



*Cedar Circle Farm, Thetford VT
Source: TRORC Staff*

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WHEN BROWNFIELDS AND BANKERS MEET

In April 2017, TRORC hosted two workshops with commercial lenders in Randolph and Hartford to highlight the importance of redevelopment of contaminated properties.

TRORC welcomed Alan Peterson from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 office in Boston who overviewed federal programs that can protect lenders from bearing the risk of past contamination. Alan explained what to look for when reviewing complicated environmental assessments and the risk involved with different types of contamination.

Trish Coppolino and Kristi Herzer from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Site Management Section presented the risk that bank lenders have within the State of Vermont. Trish also overviewed State liability programs for bankers to utilize financial resources that lenders can utilize for assessment and cleanup of contaminated properties, and resources that can be utilized remotely to quickly evaluate risk prior to property assessment or ownership. By using the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources online mapping tool, individuals can determine the location of landfills, hazardous sites, hazardous waste generators, brownfields, salvage yards, underground storage tanks, and dry cleaners.

TRORC's Brownfield Program is currently accepting sites and can provide technical assistance for the completion of Environmental Site Assessments, which include Phase 1 Assessments, Phase II Assessments, and Corrective Action Plans. If you or anyone you know is thinking about purchasing a site, please let us know!

If you would like to find out more information about this program, please contact Michael Storace at mstorace@trorc.org.

2017 BETTER ROADS GRANTS AWARDED IN TRO REGION

Out of 37 grant applications in this year's round of Better Roads Grants, 27 were awarded in the TRO Region! In an effort led by Senior Transportation Planner Rita Seto, a total of \$514,673 in grant funds were awarded to most of our member towns. The projects ranged from planning to construction grants, where the planning grants will help provide information for the new Municipal Roads General Permit set to take effect in 2020. TRORC staff are conducting road erosion and culvert inventories in 9 of our member towns this 2017 field season, with four already lined up for the 2018 field season. These Towns include Bridgewater, Corinth, Stockbridge, Strafford, Norwich, Pittsfield, Granville, Hancock, and Vershire. The 2018 field season Towns include Braintree, Chelsea, Randolph, and Sharon.

Sixteen construction grants were awarded to the Towns of Bradford, Braintree, Chelsea, Corinth, Hartford, Plymouth, Pomfret, Sharon, Thetford, Stockbridge, Strafford, and Woodstock.

For TRORC to keep up with the field work this season, three Planning Technicians were hired; Justin Sheperd, Rosalie Geiger, and Lauren Kaija. They will assist staff out in the field completing culvert and road erosion inventories.

To view the complete list, go to <http://www.trorc.org/2017-better-roads-grants-awarded-tro-region/> or contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.

BIKE/PED PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN

The VTrans 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is open to applications. This funding opportunity is available to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects. Projects include sidewalks, shared use paths, crossing improvements and bike lanes. In 2016, nearly \$4 million in projects were initiated under this grant program. Scoping studies, large-scale design/construction projects and small-scale, state funded projects are also accepted.

Applications are due by 1 p.m., Friday, July 14, 2017.

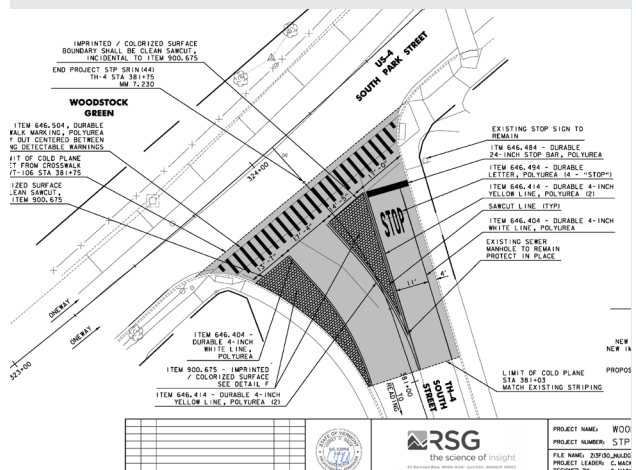
To access the application, go to <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>. For assistance in applying to this program, contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.



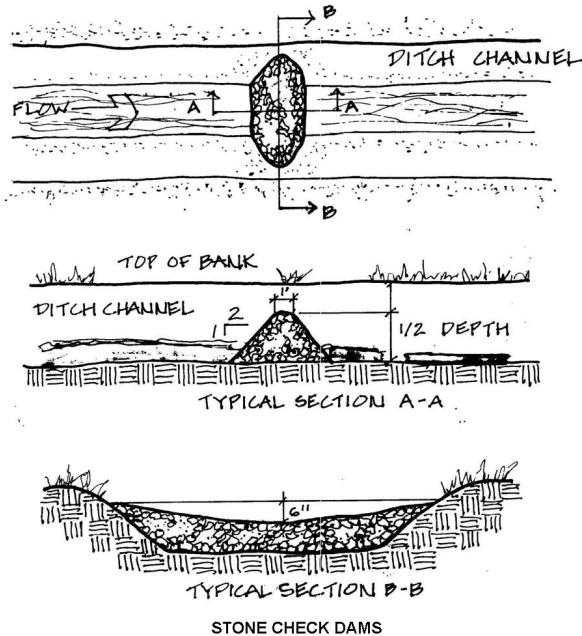
This culvert on Allen Hill Road in Pomfret is one of several construction grants awarded. This culvert will be upsized and the stone headers will be adjusted for better road support.



TRORC Staff conducting a road erosion inventory in Bridgewater.



This plan is part of the Woodstock Elementary School sidewalk project in Woodstock, VT that will increase safety for students walking to school.



The Grants-In-Aid pilot project will allow towns to implement Best Management Practices to comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit, such as installing proper stone check dams, as seen in the diagram above.

MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANTS-IN-AID PILOT PROJECT ANNOUNCED

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has created the new Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Pilot Project to provide funding for municipalities to implement best management practices (BMPs) on municipal roads ahead of the forthcoming DEC Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).

DEC has set aside \$2.5 million to support this pilot project and will work with the Regional Planning Commissions to make available grant funds to all participating Vermont municipalities that agree to terms contained in the packet of information sent to all municipalities in the TRO Region. This funding is to implement BMPs on hydrologically connected road segments that currently do not meet standards. Each municipality's funding award depends on the number of hydrologically connected roads and the total number of municipalities participating in this program.

TRORC will be key in helping communities identify projects under this program for implementation. **The deadline is July 5, 2017!**

For more information about this new program and how to apply, contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.



The South Royalton Village in Royalton has State Village Designation, where TRORC assisted in the application process.

DOWNTOWN AND VILLAGE CENTER TAX CREDIT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The 2017 Vermont Downtown and Village Center tax credit program has been announced. This year, \$2,200,000 in state income tax credits are available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial buildings in these designated communities. One of the benefits of being designated by the state are the tax credits that support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, data and network wiring, and exterior improvements. TRORC has assisted 18 member towns in obtaining these designations.

Applications are due July 1, 2017 and the Vermont Downtown Development Board will make award decisions on July 24, 2017.

To apply, go to http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/2017HTCGuidelines_Application.pdf or contact Caitlin Corkins at caitlin_corkins@vermont.gov with any questions.

June 2017 News & Notes

TRORC AT-LARGE MEMBER JENN COLBY WINS UVM AWARD

The 2017 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) New Achiever Award was presented to Jenn Colby by the University of Vermont. Recognized for significant professional achievement in her young career, Jenn works for the Center for Sustainable Agriculture and has served as the Pasture Program Outreach Coordinator, as well as an at-large member on the TRORC board! In 2015, Jenn collaborated on a successful \$874,000 grant application to clean up waterways entering the VT-NH watershed of the Connecticut River Valley. She holds 23 years of professional experience and 19 years of farming practice which she puts to work every day building a stronger Vermont agricultural community. Congratulations Jenn!



Jenn Colby poses for a picture with other award recipients. | Photo Credit: Cheryl Herrick

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