



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

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Promoting the Local Economy: Upcoming Events

The Southwest Region Planning Commission is pleased to join others in the Region in supporting upcoming events sponsored by Monadnock Buy Local. These events are scheduled for **April 7th and 8th** and will feature Michael Shuman, a noted expert and author on community economics. On April 7th a public talk entitled "*The Local Economy Solution: Pollinator Enterprises*" and will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Keene State College Alumni Center, 229 Main Street in Keene. Shuman will highlight pollinator enterprise models and share how these innovative types of businesses grow jobs, prosperity and local living economies. This event is part of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce Regional Issues Series. On April 8th, Shuman will lead a workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. entitled "*Pollinator Enterprises*" at the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, 25 Roxbury Street in Keene. Participants will learn more about pollinator enterprises, explore examples from across the globe, and have an opportunity to sketch preliminary designs for their own pollinator enterprises. To register, please visit www.monadnocklocal.org/pollinators or call 603-499-7950.

Regional Transportation Forum

On March 10th, SWRPC co-sponsored a regional transportation forum with the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce entitled *Transportation in the Monadnock Region: Linkages for a Vibrant Community into the Future*. Approximately 60 people attended the forum which included a "Transportation 101" presentation by SWRPC Principal Planner, J. B. Mack, followed by an in-depth presentation about transportation challenges, funding and programs by NH Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Victoria Sheehan. The event concluded with a panel discussion focused on key transportation issues affecting the Monadnock Region. Panel members included Kendall Lane, Mayor of the City of Keene and Chairman of SWRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee; Kevin Belanger, DOT's Assistant District 4 Engineer; Ellen Avery, Executive Director of Contoocook Valley Transportation Company; and Kurt Blomquist, Public Works Director for the City of Keene. For more information about this event, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

SWRPC to Host Planning Workshop on April 27th

SWRPC will host an informational workshop on recent developments that will have an impact on communities on April 27th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main Street in Keene. Ben Frost from New Hampshire Housing will provide information on the following topics:

- SB 146 - Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): SB 146 was signed by the Governor during March and will take effect on June 1, 2017. The bill requires that all municipalities must allow, in all districts that permit single-family residences, one attached ADU by right, special exception, or conditional permit. If the local ordinance is silent on ADUs, attached ADUs will be allowed as a matter of right in any single-family home. There are other requirements within this new law that may conflict with existing local ADU ordinances.
- US Supreme Court Decision - Reed v. Town of Gilbert, AZ: This decision is likely to impact local sign ordinances and regulations. As a result of this ruling, many local and state regulations may now be unconstitutional. Information will be provided on changes that will need to be made to bring local sign ordinances into compliance with the court ruling.

There is no fee to attend this event, however, advance registration is required by April 22nd. For additional information and to register, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff at 357-0557 or lmurphy@swrpc.org.

SWRPC's Advisory Committees Welcome New Members

SWRPC's Board of Directors recently appointed new members to three of its four Advisory Committees. The Advisory Committees provide guidance to SWRPC on transportation, natural resources, economic development and brownfields redevelopment issues. SWRPC's Board of Directors establishes membership to SWRPC's Advisory Committees at the beginning of each calendar year and appoints new members on an as needed basis. SWRPC strives to bring in local officials and experts with diverse sets of interests and experience who represent various towns in the Region. We welcome the following:

- Transportation Advisory Committee: Frank Bequaert from Fitzwilliam, Leslie Casey from Sullivan, John Gomarlo from Winchester, and William "Wink" Faulkner representing Pathways for Keene.
- Natural Resources Advisory Committee: Alicia Flammia from Walpole, Camilla Lockwood from Temple, and Ruth Ward from Stoddard.
- Economic Development Advisory Committee: Ed Merrell from Jaffrey, George Sterling from the Peterborough Economic Development Authority, Jake Nonweiler from the Hannah Grimes Center, Kelly Dodge from Franklin Pierce University, Laurel Boivin from Eversource Energy, and Mollie Kaylor from the NH Department of Resources & Economic Development.



Community Development Block Grant Opportunities

For towns and organizations thinking about applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in 2016, now is a good time to start the application process. Housing and Public Facilities CDBG funding is available for 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. 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 in April and October annually. For more information, please visit the NH Community Development Finance Authority's website at www.nhcdfa.org or contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 www.swrpc.org

