

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

May 2021

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SWRPC Annual Meeting

On **June 15th**, at **3:30 p.m.** SWRPC will hold its 2021 Annual meeting featuring *A Discussion on Public Meetings in a Transition Beyond Covid-19*. As we anticipate moving beyond restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic relative to public meetings, it is timely to understand legal requirements, best practices and what others may be doing. Representatives from the New Hampshire Municipal Association will join us to provide information and lead a discussion on this topic. Anticipated items to be addressed include Senate Bill 95 relative to remote meetings, hybrid meetings and creative approaches being taken by communities to deal with these issues. **We ask that you register in advance** if you plan to attend the meeting. For more information **or to register**, please contact [Rich Clough](#) of SWRPC staff.

Brownfields Program Updates

On May 7th, SWRPC's Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) met to discuss results of a Supplemental Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at the former Greenfield Auto property located at 792 Forest Road in Greenfield. The .24 acre site was recently rehabilitated and is the new location for the Greenfield Forge Blacksmithing Shop which produces quality customized hand forged products and conducts blacksmithing classes and workshops. SWRPC's environmental consultant, Ransom Consulting, Inc. updated the BrAC on soils and groundwater conditions and discussed coordination efforts with the NH Department of Environmental Services MtBE Remediation Bureau to investigate potential gasoline contamination. The BrAC also approved scope of work for a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment scope at the former Tom's Auto property located on 122 and 124 Water Street in Keene. Hundred Nights, Inc. is interested in use of the property as a shelter and resource center. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

CDBG GAP Fund

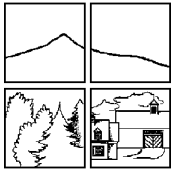
During May, SWRPC staff assisted the City of Keene in preparing and submitting applications to the newly announced Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Gap Fund for two ongoing CDBG projects. The requests, totaling \$342,500, would provide additional funds to Southwestern Community Services and the Community Kitchen enabling projects to move forward during a period of escalating construction costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the help of SWRPC staff in accessing CDBG Gap Funds, both projects are able to move forward with construction. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

Hinsdale Island Greenway Plan

A draft conceptual plan for the reuse of the Charles Dana and Anna Hunt Marsh Bridges and Hinsdale Island was recently completed as a component of the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge replacement project. Through a partnership with the University of Massachusetts Amherst Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Program, SWRPC, Windham Regional Commission (VT), the towns of Hinsdale and Brattleboro (VT), worked with a graduate student to develop the plan. The plan is based on feedback from a citizen advisory committee as well as from three public forums which were held between October 2020 and March 2021. Final products include a conceptual design, an access plan, a grading plan, a planting and habitat restoration plan, and a lighting plan. Materials are available for viewing at www.swrpc.org/hinsdale-brattleboro_planning. Project partners intend to take the conceptual design and integrate it into a report that will be submitted to the towns of Hinsdale and Brattleboro for consideration. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Childhood Lead Safety

During its May 14th meeting, the Leadership Council for Healthy Monadnock (LCHM) sponsored a presentation about the effects on children from lead exposure in homes, schools and child care centers. Kate Kirkwood is one of the nation's foremost experts on lead paint regulations, techniques for abatement and lead-safe renovation and served as presenter. Lead poisoning in children is a cause of numerous health risks and impairs a child's ability to think, learn and concentrate. Effective July 1, 2021, state law lowers the threshold of detected lead levels in blood that requires notification to parents and landlords as well as an investigation by the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which in turn will require landlords to remediate lead hazards in their properties. Fortunately, the law provides \$6,000,000 in loan guarantees to landlords and home owners to help lower the overall cost of lead hazard remediation. After July 1, 2024, newly created rental units and child care facilities within buildings built before January 1, 1978 will be required to be certified as lead safe. The DHHS Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has helpful information about the law and resources available to homeowners and landlords at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/providers.htm>. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.



Emergency Management Update

In 2021, SWRPC has had an increase in activity in updating municipal hazard mitigation plans and emergency management plans. Local work group meetings in 2020 experienced challenges with the transition from in-person to remote meetings. Recently Greenville, Temple, Bennington, Jaffrey, and Marlborough completed hazard mitigation plan updates and SWRPC is currently assisting the towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale and Surry with their updates. Additionally, Swanzey and Antrim are updating their emergency operations plans. All work group update meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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