

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

March 2013

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2013 Winter Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission held its 2013 Winter Commission Meeting on March 26, 2013 at Papagallos Restaurant in Swanzey, NH. The event included advisory committee reports, a presentation on the Greater Keene Air Quality Education and Outreach Campaign, and recognition on the efforts of three Keene State College students who have submitted work completed on a livability charette in the Town of Marlborough to the Association of American Geographers national competition. The guest speaker for the event was Carole Monroe of NH FastRoads who provided a presentation that focused on the efforts to expand broadband infrastructure within the state and the Southwest Region. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff.

Request for Proposals - Lake Warren Nutrient Loading Study

The Planning Commission is requesting proposals for a consultant to assist with a Nutrient Loading Study for Lake Warren in Alstead. The project has been awarded funding from the NH Department of Environmental Services through a grant from Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. The project will identify pollutant load reductions and methods of achieving the levels necessary to improve the classification of Lake Warren from mesotrophic to oligotrophic and remove it from impaired status. **Proposals must be submitted by April 19, 2013.** A description and additional details are available at www.swrpc.org or by contacting Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Community Conversations Scheduled for Spring 2013

The Planning Commission is holding a series of thoughtful and informative community conversations across the Region during May and June of this year. These conversations are an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing the Monadnock Region now and into the future. Information shared at these events, which are free and open to the public, will be used to help inform *Monadnock Region Future*, an initiative to update the Regional Plan for Southwest New Hampshire. These conversations are scheduled to take place from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on May 9th in Winchester, May 22nd in Alstead, May 28th in Antrim, and June 6th in Peterborough. More information about these events is available at www.swrpc.org/listens or by contacting Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Funding

The week of April 1st - 5th is National Community Development week. For towns and organizations thinking about applying for the July 2013 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 for 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. Activities can include housing rehabilitation, water and sewer upgrades, senior housing, and more. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Broadband Training Session Scheduled for May 1st

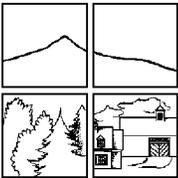
The Planning Commission's Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Southwest Broadband Stakeholder Group are co-sponsoring a broadband training event, which will be held on May 1, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Kay Fox Room located at the Keene Public Library. Staff from UNH Cooperative Extension will be facilitating the event, which will cover the importance of broadband or high-speed internet, maintaining a vibrant economy for the communities in the Monadnock Region, and how municipalities can use their web presence to attract businesses and encourage commerce. This event is free and open to the public. **Please RSVP prior to April 25, 2013** by calling 357-0557 or emailing admin@swrpc.org. For more information, please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.

Town of Alstead Awarded CDBG Funding

A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application submitted on behalf of the town of Alstead was approved by the NH Community Development Finance Authority's CDBG Advisory Committee on March 21st. The Town of Alstead will receive a CDBG in support of the Well Hill Cooperative for much needed infrastructure improvements. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Tax Parcel Map Updates

Planning Commission staff recently completed an update to the Town of New Ipswich tax parcel maps, utilizing Geographic Information Systems software. We are able to make parcel lot line and acreage adjustments as well as print tax maps in a variety of sizes. If your community would like to take advantage of our services for your tax parcel mapping or any other GIS products, please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.



Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop

The 2013 Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop has been scheduled for May 1, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The event is sponsored by the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) in partnership with the American Ground Water Trust. Scheduled topics include: surface water, groundwater, community-based source water protection, and best management practices. The event is designed for land use planners, members of environmental and watershed organizations, conservation commission members, town selectmen, municipal staff and elected officials. There is a \$40 registration fee which includes lunch. For additional information and to register, please visit <http://www.agwt.org> or call Pierce Rigrod at DES (603) 271-0688.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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