



# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

July 2016

Vol. 22 - No. 7

### **Brownfields Video**

With the assistance of Cheshire TV, SWRPC recently completed an informational video about the SWRPC Brownfields Assessment program for Southwest New Hampshire. The video features brownfields projects in Keene, Jaffrey, Richmond, and Peterborough and includes insightful interviews with a developer, business owner, selectman, town administrator, planner, and representatives of two local non-profit organizations. SWRPC's Brownfields Assessment program has been in existence since 2003 and has contributed \$1.6 million towards the assessment clean-up, remediation, and redevelopment of dozens of brownfields sites. Visit <http://www.swrpc.org/brownfields> to watch the video and learn how your community can benefit from the program. For additional information, please contact J.B. Mack of Commission staff.

### **Complete Streets Demonstration and Policy Adoption**

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 July 10, 2016 a Complete Streets demonstration event was held on Main Street in Hinsdale. Residents were invited to try out a protected bike lane, pedestrian crosswalks, and two pop-up parklets that doubled as a pinch point to slow traffic. The goal of this event was to give people a chance to experience for themselves the benefits of traffic calming and bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly street design, as well as to build public awareness of and support for safer streets that promote active transportation. Public comments were gathered at this event and provided an opportunity to show support for the Town's efforts to adopt a Complete Streets policy.
- On July 18, 2016 Troy became the sixth community in New Hampshire, and the third 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 in the Village Center and surrounding residential areas. The Troy Planning Board developed the policy and the associated design guidelines in partnership with SWRPC. Other New Hampshire communities that have adopted similar policies include Swanze, Keene, Portsmouth, Concord, and Dover.

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

### **New NH DOT Road Safety Audit Application Process**

The NH Department of Transportation has launched a new Road Safety Audit (RSA) application process. RSA applications will be accepted annually at a given deadline; the deadline for upcoming applications is December 1, 2016. There will be about four RSAs conducted each year in the State through this program, and applications not selected will be carried forward for up to three years. There are four options for conducting RSAs: 1. consultant-led RSA with concepts; 2. consultant-led RSA without concepts; 3. NH DOT-led RSA; and 4. Safety study/surveillance. Please contact Michelle Marshall at NH DOT [memarshall@dot.state.nh.us](mailto:memarshall@dot.state.nh.us) for an application and additional details.

### **Community Development Block Grant Applications**

During the month of July, Planning Commission staff assisted the towns of Jaffrey and Winchester with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. The proposed project in Jaffrey involves the development of 24 units of affordable, accessible senior housing, to be known as Mountainside Senior Living. Funds will be sub-granted to Southwestern Community Services who will use the funding for acquisition and site work costs to support the development of the complex. The proposed project in Winchester involves infrastructure repairs in the Jones Road

neighborhood. The project will repair and preserve needed water infrastructure for residents. For more information please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

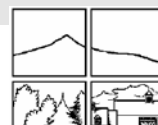
### **Hinsdale and Peterborough Receive Municipal Technical Assistance Grants**

Plan NH recently announced that the towns of Boscawen, Franconia, Hinsdale, and Peterborough were selected to receive grants for technical assistance in reviewing, rewriting or creating new zoning ordinances and regulations to increase options for households with changing and/or diverse needs and income levels. The Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAG) program is a partnership between Plan NH and New Hampshire Housing, who are providing funding support. In Hinsdale, the grant will be used to conduct a review of the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and site plan review regulations to identify potential regulatory barriers on housing issues and to provide more housing options, employment opportunities and transportation choices. Peterborough will focus on developing regulations for a new village node to include workforce housing and other additional residential options. SWRPC will be providing technical assistance for the Hinsdale project. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.



### **Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting**

On July 20, 2016 the SWRPC Economic Development Advisory Committee conducted its summer meeting. Representatives from the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, Antioch University, and Keene State College presented on the Green Economy Innovation Hub (GEIH). The GEIH is a partnership of private and public organizations within the Tri-State Region of Southwest New Hampshire, Southern Vermont, and Franklin County, Massachusetts. An overview was presented on how the initiative has identified a unique cluster of green economy assets across the region that includes recognized national leaders in research, product development, manufacturing, and design and construction of high-performance buildings and communities. GEIH's work with institutions of higher education throughout the Tri-State Region in the creation, development and sharing of systems-based ideas and solutions for resilient design, sustainable communities, green building products, services, research, and talent development was also discussed. For more information, please contact Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.



**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org)

---