

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

October 2017

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2017 Fall Commission Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission's 2017 Fall Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **November 14, 2017** at 5:00 p.m. at the Historical Society of Cheshire County located at 246 Main Street in Keene, NH. The topic will be Emergency Management and Preparedness with guest speaker Perry Plummer, Director of NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Come learn what communities could and should be doing to be prepared for emergency situations including severe winter storms, flooding and hurricanes. There is no charge to attend but **advance registration is required**. For more information or to register, please contact Becky Baldwin at 357-0557.

Community Transportation Meetings

On October 24th, Contoocook Volunteer Transportation Company hosted the first of four community transportation forums planned for the Monadnock Region. Community Transportation is a term used for a family of transportation services including public and private sources that are available to respond to the mobility needs of its residents including but not limited to seniors, people with disabilities and persons with lower income. The purposes of the meetings are to ensure that town government and elected officials are better informed about community transportation needs in the region, and are aware of the Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation, a local group working to improve community transportation. The first community transportation meeting took place at the Peterborough Town Hall and additional meetings are in the planning stage. SWRPC staff presented information and data about at-risk populations in that part of the region including households without vehicles, seniors, youth, people with disabilities, veterans, and low income households. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

NH State Energy Strategy Public Input Session

On October 18th, the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (NH OSI), formerly NH Office of Energy and Planning, held a public input session on the update of the State's 10-Year Energy Strategy at the Dublin Town Hall. SWRPC staff attended the session as well as approximately 50 other people interested in sharing their views about strategies to be included in the Plan. Five other sessions have been held throughout the state including Lebanon, Berlin, Concord, Wolfboro, and Portsmouth. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Green Infrastructure and Brownfield Boot Camp

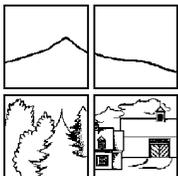
On October 20th, SWRPC staff member J. B. Mack attended a training session sponsored by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Allentown, NH. NJIT is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and provides technical assistance to brownfield grantees such as SWRPC on various brownfields issues. The one-day training included presentations on the intersection between stormwater management techniques, green infrastructure and brownfields sites through expert lecturers from EPA, NH Department of Environmental Services and NJIT. Information was provided on bioretention, green roofs, swales and bioswales, stormwater bumpouts, stormwater tree trenches, porous paving, subsurface storage, and phytotechnology. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

SWRPC was recently approved by the State of NH to assist the City of Keene and the towns of Nelson, New Ipswich, Stoddard, and Walpole with updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. In addition, the Commission has recently completed similar plans for Alstead, Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Hancock, Harrisville, Langdon, Roxbury, and Winchester. Since the initiation of the Hazard Mitigation Program in 2000, SWRPC has assisted 32 towns in the region and completed 73 hazard mitigation plans or updates. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

2020 Census - Local Update of Census Addresses

Have you ever wondered how the U.S. Census Bureau accurately counts the number of households and measures characteristics like employment, poverty, and educational attainment in your community? One important tool is the Local Update of Census Addresses operation (LUCA) which is essentially a list of residential addresses created prior to the decennial census. The registration phase of the project began in July and will end in December of 2017. If your community is interested in participating in the project, it is important to indicate your participation prior to this deadline. Questions regarding the registration materials should be directed to the New York Regional Census Center by phone 212-584-3430 or by email at new.york.geography@census.gov. To learn more about LUCA, please visit www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html or contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.



ReadyNH Website

With the winter storm season approaching, many residents are interested in preparing for winter storm events. The NH Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (HSEM) ReadyNH website can help residents improve their preparedness for heavy weather events. The website includes information on how to prepare for such events, suggestions for emergency kits and family plans, and how to sign up for emergency alerts. It also contains resources that municipalities can use to help their residents become more prepared, such as templates for Public Service Announcements for television or radio. For more information, please visit the website at www.readynh.gov or contact NH HSEM staff at (603) 271-2231.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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