown and Village Planning
 - ☛ New Board Member Orientation
 - ☛ Customized Training for Special Topics

For more information about the MEG program or to discuss a particular training need, call NRPC at 524-5958. Program materials can also be found at: <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MEG.htm>.



Green Mountain Transit Agency is Moving

Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) is moving to 375 Lake Road in St. Albans, Vermont. GMTA's phone number, 527-2181, and e-mail, <http://www.gmtaride.org/>, will remain the same.

NRPC Helps Complete Stream Restoration Project in Rock River Watershed

Before:



Looking south toward the Parent Road.

This fall, in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the NRPC has helped to implement a stream restoration project which will help to improve water quality and provide habitat in the Rock River Watershed.

The project was completed on a 240-acre parcel owned by August Haberstroh on the Parent Road in Highgate, Vermont. The property had long been managed as part of a dairy operation. In the past, the stream on the property had been dredged and the excavated materials had been placed along the stream, creating a berm that kept the stream in a long, straight channel. Straightened streams accelerate the flow of water, which leads to more powerful stream flows and increased erosion in the stream channel.

The restored stream is a tributary of the Rock River and is located in the Missisquoi Bay watershed. This area, which includes parts of Highgate, Swanton and Franklin, has been identified as a priority area for restoration by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation due to the high levels of phosphorus it contributes to the Missisquoi Bay. Phosphorus exists in a dissolved form, which comes from human and animal waste and leaches off farms fields and fertilized lawns, and also in a solid state which is typically bound to soil particles and travels with sediment in our streams and lakes.

The Haberstroh restoration project included several different elements, which together will help to restore the natural condition of the stream, reduce erosion and sedimentation, provide important habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, and improve water quality in the Rock River and Missisquoi Bay.

After:



The berm along the stream was removed to reconnect the stream with its floodplain. Floodplain areas provide space for

floodwaters to overflow from the stream channel and help to capture sediment and slow down the water.

Wetland areas were restored within the floodplain to capture sediment and nutrients and provide habitat for a variety of birds and amphibians.



Fallen trees were placed in and along the stream to trap sediment, provide habitat and help restore the natural condition of the

stream. Trees will also be planted to create a buffer between the fields and the stream channel and help uptake phosphorus.

A gravel lane was created to allow cows to cross the stream without creating erosion in the stream bed. Fencing will be installed to keep cows from grazing in or near the stream.



Rail Trail Photo Contest Winner!

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council recently held a reception at the Sheldon Elementary School to announce the winners of the 2009 Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail Photo Contest. Ann Hull of Enosburgh won the Grand Prize for her photo 'Just Me and My Great-Grampa.'

Grand Prize Winner 2009



"Just Me & My Great-Grampa"
Ann Hull

Winners of the Trail Neighbors category were Don and Anita McFeeters for their photo 'Biking Neighbors'; Elijah Benoit won the Scenery/Views category for 'Fall's Path'; Steve Ratte won the Trail Users category for 'Enjoying a Scenic Ride'; and Robert Tipper won the Nature category for 'Walking Music.' Many thanks to all the photographers who submitted so many wonderful photos. Many thanks to our judges David Juare, George Moskevitz, and Terri Poirier for their time and input in the difficult task of determining the best of some excellent photos.

Front Porch Forum in Grand Isle County

The Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce and a number of other private and public partners have worked together to bring Front Porch Forum to Grand Isle County. Each town now has its own online forum. This free service is provided by Front Porch Forum, which hosts more than 100 similar neighborhood forums covering all of Chittenden County. Find it online at www.FrontPorchForum.com.



Feed Vermont's Food Market

Vermont's food industry experienced new growth in the 1980's with the support of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. The Agency sought out producers with diversified products and helped them to grow beyond their home kitchens. The introduction of the Vermont food entrepreneur to the world market was well received. The discerning consumer began to seek out the Vermont name, making it synonymous with quality and purity.

Vermont's food processing industry contributes over \$1 billion a year to the state's economy. The state is offering support to food producers through the Vermont Innovation Kitchens (VIK) Grant.

Innovation Kitchens Grants

With Federal Funding through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) is encouraging applications from Vermont municipalities for the development of Vermont Innovation Kitchens (VIK). Innovation Kitchens will serve to strengthen Vermont's food market by providing start up producers with technical assistance in food safety and inspection, processing, packaging, distribution and other basic business practices.

How to Apply

Organizations with a solid business plan that will assist in the growth of Vermont's food market and introduce new job opportunities to their region are encouraged to apply in partnership with their municipality. Applications will be accepted through the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). More information on this program, the process of applying for an implementation grant and schedule of application/technical assistance workshops can be found at www.dhca.state.vt.us/VCDP/.

Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro One Vacant Seat
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt One Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Nancy Hunt Dennis DeBevec
Berkshire:	Claude Charron One Vacant Seat
Enosburg Falls:	Richard Roberge Michael Manahan
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
Fairfax:	Randy Devine Colleen Steen
Fairfield:	William Kittell Marilyn Savoy
Fletcher:	Bruce Douglas One Vacant Seat
Franklin:	Doug Clark Dan Larivee
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edwin Gelinas David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Pete Paquette One Vacant Seat
Isle La Motte:	Sylvia Jensen Robin Gutierrez
Montgomery:	Barry Kade Darlene Marrier
North Hero:	John Lambert One Vacant Seat
Richford:	Melissa Wells Ann Lavery
St Albans City:	David Peirce Lazarus Scangas
St Albans Town:	Bob Johnson Paul Larner
Sheldon:	Richard Brouillette Patrick Howrigan
South Hero:	Michael Guernsey Glen Wright
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

NRPC DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 16, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Meeting, WIB Site, Swanton

December 16, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Meeting, WIB Site, Swanton

Staff News at NRPC

Cristina Mastrangelo has accepted the position of Regional Planner at the NRPC. She has been working at the NRPC as an intern for the last few months and is finishing up her research and graduate degree at UVM. Cristina will officially start after the New Year!

2010 Vermont Emergency Calendar

The 2010 Vermont Emergency Management Calendar is now available. The calendar features information regarding natural and human made hazards as well as emergency preparedness information. The calendar is free. Copies are available at the Commission office. To request copies contact Vermont Emergency Management at vem_generalinquiry@dps.state.vt.us or 1-800-347-0488 or contact Shaun Coleman at the Regional Planning Commission at scoleman@nrpcvt.com or 524-5958.

Happy Holidays



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Saint Albans, VT 05478