

News & Notes

October 2016



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In this issue: NADO Award, LEOPs, Ben Joins TRORC, Climate Resilience Public Forum, Stagecoach Celebration, Clean Water Committee, Congratulations to Barnard, Draft Energy Compliance Standards

Creative Economy Report Wins NADO Innovation Award

The recently completed Creative Economy Report: Artists, Artisans, and Entrepreneurs: Creative Economy of the East Central Vermont Region has won a 2016 NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) Innovation Award.

For 29 years, NADO's annual Innovation Award program has honored members who have made significant impacts on their regions through innovative approaches to problem solving and program delivery. These awards acknowledge creative approaches to advancing regional community, economic development and improved quality of life.



TRORC is thrilled to have received the acknowledgement for the report and looks forward to continuing to supporting the Region's economic development, and specifically our creative economy.

For more information about the report, contact Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org.

LEOPs Have 100% Completion

The TRORC region has 100% completion of their Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). This means all of our 30 towns have an up-to-date LEOP that is pertinent for communication if a disaster were to occur. The LEOP is a requirement of the Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) for towns to receive reduced matches on infrastructure repairs. These are usually completed after Town Meeting day and before May 1st every year. TRORC provides technical assistance to towns to make sure they are compliant with state requirements.

For more information about the LEOP, contact Tory Levite at vlevite@trorc.org.

AmeriCorp VISTA Member Ben Wood Joins TRORC

TRORC is please to have its third Americorp VISTA member, Ben Wood. Ben hails from Texas State University where he majored in Urban and Regional Planning with a minor in Business Administration. Ben will be with us for a year of service where he will be working on projects related to housing, food security, and transportation. He looks forward to experiencing fall and winter for the first time. Welcome to TRORC!

Send Ben an email to introduce yourself at jbwood@trorc.org.



Building Climate Resilient Communities Public Forum

Join the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup (UVAW) for a community conversation about climate change and building climate resilient communities. TRORC is a founding member and active participant of UVAW. This workshop is designed for all TRORC residents including community volunteer boards, municipal staff and committee members, health care professionals, community organizations, business owners, and interested citizens. The forum will take place on Tuesday, October 25 at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Auditorium E. Registration is free.

For more information, or to register, go to our calendar at trorc.org.

Stagecoach 40th Anniversary Celebration

Stagecoach Transportation celebrated their 40th anniversary on September 10th with over 200 community members at the Randolph Recreation Field. Some of the events of the day included live music, carriage rides, and a Stagecoach visual history display. There was also a "touch a truck" event, face painting station, and a Bike "Rodeo" that over 50 kids participated in where they received free bike helmets courtesy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The event was put on with the help of about 40 volunteers as well as 20 business sponsors and several non-profits. Congratulations again to Stagecoach for 40 years as a safe and accessible community transportation service for our region!



Stagecoach volunteers doing a barbecue for the celebration

TRORC Establishes a Clean Water Advisory Committee

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission Board recently voted to form a Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) to guide TRORC's activities and policy development related to water quality in our region's rivers and their tributaries, as well as programs pertaining to stormwater, groundwater, wetlands, and stream stability.

CWAC will provide input to TRORC as they assist the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation in the development of tactical basin plans for the Ottauquechee, White, Ompompanoosuc, and Waits Rivers, and it will provide input to TRORC in developing a plan for implementing water quality improvement projects in the region. TRORC is currently aiding the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with the development of the Ottauquechee Tactical Basin Plan, and the CWAC, among others, will play a crucial role in evaluating and prioritizing potential projects in this watershed.

The CWAC will evaluate and assess a variety of different water quality related topics. These may include technical assistance and data collection activities to inform municipal officials and the State in making water quality investment decisions; coordinating regional planning and assistance with adoption or implementation of municipal development regulations to better meet State water quality policies and investment priorities; assistance to Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) in implementing a project evaluation process to prioritize water quality improvement projects within the region to assure cost effective use of State and federal funds; and petitions for reclassification and designation of surface waters; and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) processes.

Municipalities and organizations are currently nominating members to the Clean Water Advisory Committee, which will hold its first meeting in late October/early November.

For more information, please contact Michael Storace at mstorace@trorc.org.

Congratulations Barnard for a Variety of Town Projects

Barnard, working with TRORC staff, has been quite busy in the past several months working on and completing a variety of projects.

A new Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed

Barnard is in the final stages of completing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). Barnard has finished the final draft of the Plan and is currently awaiting approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Once the LHMP has been officially approved by FEMA, Barnard will qualify for a higher Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) rate, which will save the Town money in the event of future federally declared disasters.



Barnard General Store



*Mt. Hunger Road bank set to be stabilized.
The site is across from the
Barnard Highway Department.*

The Mt. Hunger Road CDBG-DR project is underway

Final designs of two phases of bank slide remediation have been completed and the project should go out to bid in October. This is funded by Irene recovery funds awarded in an application prepared by TRORC.

Barnard adopted their new Town Plan on August 24, 2016

TRORC began working with the Barnard Planning Commission in January of 2015 to update their town plan. After several meetings, a public information session, and the requisite public hearing process, the Planning Commission approved the plan and submitted it to the Selectboard for their consideration. On August 24, 2016, the Selectboard voted to adopt the plan. This new Barnard Town Plan is good through August of 2024.

So what's next? Now that Barnard has an adopted and regionally approved town plan, TRORC is working with them to establish a state-designated Village Center.

Draft Energy Compliance Standards Released

The Department of Public Service (DPS) has released draft standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance. This determination is necessary for any community that will be seeking "substantial deference" instead of "due consideration" in a Section 248 proceeding relating to renewable energy generation facilities. Act 174, which was passed this summer, offers communities the opportunity for a stronger voice in the 248 process if they develop a more comprehensive energy plan as part of their municipal plan.

The draft standards are available for review from DPS web site (<http://publicservice.vermont.gov/>). They will be accepting comments through October 20, 2016. A public hearing will be held by DPS on October 11, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 at the Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, Vermont. For more information, or to submit comments, email PSD.PlanningStandards@vermont.gov.

We urge any community that intends to seek a determination of energy compliance to review the draft standards and provide comments to the Department of Public Service.

Substantial deference means that a land conservation measure or specific policy shall be applied in accordance with its terms unless there is a clear and convincing demonstration that other factors affecting the general good of the State outweigh the application of the measure or policy. (As defined by Act 174.)



Two Rivers-Ottauquechee
REGIONAL COMMISSION

128 King Farm Road ~ Woodstock, VT 05091



Fall Foliage: Granville, Vermont



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