



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

October 2015

Vol. 21 - No. 10

2015 Fall Commission Meeting

On October 20th the Planning Commission held its 2015 Fall Commission Meeting at The Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, NH. The event featured presentations focused on SWRPC's recent involvement in several health planning initiatives. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff.

Swanzy Adopts Complete Streets Policy

During October the Town of Swanzy adopted a complete streets policy making it the fourth community in New Hampshire to do so. Other New Hampshire communities that have adopted similar policies include Portsmouth, Concord, and Dover. The policy, which was adopted by the Selectboard on October 13th directs the Town to consider the safety of all users - including motorists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, emergency responders, freight providers, and users of public transit - in all municipally managed transportation projects and project phases. The policy was developed by a complete streets committee comprised of Town staff, planning board members, community members, and SWRPC staff. For more information, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

Proposed Paving Schedule on State Highways

As part of the NH Department of Transportation's recent draft release of the Ten Year Plan, it has developed a proposed pavement resurfacing program for state highways from 2015 through 2018. The newly released information includes statewide maps showing project locations with map legends indicating the type of treatments planned for each project. Also included are additional descriptions explaining project start and end points as well as mileage. Maps for 2015 through 2018, along with several other helpful resources about pavement conditions, strategy, and definitions are available at: <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/amps/facts-figures.htm>. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Road Surface Management System Pilot

In most municipalities, road surfaces are the largest single cost of maintaining and building a transportation system. Forty to fifty percent of public funds spent on roadway systems are for the road surface. A road surface management system (RSMS) can assist municipalities by organizing condition data and repair strategies all in one place, making it easier to make cost-effective decisions about roadway maintenance. The Planning Commission is currently working with NH DOT, the University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center, and the Town of Dublin to pilot an updated RSMS. SWRPC has begun collecting roadway surface data which will continue into the Fall. Other aspects of the pilot include condition forecasting, scenario planning based on pavement maintenance strategies, and a cost and benefits analysis. Following completion of the pilot, the Planning Commission anticipates offering the RSMS service to other interested communities. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

NH Wildlife Action Plan

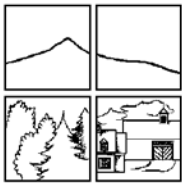
On November 16th the SWRPC Natural Resources Advisory Committee will host an interactive session on the recently updated NH Wildlife Action Plan at 3:30 p.m. at the Planning Commission's office located at 37 Ashuelot Street in Keene. Emily Preston, Wildlife Biologist for the NH Fish and Game Department will present the Plan which contains the most up-to-date research on NH's wildlife features, including summaries of actions that can be taken to help mitigate pressures that have negative impacts on NH's wildlife and habitats. The session is open to the public and, although there is no fee to attend, registration is requested. To register, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff at 357-0557 or lmurphy@swrpc.org by November 12, 2015.

New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid

The NH Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is encouraging towns to consider joining NH Public Works Mutual Aid which is the first state-wide program of its kind in the U.S. The program provides a system where local public works departments can share resources during emergency situations. Interested towns with questions should contact Amy Begnoche at the UNH Technology Transfer Center at amy.begnoche@unh.edu, visit the UNH Technology Transfer Center website at <http://www.t2.unh.edu/ma/>, or contact their local HSEM field representative for more information.

Town Meeting Dates and Deadlines

With 2016 Town Meeting on the horizon, some communities may put zoning amendments and ordinances on the ballot. The NH Office of Energy and Planning has prepared a calendar of important dates to guide communities through that process. The calendar indicates dates when zoning amendment petitions can be accepted, when to hold public hearings and other important timelines. To access this calendar, please visit the following link: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/resource-library/zoning/index.htm>.



Community Development Block Grant Funding

For towns and organizations thinking about applying for the January 2016 round of 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. Up to \$500,000 is available for economic development projects that help create job opportunities for low to moderate income individuals and families. 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

