



Two Rivers-Ottauquechee

Regional Commission Newslet-

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CRJC awards TRORC \$4,000 Partnership grant

In late 2003, TRORC recruited people to serve on the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council. An initial meeting of this Watershed Council was held in early 2004 to begin the process of identifying valued watershed resources and water quality concerns. Since then, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CJRC) has awarded TRORC a \$4,000 Partnership grant to continue the work begun by the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council and to draft a Mini-Watershed Plan for the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River. This work will eventually feed into a larger basin plan being written by the Agency of Natural Resources for the entire watershed, and may also tie into the Joint Commission's river Corridor River Management Plan for the Connecticut.

assessment as they identify the top issues, concerns and threats.

Following the initial meeting, TRORC will host educational workshops with experts in the field to address each of these issues. With this expert advice and guidance, the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council will identify goals and objectives for each issue, as well as the best ways to restore and protect the river. If you have any questions, or would like to become involved in this process, please call or email Crystal Loffler, 457-3188 or cloffler@trorc.org.



TRORC's work under the grant will begin with an informational meeting in early December with the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council and Sally Mansur of the Strafford Conservation Commission to discuss the findings of an initial geomorphic assessment of the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River. This meeting will allow the Watershed Council to use the results of this

Crystal Loffler Joins TRORC Staff

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission welcomes Planner Crystal Loffler to our staff.

Crystal, a graduate of the Plattsburgh State University, has relocated from her home in Upstate NY to take the position with TRORC. As a planner, she will be participating in data collection and database design for the Commission's Emergency Management Program and our Homeland Security grants. In addition to this, Crystal will be assisting in research and writing for town plan revisions, watershed planning efforts and outreach efforts on TRORC's Brownfields Assessment Program.

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TRORC Towns awarded \$114,440 in MPG's

The Municipal Planning Grant Program funds technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstration planning projects.

TRORC was pleased to assist many of these towns by writing their grant applications and looks forward to working with many of these communities as the projects move forward.

Out of the 30 Towns in our region, the following applied for and received grants:

- Barnard \$13,900
Analysis of soil suitability and leachfield sites for potential workforce housing projects.
- Braintree \$7,350
Municipal plan revision
- Brookfield \$4,710
Town plan and GIS mapping update, Village center designation
- Hartford \$14,000
Municipal master plan update: phase II
- Newbury \$10,950
Zoning and Subdivision Regulations Update Project
- Norwich \$9,000
Norwich Town Plan - Data Collection, Surveys, and Analysis
- Plymouth \$8,000
Municipal Plan Revision
- Randolph \$14,980
East Randolph Village Plan - Phase 1: Transportation Needs Assessment
- Rochester \$10,000
Capital Budget and Program
- Tunbridge \$12,000
Town Plan Revision and Public Process
- Vershire \$9,550

Regional Plan to be updated in 2005

The Regional Commission will be updating the Regional Plan and Regional Transportation Plan during 2005.

Three towns joined the region in July (Hartford, Hartland, and Norwich) and the updated Plan will reflect those additions most directly in terms of statistical and mapped data.

The Regional Commission requested a Plan review from the Vermont Forum on Sprawl and their findings will be given consideration when complete. Additionally, the staff will work to make the Plan more current and concise where needed; development in rural areas will be one area of reevaluation. The Board will discuss the updating of the Plan at the December Regional Commission meeting and the staff will be guided by the leadership of the Regional Plan Committee throughout the process.

Please call or email the Commission if you would like to offer suggestions on the content, goals, policies, or recommendations of the Regional Plan.



Chapter 117 VIT Training

This workshop is designed for all local land use officials, including ZBA/DRB members, planning commissioners, zoning administrators, town planners, managers and administrators, Selectboard members and other interested parties.

The 2005 changes to the zoning enabling laws present a unique challenge for local officials to implement. Come learn what changes are required and what resources are available to help.

Cost: \$30.00 - \$75.00

Date: Dec 16

Time: 7:00-9:00

Location: Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) sites around Vermont. In the TRORC region there are sites in Randolph Center and Wilder.

Contact for More Information:
Jessica Hill at Vermont League of Cities & Towns
Phone: 802-229-9111
Email: info@vlct.org
Website for information and/or registration: <http://www.vlct.org/calendar>

The Vermont Land Use Collaborative, which includes the RPCs, State Agencies and VLCT, has been charged with the task of coordinating education around the changes to Chapter 117.

As part of our ongoing technical assistance program, TRORC has been meeting with our Towns to educate officials about the changes and potential impacts they may have.

If you would like to schedule a meeting with our staff, please contact us at 802-457-3188.

Project Spotlight: Revitalizing the Village of East Randolph

In the spring of this year a committee was formed with the intention of applying for Village Designation status for the village of East Randolph. With the assistance of Chris Sargent, TRORC Planner and East Randolph resident, their application was submitted and accepted in late October. As part of this public process, it was discovered that residents in East Randolph have the common desire to revitalize their village.

The catalyst for the creation of the East Randolph Village Designation Committee was the purchase and renovation of Messier's General Store. In less than a year it has become a hub for the East Randolph community, a place where residents can buy groceries, dinner, and gas and also meet other residents.

The spark created by this improved business has encouraged many residents to attend meetings surrounding the application for Village Designation. Based on attendance levels, there is a noted interest in revitalizing the village. During these informational meetings, residents voiced an interest in:

- renovating the Community Hall;
- building sidewalks;
- installing welcome signs along Rt. 14;
- planting trees;
- addressing derelict buildings;
- building playgrounds and recreation fields; and
- Reducing traffic speeds.

This public process has culminated with the committee's decision to create a Village Master Plan. Such a plan will help guide improvements in the future and will help local officials with budgeting and planning for the future of the East Randolph Village.

The committee applied for and received a Municipal Planning Grant to begin phase 1 of the Village Master Plan. Randolph will contract with TRORC to conduct a study of multi-modal (pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle) transportation needs within the village. Through this process, the committee will be able to determine the types of enhancements that will improve the village.

In the next year, the Village will most likely apply for another Municipal Planning Grant to focus on non-transportation related needs in the Village. The priority status given to Designated Villages should benefit the village when applying.

For more information on Village Center Designation, and its benefits, please contact Chris Sargent by phone at 802-457-3188, or by email at csargent@trorc.org.

One of our "Town Official's Update" mailings, which focused on Village Designation, is available for download at www.trorc.org. It is located in the publications section of our web site. It contains more detailed information about Village Designation and the application process.

Emergency Equipment Survey Mailed

On behalf of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) #12, TRORC has recently sent out surveys requesting information regarding vehicles and equipment held by fire departments and emergency medical services in our region.

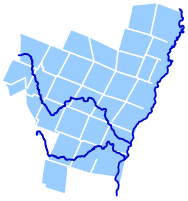
We are gathering this information to create a comprehensive list of equipment available in the area. This list could be used in large-scale emergencies that extend beyond the usual mutual aid systems.

In addition to creating a list, we are typing the equipment according to the 120 resource typing standards developed by the Department of Homeland Security. To assist fire departments and emergency services with the typing process, our surveys provided detailed resource typing specifications relevant to each service.

We will be making the compiled list available to the LEPC and Vermont Emergency Management to use in disaster response planning. We look forward to the survey responses.

Any departments that have any questions, should feel free to contact Kevin Geiger or Crystal Loffler at 457-3188.





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Happy

News Shorts

December 2004

CEDS Semi Annual Meeting

Do Elders Need Affordable Housing?

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is an economic plan required by the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA) for areas to be eligible for planning and construction funds to improve their economies.

The East Central CEDS Committee cordially invites you to their semiannual meeting. Speakers will include: Mr. Gregg Fairbrothers, Director of the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network program, and Senator Matt Dunne, Windsor County.

Location: Coolidge Hotel, WRJ
 Date: December 9, 2004
 Time: 6:00-8:00

RSVP to: 802-885-3061

A total of \$34,300 in state and federal planning funds for elder housing in Strafford hinges on the ability of the surrounding community to show there is need; **you may be able to help.**

Four income eligibility forms must be completed by residents (aged 55 or over) of Orange or Windsor County by December 31, 2004. To be "income eligible", your annualized household income cannot exceed the income limits set by family-size and by county. For instance: one-person household incomes in Orange County cannot exceed \$31,200; in Windsor County they cannot exceed \$32,850. A two-person household income in Orange County cannot exceed \$35,650; in Windsor County it cannot exceed \$37,550.

There is no obligation with the completion of an eligibility form; the forms are documenting need, they are not contractual documents. Interested persons who would like to show support by completing an eligibility form should contact Kathleen Kanz at 457-3188.



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 the web!!
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