



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

75 Fairfield Street, Saint Albans, VT 05478

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## Northwest Regional Planning Commission Has Moved!

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission office moved at the beginning of September to its new location on 75 Fairfield Street. Our phone (524-5958), fax (527-2948), and e-mail have all remained the same.

## Northwest Regional Planning Commission is pleased to announce the Healthy People, Strong Communities Implementation Grants!

Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) has just released applications for the Healthy People, Strong Communities Implementation Grants. Any public, non-profit, or private entity is eligible as long as the project will meet the goals of the Healthy People, Strong Communities project and will have benefit in Franklin and/or Grand Isle Counties. Partnerships are eligible and encouraged, however one lead applicant must be identified.



The implementation grants are an essential component of the Healthy People, Strong Communities project. Selected projects will have a transformative effect on the community. Implementation grants will provide funding to jump start new projects and programs or complete one time projects that have lasting impact. Implementation projects will make progress toward the overall goals of Healthy People, Strong Communities. The Healthy People, Strong Communities Project is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program; approximately \$190,000 has been retained for implementation projects.

**Applications due by 4:00 PM, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

For more information, including the grant application, go to [www.nrpcvt.com/healthystrong.html](http://www.nrpcvt.com/healthystrong.html) or contact Shaun Coleman at (802)-524-5958 or [scoleman@nrpcvt.com](mailto:scoleman@nrpcvt.com).

## **Draft Scoping Report Released US Route 7/VT Route 104A Intersection and VT Route 104A Bridge (B1) over Arrowhead Mountain Lake**

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission is seeking comments on the draft scoping report. The purpose of this study is to identify opportunities to improve mobility and safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists through the US 7/VT 104A intersection in Georgia, VT. The study also addresses the poor condition of bridge B1 on VT 104A. This effort is funded through the NRPC's annual Transportation Planning Initiative work program with the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The scoping report was prepared by engineers from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), Inc.

A copy of the report is online at: <http://www.nrpcvt.com/Reports/VAOTReports/GeorgiaScopingReportDraft.pdf>. You can also view the report at the Georgia Town Office or request a copy from Bethany Remmers. **Comments are due by October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

Comments can be submitted to Bethany Remmers at 524-5958 or [bethany@nrpcvt.com](mailto:bethany@nrpcvt.com).

**Photo A** - Side view of Bridge #1 on VT Route 104A in Georgia, VT

**Photo B** - Aerial view of US Route 7 and VT Route 104A Intersection in Georgia, VT



### **NRPC Roundtable Municipal Requirements and Opportunities for VT Energy Code & Above-Code Programs**

**When:** October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
**Location:** WIB Training Facility, Swanton  
**Time:** Noon-2:30 PM



#### ***For those interested in...***

Recent legislative changes related to the Energy Code (Act 89), municipal requirements and opportunities to promote energy efficient construction in their communities. The roundtable is open to Zoning Administrators, Town Clerks, Selectboards, Planning Commissioners, and Energy Committees. However, the presentation will focus on how Zoning Administrators and Town Clerks can support the implementation of Vermont energy code and above-code programs. Please feel free to forward this invitation to others.

**Receive:** The Vermont Residential Building Energy Code Handbook, Municipal Guide for Vermont Energy Code and Above-Code Programs. Free Lunch Provided!

Brought to you by Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Efficiency Vermont

**RSVP Required Contact:** Allison Stori ([astori@nrpcvt.com](mailto:astori@nrpcvt.com)) or Amanda Holland ([aholland@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aholland@nrpcvt.com)) or at (802) 524-5958.

## 2013 Projects Selected for Shoreline Mini-Grants

In 2012, NRPC announced the initial round of shoreline stabilization mini-grants available for homeowners along the shorelines of Lake Champlain. Over 40 applications were received and the program was able to provide technical assistance and design solutions for 20 properties. Six of the 20 sites were awarded additional funds to implement the project design for shoreline stabilization and projects were installed in 2012 and 2013.

Given the success of the initial program, NRPC opened up a second round of mini-grants this past summer and received 20 applications. In September, NRPC awarded mini-grants to 5 landowners, these landowners will receive technical assistance from a team of consultants this fall to identify a design solution that will best correct the erosion conditions at their site. Once designs are complete, meetings will take place with the landowner to review the solutions and arrange for implementation next spring.

Aside from assisting these individual landowners, this program is developing a series of case studies where NRPC has been able to implement stabilization techniques that incorporate more vegetative methods versus the most common hardscape of sea walls or rip-rap. The design teams are using techniques outlined in NRPC's Shoreline Stabilization Handbook available digitally or in print from our offices. This on the ground implementation of these methods will better inform NRPC and the Agency of Natural Resources, which provided the funding for the mini-grants, on the applicability of these techniques in Lake Champlain. In addition, these demonstration sites will be monitored for their effectiveness at addressing the shoreline erosion. For more information on shoreline stabilization contact Amanda at [aholland@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aholland@nrpcvt.com) or at (802) 524-5958.



*While this eroding bank has a large tree to aid in stabilizing the land around it, the shallow root system of the surrounding grasses erodes more easily. Amongst other components a vegetative buffer containing a mixture of plants would better stabilize the bank.*

## Another Building Weatherization Project Complete!

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission is pleased to announce the completion of another successful building retrofit! The NRPC has been working on several building retrofit projects that help save energy and money throughout the year. Thanks to part two, of a three-phased weatherization retrofit project completed in May 2013, the Arvin A. Brown Public Library in Richford will be saving an estimated \$1,200 annually on its heating and electricity costs. In September, NRPC checked in with the Library, and Director Susan Smolinsky commented "we definitely noticed a difference in the air conditioning this year. The building stayed cooler and we ran the AC less than last year. We are very happy so far - can't wait to see how it will affect our heating bill!"



### **Energy Efficiency Building Improvements Estimated Numbers:**

*Total Project Cost: \$8,724  
Efficiency Vermont Rebate: \$1,482  
% Reduction in Air Exchange: 28%  
Estimated Annual Savings: \$1,237  
Estimated Annual MMBTU Savings: 45.5  
Estimated Annual kWh Savings: 228  
Estimated Annual CO2 (lbs) Savings: 7,318*

Completed by Building Energy of Williston, VT the Phase Two project consisted of installing close to 2,650 square feet of cellulose, dense pack insulation to upgrade all the exterior wall cavities. In addition, the crew saved as much of the original siding as possible and painted any affected areas to match.

The NRPC commends the Library on their continued commitment to energy efficiency and is encouraged by the Building Performance Incentives program provided by Efficiency Vermont. This project was funded by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) that NRPC received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Please contact Allison Stori, at [astori@nrpcvt.com](mailto:astori@nrpcvt.com), or at (802) 524-5958 with any questions or for more information.

## Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro Vacant Seat
Alburgh Village:	Vacant Seat Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Dennis DeBevec Bill Irwin
Berkshire:	Cláude Charron Richard Ross
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Franklin:	Yvon Dandurand Clark Hubbard
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
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Saint Albans Town:	Bruce Cheeseman Albin Voegelé
Sheldon:	Patrick Howrigan Greg Stebbins
South Hero:	Bob Buermann Michael Guernsey
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Ross Lavoie
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

## First Phase of Cleanup Complete at 111-113 Main Street in Richford

NRPC is pleased to report progress towards redevelopment along Main Street in Richford. Earlier this year, NRPC sub-granted the Richford Economic Advancement Corporation (REAC) \$40,000 to use towards building material abatement and demolition at their 111-113 Main Street properties. NRPC also funded a Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Assessment, in addition to supplemental groundwater sampling and building material sampling at these properties. REAC bought 111-113 Main Street in the spring of 2012 in pursuit of revitalization along the block. Their redevelopment plans include creating a pocket park that would provide access to a future park and canoe portage along the Missisquoi River to the east of the property. Taking down the dilapidated asbestos and lead contaminated building is a big step in improving the quality of Main Street in Richford. Beginning next summer REAC plans to bring the site to grade at street level sloping down towards the Missisquoi River to the east. This will include capping soil contaminated as a result of coal ash and a former small engine repair facility to the rear of the building foundations. For more information, please contact Greta Brunswick at [gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com](mailto:gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com) or (802) 524-5958.

## The Vermont Food System Atlas Launches

There's a new tool for exploring Vermont's food system – the Vermont Food System Atlas! The Food Atlas is the digital platform for advancing the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan, a ten-year plan assembled by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to strengthen Vermont's food system.



The Vermont Food System Atlas features thousands of food system resources, including stories, videos, job listings, tons of data, a searchable map, and all sections of the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan. The Atlas is also the communications and coordination platform for the Farm to Plate Network—composed of dozens of food system organizations—responsible for implementing the strategies of the Plan.

Check out the Atlas at <http://www.vtfoodatlas.com/>.



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