



# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

August 2016

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### Regional Planning Public Involvement Plan Adopted

SWRPC recently adopted its updated Public Involvement Plan. The main goal of the Plan is to facilitate public participation so that the outcome of regional planning activities more accurately reflect the challenges and opportunities of the communities of Southwest New Hampshire. SWRPC recognizes the value of public involvement as a process that increases public awareness, contributes to information gathering on local needs and concerns, and benefits the overall decision-making process. A copy of the Plan can be found at <http://www.swrpc.org/>. For more information, please contact Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.

### Complete Streets Updates

SWRPC, in conjunction with Cheshire Medical Center and Healthy Monadnock 2020, has been working on Complete Streets initiatives through the Partnerships to Improve Community Health program.

- On August 22<sup>nd</sup> Hinsdale became the seventh community in New Hampshire, and the fourth in the Monadnock Region, to adopt a local Complete Streets policy. The policy directs the Town to consider the needs of all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel, when working within the public right-of-way. The Hinsdale Planning Board developed the policy and the associated design guidelines in partnership with SWRPC.
- On September 10<sup>th</sup> the Troy Recreation Committee will be hosting a “Back-to-School Bike Extravaganza” from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Samuel E. Paul Community Center with assistance from SWRPC. Activities will include bicycle decorating and a bicycle costume contest, a bike raffle, a mini bike rodeo, bicycle trivia, and the opportunity to try out a bicycle lane. The Troy Recreation Committee will be selling food throughout the day, and Pedals 4 People will provide free bicycle tune-ups. For a complete schedule, please visit [www.mastnh.org/TroyBikeEvent](http://www.mastnh.org/TroyBikeEvent). That same day, residents are encouraged to try out a protected bike lane and temporary crosswalks on NH 12 near the Troy Common.

For more information on either of these events, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

### Prescribe for Health

Prescribe for Health is a new initiative in the Monadnock Region to develop an effective model and guide to “fill the social and behavioral prescription”. Led by Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene’s the Center for Population Health Strategy and Practice, the group is collecting information on non-prescription opportunities to improve health and wellbeing. SWRPC has provided support to this initiative by designing and co-hosting a training opportunity for the Greater Monadnock Medical Reserve Corps members who are collecting the information. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

### 2016 Municipal Law Lecture Series

The 2016 Municipal Law Lecture Series, hosted by the New Hampshire Municipal Association has been scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Antioch New England University in Keene. These lectures are intended for municipal officials including members of planning boards, zoning boards, conservation commissions, and select boards, as well as councilors, planners, building inspectors, and code enforcement officers. This year’s lectures include:

- *Developments in the Law* - September 14<sup>th</sup>
- *Conflicts of Interest* - September 21<sup>st</sup>
- *Code Enforcement* - September 28<sup>th</sup>

There will be an opportunity to listen to all three lectures on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the NHMA Offices in Concord. Please contact Ashley Monier at (603)230-3340 or [nhmaregistrations@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:nhmaregistrations@nhmunicipal.org) with any questions. For a description of each lecture or to register, please visit [www.nhmunicipal.org/Resources/Event/818](http://www.nhmunicipal.org/Resources/Event/818).

## Brownfields Assessment Program Updates

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) met and accepted a new site nomination for a historic Masonic lodge located in Hinsdale. The long abandoned site represents an excellent fit for the SWRPC Brownfields Assessment Program in that the assessment could lead to the reuse or redevelopment of a parcel near the downtown area. The BrAC also approved a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment that will provide the Town with information about any environmental concerns associated with the property. The BrAC also approved a scope of work to hire Ransom Consulting, Inc. to assist SWRPC in identifying properties in Southwest New Hampshire with potential petroleum-related contamination. For more information about the Brownfields Program, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



## Community Development Block Grant Funding

For towns and organizations thinking about applying for the January 2017 round of Economic Development or Housing and Public Facilities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, now is a good time to start the application process. Housing and Public Facilities CDBG funding is available to municipally-sponsored projects in January and July of each year. Eligible projects can receive grants of up to \$500,000 for infrastructure or housing projects with a direct benefit to low and moderate income individuals and families. CDBG funding is also available for municipally-sponsored economic development projects year-round on a first come, first served basis starting in January of each year. Up to \$500,000 is available for economic development projects that help create job opportunities for low to moderate income individuals and families. Feasibility studies are also available for up to \$12,000 and are due in April and October of each year. For more information, contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

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