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DONT FORGET ABOUT OUR ASK US PAGE ON THE WEBSITE!

Ever been stumped at a night Planning Commission or Selectboard meeting and need an immediate answer from TRORC? With a quick internet search, the Ask Us page on the TRORC website can help. TRORC’s website includes an Ask Us tab where we have answered many common questions relating to data, floods, maps, permits, town plans, subdivision bylaws and zoning bylaws. If your question is not readily answered, or if you have a suggestion to add to the Ask Us page, please contact the TRORC office Monday-Friday 8:30 – 4:30.

Visit the website here: www.trorc.org/ask/ or call 802-457-3188, or email info@trorc.org

LEOP REMINDER

The Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) is a required part of the Vermont Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) that must be adopted every year after Town Meeting Day and before May 1st. TRORC has distributed draft LEOPs to all thirty of our member towns and is actively working with several towns to update their LEOPs. Blank templates and materials can be found at www vem.vermont.gov/plans/local. Thank you to the towns of Corinth and Brookfield for already submitting their LEOPs!

If you have any questions or need assistance in updating your LEOP, please contact Tory Littlefield at vlittlefield@trorc.org.
2018 VT WALK/BIKE SUMMIT

In partnership with Vermont Agency of Transportation and a number of other participating organizations and sponsors, the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee and Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commissions will host the 2018 statewide Vermont Walk/Bike Summit on Friday May 4th in White River Junction. Registration is now open! You can view the summit program at the link below. The Summit is made possible with the generous support from several organizations and businesses in Vermont.

Information on the summit can be found at www.vtwalkbikesummit.com or you can contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.

REGIONAL PLAN UPDATES

TRORC is actively working on a Regional Plan focusing on several chapters that were not included in the 2017 revision. Over the next year, updated chapters will be available at many of our monthly board meetings, which are always open to the public. TRORC will also be hosting informal public meetings throughout the region. Specifically, TRORC will be incorporating new statutory language on forest blocks and habitat connectors, a new requirement under 24 V.S.A. §4348(a).

The following chapters will be updated: Land Use, Natural Resources, Utilities and Facilities, Transportation, Emergency Management, Implementation, Flood Resilience, Historical, Cultural, Archaeological and Scenic Resources, Economic Development, Relationship to Other Plans, Healthy Communities, Working Landscape and Housing.

Stay tuned for announcements on public meetings on our website calendar. If you have any questions about the update, please contact Peter Gregory at pgregory@trorc.org.

Above: A monarch butterfly. Source | Roaslie Geiger

Below: Carrots sit out at a farmers market. Source | Denise E. Photography
HOUSING IN THE REGION

TRORC continues to work with regional partners on a study to better understand specific housing needs and possible solutions to those needs. The overall housing picture is clear: thousands of area residents spend too much on housing, lack opportunities to purchase affordable homes, and face an aging housing stock. These housing problems have a negative effect on economic development in our region. More homes are needed to attract younger people to replace our aging workforce. Smaller and easier to maintain homes are needed for the region’s aging population. The study will provide baseline quantifications of the housing shortage problems and suggest ways to meet the housing shortages in a manner that reinforces what we love about our region. TRORC recently co-presented at The Haven with the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity on ways that Plans and Bylaws can better promote affordable places for people to live. The presentation can be found on the TRORC youtube page: www.youtube.com/trorcvt.

SUPPORT OF HIGH QUALITY WATERS

TRORC has sent a letter of support to the Agency of Natural Resources for the final version of the 2017 Tactical Basin Plan that covers the Black River and Ottauquechee River basins. In our letter, we note that the Basin Plan calls out certain high quality waters for special designation that recognizes their existing excellence. One of these waters is a well-known wetland in the region - Eshqua Bog in Hartland. The bog is a wonderful and relatively unique kind of wetland, but it is actually not even mapped and classified as a wetland by the state. The bog is owned by The Nature Conservancy and the New England Wildflower Society. TRORC and others are exploring the possibility of having the bog be recognized as a Class 1 wetland.

2018 EASTERN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

This conference will cover a range of climate preparedness and resiliency issues such as: sea level rise, urban heat, and both coastal and inland flooding issues. The conference is geared for small government planners and decision-makers striving to create healthy resilient communities that are better able to handle severe weather and climate impacts. This conference guides local government planners on how to make climate resilience an aspect of their daily operations. The conference is April 30 - May 2, 2018 in Manchester, NH. Registration can be found here: www.communityresilience-center.org/conferences/local-solutions-conference-2018/
April 2018 News & Notes

2018 AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

The AARP Community Challenge is giving grants to fund quick action projects in areas such as housing, transportation, and public space that spark change and help build momentum to improve livability for all residents. In 2017, the AARP Community Challenge awarded 88 grants. Applications are due by 5pm Eastern Time on May 16, 2018. Projects must be completed by November 5, 2018. For more information on the grant program, go to www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge.

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News & Notes