



# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

April 2016

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### 2016 Annual Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission's 2016 Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2016. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Announcements for the event will be distributed soon.

### Informational Session on Sign Ordinances and Accessory Dwelling Units

SWRPC hosted an Informational Session on April 27, 2016 at the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Ben Frost from New Hampshire Housing served as guest speaker and provided information on two topics that will likely have an impact on communities and may require changes in local zoning ordinances. The first topic was regarding a recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision - Reed v. Town of Gilbert, AZ. This decision is likely to impact local sign ordinances and regulations across the country. The second topic was to inform participants about recently signed legislation (SB 146) regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. The meeting was well attended with nearly 50 participants representing 17 towns within the Region. The powerpoint presentation and handouts are available on SWRPC's website at [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org). For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

### Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Incident Awareness Training

SWRPC is working with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to provide communities in Southwest New Hampshire with incident awareness training. Topics will include natural gas and hazardous materials basics, the incident command system, current capabilities, damage prevention best practices, and incident response steps. A template that communities can use as an appendix to their existing emergency operations plans will also be presented. Three identical sessions will be held as follows:

- May 13<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Dartmouth-Hitchcock, 2300 Southwood Drive, Nashua, NH
- May 18<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - The Barn at Hitchiner Manufacturing, 117 Old Wilton Rd., Milford, NH
- May 19<sup>th</sup>: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Parker's Maple Barn, 1316 Brookline Rd., Mason, NH

There is no fee to attend one of these sessions, however, advance registration is required. For more information, please visit [www.swrpc.org/files/IncidentAwarenessTraining.pdf](http://www.swrpc.org/files/IncidentAwarenessTraining.pdf). To register, please contact Karen Baker at [karenb@nashuarpc.org](mailto:karenb@nashuarpc.org) or 424-2240 x 11.

### Tri-State Region Economic Development Stakeholders Meeting

The Planning Commission will join the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, and the Windham Regional Commission in presenting an analysis of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies for Southwest New Hampshire, Southeast Vermont, and Franklin County, Massachusetts. This meeting will bring together economic development stakeholders from each of the three states to present and discuss the findings of the analysis. The event is scheduled for May 19, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Lowey International Center, School for International Training, Dickinson Road, Brattleboro, VT. For more information on the event, please contact Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.

### Grants Available for Development of Recreational Trails

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications are now available for FY 2017. The RTP is a competitive grant program that offers funding for quality public trail projects throughout New Hampshire. Limited grants are available for motorized, non-motorized and diversified trails. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities, and trail linkages. Applicants may be non-profit organizations, private groups or government entities. Applications are due June 3, 2016, with anticipated funding available in late fall 2016. For more information about the grant program, please visit <https://www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/Trails/grants/recreational-trails-program.aspx> or contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

## SWRPC and MAST Represented at the 2016 Annual Monadnock Earth Day Festival

The Southwest Region Planning Commission and the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation had the opportunity to engage with community members at the Monadnock Earth Day Festival held at the Monadnock Food Coop on April 23, 2016. Staff member Henry Underwood provided information about air quality issues in the Monadnock Region and safe, efficient wood burning tips. He also connected event attendees with air quality forecasts and Air Quality Action Day notifications. Staff member Liz Kelly recruited new members for the MAST Steering Committee, co-led a bike tour to promote the Keene Bicycle Benefits program and promoted the upcoming Bike to Work Day event MAST is sponsoring at Railroad Square on May 20, 2016. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood or Liz Kelly of Commission staff.



## 22nd Annual Planning & Zoning Conference

The NH Office of Energy and Planning will be hosting its Annual Planning and Zoning Conference on June 4, 2016 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The conference will cover a variety of interesting planning topics including, but not limited to: Planning Board Basics, ZBA Roles & Responsibilities, Agritourism, Energy Tool Kit, Planning for Healthy Communities and more. The registration deadline is May 27<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$55 per person which includes full conference participation, breakfast, lunch and breaks. To see the agenda and to register, please visit [www.nh.gov/oepl](http://www.nh.gov/oepl).

