

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

September 2017

Vol. 23 - No. 9

### **Spofford Lake Watershed Survey**

On September 9, 2017, the Planning Commission coordinated a watershed survey event to kick-off the Spofford Lake Watershed Management Plan project. The event included a shoreline survey led by FB Environmental Associates with assistance from representatives of NH DES using watercraft to identify potential areas of concern for erosion and sources of pollutants entering the lake; a land survey led by engineers from Horsley Witten Group to identify erosion; and a door-to-door water quality survey led by SWRPC. Assisting to help make the event a success were 18 Chesterfield residents, including members of Town boards and commissions as well as members of the Spofford Lake Association. The results will be analyzed and incorporated into the watershed management planning effort. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

### **Public Informational Meetings on Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project**

SWRPC staff joined the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Windham Regional Commission, and members of the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project Advisory Committee to host two public informational meetings about a project to build a new bridge connecting Hinsdale, NH and Brattleboro, VT over the Connecticut River. Meetings held on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Hinsdale and Brattleboro respectively, included NHDOT-led presentations about the project followed by question and answer periods. The Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge project has been considered a top priority transportation project by SWRPC for many years. The \$47 million project is scheduled to go out to bid in 2019 with construction to begin in 2020. More information about the project is available at <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hinsdalebrattleboro12210/index.htm>. Those interested in seeing the Brattleboro, VT public informational meeting can view the meeting at <http://www.brattleborotv.org/connecticut-river-bridge-public-info-mtg-91417>. For more information about the project, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

### **Winchester Adopts Complete Streets Policy**

The Winchester Board of Selectmen voted to adopt a complete streets policy on September 27, 2017, making Winchester the seventh community in the Region to do so. This policy encourages the Town to consider the needs of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists of all ages and abilities, when working within the public right-of-way. The policy also encourages the Town to work with partners such as the NH Department of Transportation to develop facilities and accommodations that further complete streets concepts. The Town also adopted customized complete streets planning and design guidelines that provide recommended complete streets treatments for Winchester. For additional information, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

### **Safe Routes to School Funds Available**

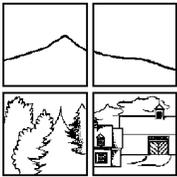
A limited pool of Safe Routes to School funding remains available through the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for new non-infrastructure awards. These funds will be available for communities that can organize programs scheduled for completion by the fall of 2018. NHDOT will continue to accept applications and make awards on a first-come, first-served basis until December 1, 2017. Application forms and additional information can be found on the NHDOT Safe Routes to School webpage at [www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/srts](http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/srts). Applications should be filed with the Regional Planning Commission serving the applicant's community and with the NHDOT. Potential sponsors should contact John Corrigan, the NHDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator, for an orientation and required pre-application workshop at [John.Corrigan@dot.nh.gov](mailto:John.Corrigan@dot.nh.gov).

## Agricultural Policy Workshop

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition (MFCC) hosted an Agriculture Policy Workshop at Stonewall Farms in Keene. The event included guest speaker Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner of the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food along with a panel discussion that provided information about how to start a local agricultural commission and state and local initiatives to maintain and increase agriculture in the Region. Lisa Murphy participated in the panel discussion by providing an overview of regional development trends over the past two decades and information on strategies to protect prime agricultural soils and sensitive lands. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

## Emergency Operations Plan Updates

During September, SWRPC staff completed updates of the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) for the towns of Winchester and Peterborough. Staff worked with each Town's EOP Committee on the five-year updates of their plans. SWRPC staff has completed the latest EOP training recommended by NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM) and has also participated in a NH HSEM training session covering EOP creation and update processes. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.



## GIS Mapping Projects

Updates to a number of community Master Plans are just one example of the many projects offered through the Commission's Geographic Information Systems Local Assistance Program. Projects recently completed or underway include a stratified drift aquifer and zoning overlay map for the Town of Swanzey, a zoning map for the Town of Harrisville, revised tax maps for the Town of Chesterfield, and a draft natural resources inventory for the Town of Greenfield. Whether the goal is to communicate a proposed policy, collect and publish data on town assets, or conduct a detailed analysis, SWRPC is available to work with you. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

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

