



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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NRPC to Extend Shoreline Stabilization Mini-Grants Program through 2014

NRPC has been awarded funding from VT Agency of Natural Resources Ecosystem Restoration Program to extend the popular Shoreline Stabilization Mini Grants program through Spring 2014. Mini grants will be available to selected Lake Champlain property owners in Franklin and Grand Isle counties who are experiencing shoreline erosion. The program's intent is to highlight lower impact, vegetated methods of shoreline stabilization as laid out in the Shoreline Stabilization Handbook (<http://www.nrpcvt.com/Reports/ShorelineHandbook.pdf>).

Both technical assistance and project implementation grants will be available to provide property owners with on-site analysis and advice, develop design plans for the property and to cover engineering services, plantings and construction of the project. To show a commitment, property owners will be required to provide a contribution toward the project in the form of a financial or in-kind contribution and required to meet certain project guidelines.

Grant applications will be available to property owners in January 2013 and will be competitively reviewed by NRPC and funding partners. The maximum grant size will be approximately \$5,000. This program has already funded over \$75,000 in technical design assistance and grants for project construction.

For more information, contact Katelin Brewer-Colie, Regional Planner kbrewercolie@nrpcvt.com or 802-524-5958.

Village Center Designation for Highgate Center

Congratulations to the Town of Highgate for obtaining Village Center Designation for Highgate Center. At its meeting on November 26th, the Vermont Downtown Development Board found that the proposed Highgate Center Village Center met statutory requirements for Village Center Designation. Highgate Center becomes the 12th community within Franklin and Grand Isle Counties to be deemed a Designated Village Center.

The Village Center Designation Program's goal is to help bring renewed vitality to traditional village centers throughout Vermont. A traditional village center is defined by the State as "a cohesive core of residential, civic, religious, and commercial buildings arranged along a main street and intersecting streets." The designation allows for a community to receive priority consideration for state grants, including HUD grants, CDBGs, and MPGs; makes it eligible for tax credits, including historic credits, façade improvement credits, and code improvement credits; gives it priority consideration for state building and general services when leasing or constructing buildings, and allows a special assessment district within the Village Center to use funds for operating costs.

The State recognizes this designation for five years, after which time designation renewal must be requested. If your community is interested in pursuing Village Designation or to find out more information on the program, please contact NRPC at 802-524-5958.

2013 Vermont Home Energy Challenge

The Vermont Home Energy Challenge is coming! Has your Town signed up to participate?

Thanks to outreach by the Northwest Regional Energy Committee and Islanders Caring for the Environment (ICE), Franklin, Grand Isle, South Hero, Alburgh, Isle La Motte and North Hero have all currently signed up to participate. Join them in the friendly competition!

Community prizes will be awarded for the top towns in each region, as well as a statewide award for the top region and town. The Challenge will help Vermont reach its statewide goal of 25% energy savings in 80,000 homes by the year 2020.

How to participate

- Local partners will coordinate the implementation of the Vermont Home Energy Challenge in their communities.
- Sign up today as a local partner and hit the ground running when the Challenge launches in January 2013. To become a local partner, fill out the registration form. Sign up is easy!

Under the Challenge:

- Local organizations will foster public awareness about energy saving opportunities in the home and will set a target of weatherizing 3% of the homes in their community over the course of a year.
- Towns will then be able to measure their progress toward their goals along with that of other communities in their region and across the state.
- At the end of the year, towns will be recognized and awarded for the effectiveness of their efforts to encourage participation in their communities.

Be sure your town participates!

The launch is expected to begin in January 2013. Sign-up is currently underway. **SIGN UP NOW!** More information will be posted at www.encyvermont.com/community, http://www.encyvermont.com/for_our_partners/community_partners/residential.aspx or contact Allison Stori, Regional Planner at astori@nrpcvt.com for more information.

Efficiency Vermont is the sponsor of the Vermont Home Energy Challenge. They will conduct trainings, and provide guidance documents and educational materials for use by partners.

2013 Transportation Alternatives Grants

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program was created as a result of the new federal transportation legislation - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) that was signed into law on July 6, 2012. The Transportation Alternatives Program replaces the former Transportation Enhancement Program. This Transportation Alternatives Program, administered by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, can be a funding source for activities such as new sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation and more. Its goal is to aid in the creation of a multi-modal and environmentally sustainable transportation system that encourages non-motorized use and enhances Vermont's historic landscapes and human scale of development.

Local governments, regional transportation authorities, non-profit rural transit providers, natural resource or public lands agencies, school districts and regional planning commissions are eligible to apply. Non-profits are not eligible to apply as they were under the Enhancement Program. Applicants can request \$20-\$300,000 with a 20% non-federal match. Projects can include feasibility studies or design/construction (including permitting and right-of-way acquisition). Applications are due January 18, 2013. Application guidance along with other important information can be found at <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sections/ltf/transportationalternatives> or by contacting Patti Coburn at (802) 828-5799, patti.coburn@state.vt.us.

NRPC staff is available with grant writing assistance or review on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Bethany Remmers for more information at 524-5958 or bethany@nrpcvt.com.

Healthy People, Strong Communities

Live, work and play here – today and tomorrow!



How can we keep our region healthy, safe and prosperous?

Your ideas will lead to action and investment in your community!



Join Northwest Regional Planning Commission and our partners in the Healthy People, Strong Communities project at a meeting in your community for a conversation about the future of Northwest Vermont.

Local input is essential to deciding what is important on a regional level. Your ideas will lead to action and investment in your community!

The purpose of the Healthy People, Strong Communities project is to contribute to job growth and inspire happy, healthy and prosperous lifestyle in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC is working with over 25 community partners to plan at the regional level for economic development, community health, bike and pedestrian safety and disaster resilience, which will result in regional strategies that address the link between health and socio-economic status. The project will also provide small grants to organizations, municipalities and others to implement the strategies.

Come **build on** what we heard at September's Community Dinner, **hear** what others are saying, and **tell us** what you think about:

- ☞ What strategies can we use to increase economic development, create jobs and advance the economic health and prosperity of our citizens?
- ☞ How can we build opportunities for youth?
- ☞ What projects can we do to increase bicycle and pedestrian options and improve safety?
- ☞ What can residents of our communities do to reach their healthiest potential?
- ☞ What can we do as individuals and as communities to promote public safety and be prepared for future disasters?

Take a look at the meeting schedule to the right and pick one that works for you! Please share this with your family, friends and co-workers in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties!

LIKE us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/healthyand-strongvt and visit our website www.nrpcvt.com/hud.html.

For more information:
 Katelin Brewer-Colie, Regional Planner
 Northwest Regional Planning Commission
 802-524-5958
www.nrpcvt.com

St. Albans City & Town
 Thursday, January 10 at 6:30pm
 SATEC Library

Berkshire & Franklin
 Monday, January 14 at 6:30pm
 Franklin Homestead

Highgate
 Monday, January 14 at 6:30pm
 Highgate Town Office

Alburgh & Isle La Motte
 Wednesday, January 16 at 6:30pm
 Isle La Motte Town Hall

Fairfax & Fletcher
 Thursday, January 24 at 6:30pm
 Fairfax Library

Bakersfield
 Monday, February 4 at 6:30pm
 Bakersfield Town Office

Fairfield
 Monday, February 4 at 6:30pm
 Fairfield Town Office

Sheldon
 Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30pm
 Sheldon Town Office

Montgomery
 Thursday, February 7 at 6:30pm
 Montgomery Emergency Services Building

North Hero, South Hero, Grand Isle
 Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30pm
 Grand Isle School Library

Richford
 Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30pm
 Cornerstone Community Center

Enosburg Falls & Enosburgh Town
 Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30pm
 Enosburg Emergency Services Building

Swanton Village & Swanton Town
 Monday, February 18 at 6:30pm
 Swanton Village Complex

Georgia
 Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30pm
 Georgia Town Office

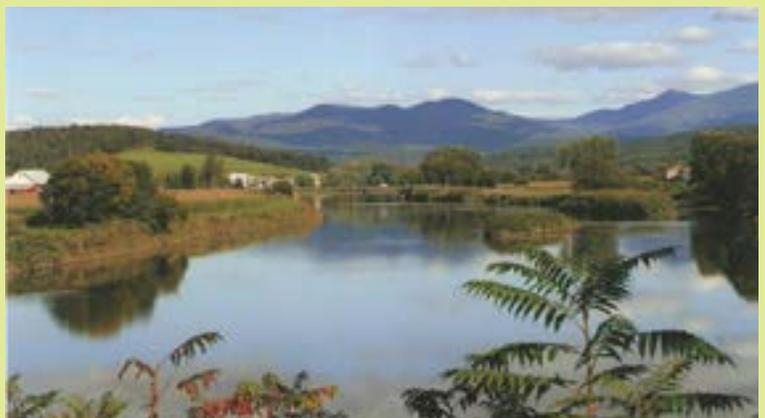
Join us at a community meeting for a conversation about ideas for the future of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties

Refreshments will be served

The Healthy People, Strong Communities project aims to support job growth and inspire a happy, healthy and prosperous lifestyle for this generation and the next in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties.

Announcing the Rail Trail's 2012-2013 Winter Photo Contest!

Don't forget to bring your camera with you when you go out on the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail this winter. The Council would love to see the Trail and its snowy surroundings through your eyes! Winter photos taken on, of, or from the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail are eligible and must be submitted by Friday, April 19th, 2013. See our website www.mvrailtrail.com for contest guidelines and entry form, or contact us at (802) 524-5958 for more information.



Previous Winner
 "Looking East" - B. Morgan

Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro Vacant Seat
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Dennis DeBevec Bill Irwin
Berkshire:	Claude Charron Richard Ross
Enosburg Falls:	Michael Manahan Richard Roberge
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
Fairfax:	Randy Devine Colleen Steen
Fairfield:	Jason Booth Marilyn Savoy
Fletcher:	Lynn Douglas Mary Jane Featherstone
Franklin:	Yvon Dandurand Clark Hubbard
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edwin Gelinis David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Richard Noel Tom Racine
Isle La Motte:	Paul Hinman Sylvia Jensen
Montgomery:	Carol McGregor Vacant Seat
North Hero:	Vacant Seat Vacant Seat
Richford:	Harold Foote Melissa Wells
Saint Albans City:	Lazarus Scangas Jeff Young
Saint Albans Town:	Robert Hughes William Nihan
Sheldon:	Patrick Howrigan Greg Stebbins
South Hero:	Bob Buermann Michael Guernsey
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

Rail Trail Council Annual Meeting

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council will hold its Annual Meeting at 6:00p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2013, at Cold Hollow Career Center, Missisquoi Street, Enosburg Falls, VT. All are welcome. Contact Cynthia at 933-8851 or cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net for more information.

*Wishing Everyone a
Happy New Year!*

NRPC Staff

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