

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

November 2012

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SWRPC Has Moved!

In late November, SWRPC moved into its new office located at 37 Ashuelot Street in Keene. This location is approximately 3 blocks west of our previous office at Central Square. Ashuelot Street is adjacent to the Colony Mill and our office is just north of West Street beyond the Cheshire Village Pizza restaurant. Please come by and visit us at our new office – we look forward to seeing you.

SWRPC Open House Scheduled for December 18, 2012

The Planning Commission is holding an Open House in recognition of our move and the Holiday Season. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Local officials, friends of the Commission and the general public are welcome to stop by the Commission office located at 37 Ashuelot Street in Keene during this time. Light refreshments will be served.

Town of Swanzey Conducts Planning Charrette

The Town of Swanzey was recently selected as a recipient of a community design charrette from Plan New Hampshire, a non-profit organization consisting of professionals such as planners, architects, engineers, attorneys and financial representatives who volunteer time to help communities to encourage good planning and design. Each year, four communities in New Hampshire are chosen to receive community charrettes. The Swanzey charrette focused on the village of West Swanzey. The team made recommendations to enhance the economic vibrancy and honor the historic community center. The event was held on November 9th and 10th. Please contact Tara Germond or Lisa Murphy of Commission staff for additional information.

Community Planning Grant Announcement

New Hampshire Housing has recently announced Round 2 of the New Hampshire Community Planning Grant (CPG) Program. The program provides competitive matching grants for cities and towns to create local land use regulations that will promote and enhance environmental, economic, and social conditions. Grants are limited to projects of up to \$30,000 or inter-municipal projects of up to \$50,000 and will be awarded on or about March 1, 2013. Successful municipalities must execute an agreement with New Hampshire Housing, and may contract with either their regional planning commission or a private consultant. If the municipality chooses to contract with the regional planning commission, it can bypass the competitive bidding process.

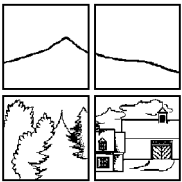
Applicants are required to attend one of two grant writing workshops scheduled for January 7, 2013 in Concord or January 9, 2013 in Bethlehem. Formal submissions of draft applications with requests for review and comment must be made by email to the CPG Program Administrator no later than January 25, 2013. The final application deadline is February 12, 2013. Application and workshop information is posted on the New Hampshire Citizen Planner website at: <http://extension.unh.edu/cp/updates.html>. If you would like to discuss potential projects for your community or request guidance in preparing a proposal, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Project Solicitation Set to Begin

SWRPC will soon be soliciting town officials for nominations or reaffirmations of already programmed transportation projects as part of the update to the New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). Projects will be reviewed and evaluated for potential inclusion in the SWRPC Transportation Improvement Plan - a set of project recommendations important to the Region that SWRPC provides the NH Department of Transportation every two years. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff or visit <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>.

Park Theatre to Receive Brownfields Assessment Funding

The Park Theatre, a 90 year-old historic building in downtown Jaffrey, has been selected to receive environmental assessment support services from the SWRPC Brownfields Program. SWRPC Brownfields Assessment funds will help determine if there is an existing underground storage tank on site and provide a cost estimate for removing any hazardous building materials from the existing building such as lead or asbestos. The Park Theatre Inc.'s capital campaign for the project has raised \$441,055 with a goal of \$1.25 million. When re-opened, The Park Theatre will offer year-round programming: movies, plays and concerts by local artists, schools and touring companies in a 400-seat, state-of-the-art facility, and be a home to showcase the Monadnock Region's performing artists. The Theatre will also provide the five schools in downtown Jaffrey and other schools throughout the Region with performing space for theatre, music and other events. For more information about this project, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



Community Development Block Grant Implementation Workshop

On November 8th SWRPC staff attended the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Implementation Workshop hosted by the NH Community Development Finance Authority in Concord, NH. The workshop covered the following CDBG topics: use of the online grants management system, municipal adoptions/approvals, environmental reviews, subrecipient agreements and monitoring, procurement, financial management, construction management, municipal responsibilities, housing rehabilitation, acquisition and relocation, and job counting. For more information about the workshop or the CDBG program, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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