

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

January 2014

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Winter Commission Meeting Scheduled for February 18, 2014

The Planning Commission's Winter Meeting is set for February 18, 2014 at Papagallos Restaurant in Swanzey, NH. Our featured speaker will be Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner of the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods. The program includes a social beginning at 4:30 p.m. with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. For additional information or to register, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff.

Brownfields Assessment Activity in Richmond

On January 13th, the Brownfields Advisory Committee approved use of brownfields assessment funds to assess contamination at the recently closed Four Corner's Store in Richmond. Working with the store owner, town representatives and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, SWRPC's Program will assess the site and remove an underground storage tank which will provide an opportunity for the State to remove petroleum contaminated soil. The project is designed to be a "win-win-win" leaving the owner with greater chances for marketing the property to an investor, improving chances for the Town to regain its only community store, and removing the source of environmental and health risks of existing contamination. In related news, SWRPC recently applied for additional support from the US Environmental Protection Agency to maintain its program. Given the competitive nature of the Program, SWRPC continues to encourage submittal of site nominations to document need in the Region. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Air Quality Education and Outreach Campaign

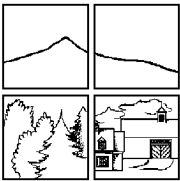
On January 31st, the Greater Keene Air Quality Education and Outreach Campaign Partners Group met to revisit past activity and discuss future efforts to increase awareness about small particle air pollution in Southwest New Hampshire. On winter nights when atmospheric conditions create a temperature inversion that traps air in valley areas beneath, particulate matter builds up due in part to wood-burning, and the air can become unhealthy to breathe. The group including representatives from the City of Keene, Cheshire Medical Center, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Keene State College, and SWRPC met with renewed concern following three exceedances during 2013 of the limits established for health purposes. The Group reviewed new and previously-used informational materials and discussed a communication action plan which has guided our previous outreach efforts. For further information about the small particle air pollution and the Campaign, please visit swrpc.org/airquality or contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

MRTMA - The Year in Review

At its January 15th meeting, the Monadnock Region Transportation Management Association (MRTMA) Steering Committee met to review known accomplishments by communities and other stakeholders in meeting the objectives of the MRTMA Action Plan during 2013. The MRTMA is a diverse coalition of public and private sector stakeholders interested in a better transportation future, for which SWRPC provides staff support. The Action Plan aims to increase the use and availability of local and regional transportation options in the Monadnock Region where they are needed and feasible. The Plan aims to implement its goals, objectives and strategies through the cooperation of people living and working in the Monadnock Region. The review documented that good progress had been made in improving conditions or setting the stage for improvements to walking, biking, carpooling, intercity bus and other forms of transportation. If you are aware of an improvement that should be considered by the MRTMA, or you are simply interested in learning about the MRTMA's work, please visit www.monadnockTMA.org or contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

CDBG Project in Winchester

During the month of January, SWRPC staff submitted a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application on behalf of the Town of Winchester. The proposed project involves the renovation of 30 apartments at Wedgewood Duplexes, now known as Woodcrest Housing, located on Route 10 north of the downtown area. The project is currently led by the Monadnock Affordable Housing Commission, a subsidiary of Keene Housing Authority, with the Town of Winchester sponsoring the grant and SWRPC acting as grant writer and administrator should funding be awarded. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.



GIS Services

Planning Commission staff are in the process of updating tax parcel maps and corresponding GIS data for the Town of New Ipswich. The Commission specializes in maintaining and updating digital parcel boundaries including making lot line adjustments, lot subdivision, acreage, and dimension changes. SWRPC also has the capability to produce mapping products, graphics, and interactive features for the needs of communities in the Region. If you would like to discuss partnering with the Commission on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects, such as Tax Map updates and maintenance, master plan updates, critical facilities, or recreational mapping (trails, conservation land), please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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