

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

July 2013

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Broadband Service Map Verification Project

The Planning Commission is working on the Municipal Broadband Service Map Verification Project, which is part of the NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program, to help verify and update the locations of DSL and cable in the Monadnock Region. In order to utilize local knowledge, staff recently distributed town-wide maps to municipal officials along with documents explaining the purpose of the project as well as instructions on how to edit the maps. Guidance and assistance will be made available to officials throughout the summer months. Edited maps are due back to SWRPC by the end of August. Please contact Henry Underwood or Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff with any questions or comments related to this project.

Monadnock Region Future Focus Groups Scheduled for Fall 2013

Throughout the fall of this year, Planning Commission staff will be holding a series of topic oriented focus group discussions as part of Monadnock Region Future, an initiative to update the Regional Plan for the Southwest Region. Focus groups will be held on the following topics: housing, transportation, economic development, energy, environment, and water infrastructure. Information gathered from these discussions will be used to assist staff with the development of the Regional Plan's multiple components and will be an opportunity to:

- Share what staff have heard from public outreach efforts and review conditions/trends regarding the issues and opportunities facing the Region.
- Consider, discuss, and prioritize the issues & opportunities that are most important to the Region regarding the focus group topics.
- Begin to identify strategies and solutions that address or advance the prioritized issues & opportunities.

Staff is working to confirm dates for these events. Currently, the Economic Development Focus Group is scheduled for September 20, 2013 and the Environment Focus Group will take place on October 22, 2013. For more information, please contact Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Watershed Survey

SWRPC staff is looking for volunteers to assist with administering surveys to residents within the Lake Warren watershed in Alstead, NH. A group of 20 people will be needed on August 24th & 25th. Volunteers will work as teams and training will be provided. The survey information is needed to assist SWRPC and FB Environmental Services in collecting data for a nutrient loading study of the Lake. For more information about the project or to volunteer to assist with the surveys, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

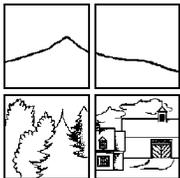
NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program Speed Test

The Planning Commission has been working on the NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMP), which seeks to understand the extent and quality of broadband in the Region and to plan for ways to encourage increased adoption and utilization in the future. In an effort to gain more information for the project, the Commission is promoting use of the NHBMP broadband speed test, which is available on the program's website at: www.iwantbroadbandnh.org/speed_test. This speed test will measure your upload speed (the time it takes to put pictures and documents from your devices to the web) and download speed (time it takes to download files from the web to your computer). This is an easy way to provide the project with important information as well as help you know what speeds you're getting from providers in your community. We encourage you to post the above link on your town's website to promote wider use of the speed test. The information collected from this speed test will give SWRPC a better understanding of broadband speeds currently available in the Region as we develop our regional broadband plan. If you have any questions relating to the speed test, how to promote it on your website, or general questions relating to the NHBMP, please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Applications

During the month of July, Planning Commission staff assisted the Towns of Hinsdale and Winchester with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications.

- The proposed project in the Town of Hinsdale involves needed infrastructure improvements at the Oak Hill Acres Cooperative. The project is led by the Cooperative with assistance from the NH Community Loan Fund. The Town of Hinsdale is sponsoring the grant and SWRPC is acting as grant writer and administrator should funding be awarded.
- The proposed project in the Town of Winchester involves the demolition and rebuilding of 30 apartments at Wedgewood Duplexes. The project is currently led by the Monadnock Affordable Housing Commission, a subsidiary of Keene Housing Authority, with the Town of Winchester sponsoring the grant and SWRPC acting as grant writer and administrator should funding be awarded. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.



Municipal Assistance Services for Master Plans

SWRPC staff is currently working with two of the Region's towns on master plan updates. Master plans should be updated every 5 to 10 years. Updates to the plans should also be considered as new information becomes available, such as US Census data. SWRPC staff is available to meet with planning boards to discuss updates to local master plans. In addition to updating text, staff can provide maps, charts, graphs, and tables relevant to specific chapters. For additional information about master plan updates or other professional planning services that are available, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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