

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

May 2017

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2017 Annual Meeting

There is still time to register for the Southwest Region Planning Commission's Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at the Courtyard Marriott in Keene. We will be celebrating what the Community Development Block Grant Program has meant to Southwest New Hampshire for the past 30+ years. Our guest presenter will be Taylor Caswell, executive director of the NH Community Development Finance Authority along with other speakers. For more information, please visit www.swrpc.org/files/2017annualmeeting.pdf or contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff.

Complete Economy Event

On May 4th SWRPC co-sponsored an event hosted by Monadnock Buy Local entitled *The Complete Economy Project: Cultivating a Local Economy That Works for All*. Local economy researcher and author Stacy Mitchell discussed effective strategies that communities around the country are using to grow local businesses and how public policy can be used to promote an economy that works for all. For more information or to view videos from the event, please visit <https://monadnockbuylocal.wildapricot.org>.

Drought Awareness Forum

On May 23rd the SWRPC Natural Resources Advisory Committee along with Antioch University and Cheshire County Conservation District hosted an event entitled: *Got Drought? Impacts of Drought on Wells & Landscaping*. A panel comprised of Michael Simpson, Antioch University; Stacey Herbold and Rick Schofield, NH DES; and Liz Kelly, SWRPC discussed topics including indoor water conservation, impacts of droughts on wells, water conservation methods used for landscaping, current drought status, and impacts of increased frequency and intensity of weather events. Approximately 30 people representing 15 communities in the Southwest Region attended the event. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

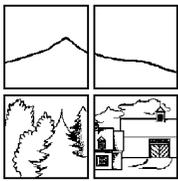
Complete Streets Updates

- On May 11th the Town of Walpole adopted a 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 Walpole Planning Board developed the policy in partnership with SWRPC. Other New Hampshire communities that have adopted similar policies include Hinsdale, Troy, Swanzey, Keene, Peterborough, Lebanon, Portsmouth, Concord, and Dover.
- On May 19th the Planning Commission hosted a workshop on Complete Streets design and implementation at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Emiko Atherton, Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition, and Mike Jelen, Vice-President & Managing Director of VHB's National Capital District, led the workshop. Topics covered included best practices for implementing Complete Streets, design tools for small town and rural communities, and how the project development process can be improved to support Complete Streets.
- On May 30th - June 2nd the Town of Jaffrey conducted a temporary Complete Streets demonstration project on School Street to show ways to improve safety and slow traffic near the Jaffrey Grade School. The goal of the demonstration was to give drivers, walkers, and bicyclists a chance to experience 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.

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

Brownfields Program Success Story

Post and Beam Brewing's recent purchase of the historic Grand Army of the Republic Hall (G.A.R. Hall), located at 40 Grove Street in downtown Peterborough, represents the latest SWRPC brownfield success story. During May, the company purchased the site of Peterborough's first high school and former gathering site for Civil War veterans in order to open up a new microbrewery. By funding environmental assessment activities at the site, SWRPC helped facilitate the sale of the property. The environmental assessments identified an on-site underground storage tank that required removal, and provided important "environmental due diligence" documentation to help the buyer secure financing for the start-up. Post and Beam Brewing expects that the proposed redevelopment will create five full time jobs by its third year of operations. In addition, several part time servers will be hired. According to the Town of Peterborough, the redeveloped site will contribute to an important Master Plan goal to attract and retain young adults in Peterborough, which is critical to fill a gap in the local workforce. In addition, the new brewery will help the Town with its goal to promote the re-use of historic buildings as a way to allow the community to prosper without losing the historic elements that make it special. For more information about this project or the Brownfields Assessment Program, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



Locally Based Crowdfunding Proposals

Entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations based in Keene, Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Swanzey, and Winchester are invited to submit project proposals to The Local Crowd (TLC) Monadnock, a new crowdfunding platform serving the Monadnock Region. Successful proposals will launch their campaigns this fall, based on their ability to have a positive impact on local economies and communities. Unique to this particular crowdfunding platform is the free hands-on technical assistance that accepted proposals will receive to help create and launch their campaigns. In addition, TLC Monadnock will award one proposal a free video, donated by 710 Main Films, to support their crowdfunding campaign. Studies show that crowdfunding campaigns with videos raise four times more funds than campaigns without videos. The request for proposals is available online at <https://monadnockbuylocal.wildapricot.org/rfp>. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2017. For more information, please contact Monadnock Buy Local at 603-499-7950.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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