

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

April 2013

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Planners Recognized for Achievements

During the April 29th meeting of the New Hampshire Planners Association (NHPA), two planners from the Southwest Region were recognized by their peers for their accomplishments in the field.

- Carol Ogilvie, Director of the Peterborough Office of Community Development, was presented with the NHPA Lifetime Achievement Award; and
- Sara Carbonneau, Swanzey Town Planner, was the recipient of this year's NH Planner of the Year Award.

Both planners are tremendous assets to the Region and their communities. Congratulations, Carol and Sara!

Fluvial Erosion Hazard Public Information Meetings

Two public information meetings are being held to provide information on assessment work that will be conducted along stretches of the Piscataquog and the Souhegan Rivers. At these meetings, attendees will learn what fluvial erosion is, and the dramatic changes that can occur in rivers during heavy weather events. The meetings will be held on May 6th from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. at the Whipple Free Library in New Boston, and on May 2nd from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium. For additional information about these events, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Community Conversations Scheduled for Spring 2013

The Planning Commission is holding a series of community conversations across the Region during May and June of this year. These conversations are a chance for community members to share their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing the Monadnock Region now and into the future and to consider the question, 'How can we make the Monadnock Region the best place to live, learn and work for everyone?' Information shared at these events, which are free and open to the public, will be used to help inform Monadnock Region Future, an initiative to update the Regional Plan for Southwest New Hampshire. These conversations are scheduled to take place from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- May 9th - Winchester School
- May 22nd - Alstead Town Hall
- May 28th - Antrim Town Hall
- June 6th - Peterborough Town House

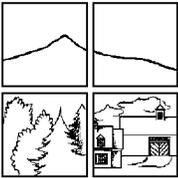
More information about these events is available at www.swrpc.org/listen or by contacting Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program

On April 23rd, the SWRPC Board of Directors approved the Transportation Advisory Committee's (TAC) Regional Transportation Improvement Program recommendations. The recommendations are a prioritized transportation project list that is submitted to NHDOT which will be considered in the development of the draft 2015-2024 State Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Working with a target ten-year budget of \$73 Million as assigned by NHDOT, the TAC reviewed twenty-four highway and bridge projects nominated by Southwest Region municipalities, the New Hampshire Bureau of Bridge Design, and the Division of Operations Highway Maintenance District IV. TAC members reviewed these projects against twelve criteria addressing the following eight themes: economic development, environment, mobility and accessibility, network significance, potential for success, safety, state of repair, and level of support. Fourteen of the twenty-four projects were recommended towards the \$73 Million target budget. A list of the final projects can be reviewed on the SWRPC webpage. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Activities

During April, SWRPC staff was active in providing communities with support in administering several Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. The City of Keene Brookbend West and Cheshire County Brookbend East Housing projects saw significant activity in the demolition and rebuilding of 70 units of affordable housing off Meadow Road/Ivy Drive in Keene. The New Ipswich Warwick Mills/High Bridge Foundation CDBG met their program goals and to date has hired the 25 workers required by the grant. The Town of Greenville High Street Emergency CDBG and Marlborough Homes CDBG projects both undertook pre-construction activities, including the preparation and opening of bids. Both projects are anticipated to begin construction this summer. Two CDBG projects are in the process of closing out after successfully completing their job creation requirements including the Town of Gilsum W.S. Badger CDBG and the Town of Nelson Apple Hill CDBG. For additional information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.



19th Annual Spring Planning And Zoning Conference

The 19th Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference is scheduled for May 11, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. The event is sponsored by the NH Office of Energy and Planning. Scheduled topics include: Planning Board and Zoning Board Basics, Roles and Responsibilities; Legal Updates on Land Use Issues; Broadband; Stormwater Management; Granite State Future; Low Impact Development; and much more. There is a \$60 registration fee which includes full conference participation, breakfast, and lunch. For additional information and to register, please visit <http://www.nh.gov/oep/events/2013PlanningandZoningConference.htm> or contact Michele Zydel, NH Office of Energy and Planning at (603)271-2215 or Michele.zydel@nh.gov

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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