

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

May 2022

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Annual Meeting

SWRPC's 2022 Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022 at the Keene Housing Stone Arch Senior Facility located at 835 Court Street in Keene, NH. The featured topic is: *Addressing the Housing Challenge*. Come join us and learn about the on-going update to the Housing Needs Assessment for Southwest New Hampshire. SWRPC staff will share data and results of outreach activities that have been collected to-date from stakeholders in the region. An opportunity will be provided to have your voice heard. Rob Dapice, Executive Director/CEO, New Hampshire Housing will be the featured presenter. Although the event is free, please register by June 10, 2022. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of SWRPC staff at bbaldwin@swrpc.org.

SWRPC Selected for Brownfields Assessment Award

During May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced recipients of the 2021 round of applications for brownfields assessment awards. SWRPC's proposal in the amount of \$500,000 was among those selected and will become effective October 1, 2022 for a period of up to 4 years. The grant award will allow SWRPC to continue its long-standing assessment program which was launched in 2003. To date, SWRPC's program has played a catalytic role in the development of 6 new community institutions (community center, courthouse, nonprofit headquarters, Head Start program, community theatre, library), 76 new housing units (senior, family/workforce, residential condos), new office space, hotel, community-based food co-op, industrial park, and a restaurant. In addition, some brownfields were transformed to 38 acres of green space. It is estimated that at least 215 direct new jobs have been created as a result of SWRPC's brownfields program, not including construction jobs and other indirect employment. For more information about the SWRPC Brownfields Assessment Program please visit <https://www.swrpc.org/programs-services/brownfields/> or contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Complete Streets Grant Opportunity

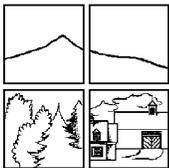
For the sixth consecutive year, the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) is pleased to announce a Complete Streets Implementation Grant Program round with up to \$95,000 available from the *You Have Our Trust* fund. Complete Streets are those that are safe and accessible for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of how they choose to travel. The application submission deadline is **September 23, 2022**. Communities in Southwest NH that have adopted complete streets policies can apply for infrastructure grants and/or non-infrastructure activities such as planning, preliminary engineering, or temporary demonstration events. In addition, MAST has opened eligibility to municipalities that have not yet adopted complete streets policies to apply for technical assistance in developing such policies. For more information or assistance putting forth a proposal, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org and visit MAST's dedicated webpage at www.mastnh.org/2022-complete-streets-grant to review application materials.

Project Nominations for Ten Year Plan Update

In the coming weeks, communities in the Southwest Region can expect correspondence from SWRPC requesting project nominations for consideration in the 2025-2034 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update process. SWRPC will be reaching out to selectboards, planning boards, highway departments, and police departments for nominations with a deadline for submitting applications by **July 29, 2022**. Communities that are considering nominations are strongly encouraged to contact SWRPC ahead of the application deadline to discuss their projects and begin a dialogue about the suitability of nominations as well as begin sharing information about the project. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](mailto:J.B.Mack@swrpc.org) of SWRPC staff.

Digital Literacy and Access Needs Assessment

Through support from the Monadnock United Way, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of local social service agencies being led by the Keene Senior Center is undertaking a regional needs assessment focused on digital literacy and access among older adults. To conduct the needs assessment, SWRPC seeks input from organizations around the region to better understand digital literacy issues. The inventory and analysis of the information will inform a report and recommendations on items such as identifying technical assistance and funding opportunities to replicating successful practices. The questionnaire may be completed either online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R8PMSL, in writing, or by contacting SWRPC to schedule a phone call, virtual meeting or in-person meeting. Later this Summer, the project will release an additional survey tool geared toward evaluating the digital literacy level among clients and customers of various service organizations. We look forward to providing more information about this additional regional assessment soon. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at 603-357-0557 or hunderwood@swrpc.org.



Community Open Mic to Provide Space for Ideas to Grow

It's time to take that idea from the cocktail napkin sketch to elevator pitch at the upcoming Idea Jam, presented by the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship and Southwest Region Planning Commission! Whether you're a policy buff, entrepreneur, local instigator, grassroots leader or everyday citizen, the Idea Jam for Community Innovators your chance to share and workshop ideas about how to help the Monadnock Region and its local communities thrive. The event will feature an open mic where attendees can pitch ideas to a welcoming and supportive peer group. No idea is too small or too big to bring to the table. It could be something brand new or an existing project. The important thing is that the idea would in some way make the Monadnock Region and its local communities more prosperous, strong, vibrant, sustainable...generally more awesome. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.hannahgrimes.com/pitchfork-community-idea>. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org or 603-357-0557.

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