



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

May 2015

Vol. 21 - No. 5

Planning Commission's Annual Meeting

There is still time to register for the Southwest Region Planning Commission's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at Keene State College. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff or visit www.swrpc.org/files/annualmeeting.pdf.

Traffic Research Season Begins

During May, the Planning Commission began activities that will provide traffic data for more than 130 different locations in the Southwest Region on behalf of the NH Department of Transportation. These important studies assist in understanding traffic growth, freight movement, provide data for road and bridge maintenance projects, and calculate vehicle miles traveled in the region and across the State. Scheduled counts this year will occur in Dublin, Gilsum, Greenfield, Greenville, Hancock, Hinsdale, Jaffrey, Keene, Langdon, Marlborough, Marlow, Peterborough, Richmond and Walpole. SWRPC can provide a limited number of additional studies to towns seeking traffic volume, speed or vehicle classification data that does not already exist. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

National Walkability Institute

In early May, Planning Commission staff participated in the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors' Action Institute to Increase Walking and Walkability in Nashville, Tennessee. Interdisciplinary state teams received instruction and guidance on their efforts to pursue statewide policy and environmental changes to increase population levels of physical activity through increased walking and walkability. Staff member Tara Germond served on the NH state team that has been working to develop a statewide action plan for improving access to safe walking and biking through advocacy and policy measures. The event was led by Mark Fenton, a national public health/planning/transportation consultant, along with a team of equally recognized faculty in the field of walkability. Attendees included ten state teams composed of representatives from public health, transportation, planning, economic development, and environmental sectors. For more information, please contact Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Planning Commission Welcomes Interns

During May, the Planning Commission welcomed three interns that will assist staff with transportation-related field work, data collection, and other ongoing projects throughout the summer. Megan Pietrowski, Nevada Mullen, and Matthew Collins are students or recent graduates from Keene State College and have completed coursework through the Geography Department, featuring a variety of human and environmental topics as well as map-making, research methods, and other studies. They are eager to apply their knowledge and skills towards local and regional planning in Southwest New Hampshire. Please join us in welcoming Megan, Nevada, and Matthew.

Staff Recertified for Local Public Agency Projects

During May, Planning Commission staff participated in Local Public Agency (LPA) trainings organized by the NH DOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance and Office of Federal Compliance. Municipalities, school groups, non-profits and others seeking to locally administer transportation projects with federal funds are required to participate in the 1½ day training in order to receive funding. Planning Commission staff took part in the training in order to provide support to municipalities seeking federal funds from transportation programs such as the Transportation Alternatives Program, Municipal Off-System Bridge Program and the Highway Safety Improvement Program. The training covered requirements for project reporting, consultant selection, bidding, quality assurance procedures and other LPA requirements. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

NH OEP Spring Planning and Zoning Conference

On May 2nd Planning Commission staff attended the NH Office of Energy and Planning Spring Planning and Zoning Conference in Concord, NH. This year's conference attracted 278 attendees including municipal officials and citizen volunteers. Sessions included: using census data in community planning, planning board basics, the role of the ZBA, rooftop solar, building, fire, and energy codes to name a few. Conference materials are available at: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/resources/conferences/spring-2015/index.htm>. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy or Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Implementation Workshop

On May 6th Planning Commission staff attended the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Implementation Workshop, hosted by the NH Community Development Finance Authority in Concord. The workshop covered the following CDBG topics: use of the online grants management system, municipal adoptions/approvals, environmental reviews, subrecipient agreements and monitoring, procurement, financial management, construction management, municipal responsibilities, housing rehabilitation, acquisition and relocation, and job counting. For more information about the workshop or CDBG, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.



NH DES 2015 Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop

On May 6th Planning Commission staff attended the NH DES 2015 Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop in Concord, NH. The program was sponsored by the American Ground Water Trust and was targeted for planners, municipal officials and commissions, and professional consultants. Workshop session topics included improving water quality through community awareness of septic system maintenance, barriers to well water testing, recreational access, nitrogen reduction, and more. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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