



NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Berkshire Town Report - 2023

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

2023 BERKSHIRE TOWN PROJECTS

- Provided technical assistance in local planning and zoning efforts.
- Completed a Local Emergency Management Plan which helps the town be prepared for disasters.
- Served as local liaison to town public safety officials for the State Emergency Operation Center during the July floods.
- Consulted with local officials, identified projects and provided technical assistance for Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid construction projects, including utilizing an extension for FY23 funds.
- Consulted with local officials, evaluated infrastructure projects and reviewed grant funding sources for projects that address water quality concerns.
- Provided technical assistance to East Berkshire Fire District 1 with maintaining operations and finding new funding sources, including working with state and federal funders and seeking Congressionally Directed Funding.
- Supported the Northwest Communications Union District, in which Berkshire is a member.
- American Rescue Plan Act: worked with state partners to determine eligible use of community funds.
- Collaborated with the Planning Commission to draft language for the Berkshire Land Use and Zoning Regulations to address on-farm businesses, adaptive re-use of historic structures, and to expand opportunities for home businesses.
- Completed a Municipal Planning Grant application to plan for recreational infrastructure in Berkshire's Town Forest.
- Provided business assistance, market access assistance and helped to enroll a farm business in the VHC Farm Viability program.
- Healthy Roots provided business assistance to 1 farm and co-hosted VT Open Farm Week with 1 farm and the NOTCH Richford Health Center.
- Healthy Roots purchased from a local farm to support the Northwest Farmacy CSA in partnership with the NOTCH Richford Health Center.

This year the Commission will assist our member municipalities with maximizing local, state and federal infrastructure funds, water quality project implementation, Municipal Roads General Permit compliance, local energy and climate planning, zoning bylaw modernization, emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment and other needed services. NRPC will help promote the Missisquoi and Lamoille Valley Rail Trails, support local farm and food businesses through its Healthy Roots Collaborative, assist the Northwest Communications Union District in expanding broadband access in the region, and coordinate Housing For All, a three-year housing development campaign. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for NRPC is greatly appreciated. We are your resource - please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, project management, mapping or other needs.

Berkshire Town Regional Commissioners - Claude Charron & Vincent Hickey

Transportation Advisory Committee - vacant seat

NRPC Projects & Programs

Municipal plan and bylaw updates, technical assistance for local permitting

Brownfields site assessments, clean-ups and redevelopment plans

Transportation planning and project management

Bike and pedestrian planning and project management

Emergency preparedness, disaster recovery and resilience

Energy conservation, renewable energy plans and projects

Water quality planning and project management

Regional plans for growth and development

Geographic Information System maps and data

Downtown and village revitalization and community development

Grant writing and administration

Associated Projects & Programs Managed by NRPC

Healthy Roots Collaborative

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation, Inc.

Clean Water Service Provider: Missisquoi and Lamoille River Basins

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