



Windham Regional Commission

March 2009

www.rpc.windham.vt.us

**139 Main Street, Suite 505 Brattleboro, VT 05301
257-4547**

Putney General Store Receives Funds

On May 3, 2008, the Putney General Store, an important historic landmark and heart and soul of the Village of Putney had a serious fire. The loss of the Putney General Store business and the sight of the burned, roofless building have been of urgent concern to Putney residents since the fire. The Putney Historical Society (PHS) purchased the building on November 7, 2008 from the previous owners. The PHS's intention is to own the building for the foreseeable future, in order to secure its preservation and stabilization and to work with the community to develop a workable long term strategy for the property that includes appropriate rehabilitation and commercial re-use as a general store. The goal is to restore economic vitality to the village.

The Town of Putney applied to the Vermont Community Development Block Grant program and was recently awarded approximately \$200,000. These funds will allow the PHS to continue the stabilization of the building. The next step is to raise funds through grants, loans and donations, to rehabilitate the structure for operation as a general store. To date, the Putney Historical Society is pleased to report that they have a number of parties seriously interested in operating the store, all committed to the idea of a traditional general store, and a few of whom have significant experience in food and merchandising.

Planning Commissioner's Summer Retreat

The Land Use Institute of the Vermont Law School is planning a summer retreat for planning commission members to network with cohorts while gaining innovative and inspirational information to bring back to their respective communities. The retreat will be at the Ohana Camp on Lake Fairlee from June 5th 3pm to June 6th 3pm. This is a great opportunity and treat for volunteers working on planning to gain more knowledge from keynote speakers including Secretary of State Deb Markowitz and VT Law School land use professors Tim Duane and Sean Nolan.

Space is limited to 45 attendees. Cost is \$100 per attendee. For more information visit <http://www.vermontlaw.edu/Academics/EnvironmentalLawCenter/InstitutesandInitiatives/LandUseInstitute/Events.htm>

To submit an application, please provide the following information: Name, Town, Telephone, Home Address, E-mail, How many years have been on the planning commission? What planning challenges does your community face? What do you hope to get out of the retreat? What is your role in your local planning commission? (chair or member) What types, if any, training have you had in the past?

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than March 27, 2009 5:00 pm. Please send applications to acordero@vermontlaw.edu or Land Use Institute, Alicia Cordero, PO Box 96 Chelsea Street, South Royalton VT 05068. For questions call (802) 763-1440. Decisions are to be made by mid-April, with a projected registration deadline for participants of mid-May.

Windham Regional Commission Traffic Study Season Begins

The 2009 traffic monitoring season is coming up fast. Traffic studies, which include traffic counts and speed, on local roads will begin mid April and run to late October. Any and all Windham region towns that might be considering changing a speed zone, reclassifying a road, or looking for information to inform transportation planning and highway maintenance should request a WRC traffic study be conducted. The WRC, along with all other Regional Planning Commissions, have recently taken on a large volume of new traffic studies for the state, so time and staff resources are limited. Due to this increased number of studies, we strongly urge you to get

your traffic study requests in ASAP. Whenever possible, priority will be given to the earliest requests.

For a "Request Form" go to www.rpc.windham.vt.us to the transportation page. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a transportation planner please contact Kendall (ext 113) kengallg@sover.net or Matt (ext 120) mmann@sover.net. Also remember the WRC has equipment to perform pedestrian and bicycle counts as well as motor vehicle studies.



Reasons for a Traffic Study:

- Perform a speed survey as part of process to change the speed limit
- Determine the Average Annual Daily Traffic volume (AADT) to assess traffic impacts as part of the town's planning
- Determine the specific characteristics of traffic on a given road
- Determine the need for and effectiveness of traffic calming techniques
- In addition to recording traffic volume, speed, and class, a count can read the "gap" between and frequency of cars

WRC's Transportation Department Receives a New Workload

The Agency of Transportation (VTrans) recently started working with Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) around the state to take on some of the traffic studies they had been conducting. RPCs, including Windham Regional Commission, will have almost double the number of traffic studies to conduct

this season compared to previous seasons. WRC traffic planners will now be conducting traffic counts on local roads to be sent to the VTrans and the Federal Highway Administration. These counts help inform and support state and federal funding priorities for transportation planning and construction in our local communi-

ties. The significant increase in number of traffic counts from VTrans did come with more equipment to help perform the heavy workload, but the transportation planners will be very busy; however, we still will strive to satisfy all traffic studies requested from our local communities.

WRC Finance Manager: Mike Shaughnessy

Mike has been affiliated with the Windham Regional Commission since 1988. He first served as the accountant for the Council on Aging and changed positions to Finance Manager in 1996 when Council on Aging became its own 501(c)3 entity.

Mike's main duties involve all things of a financial nature at WRC from budgeting to contracts, grant management, payroll and payables. Mike's work also includes administrative support through human resource and office management functions. Mike also oversees all IT related aspects of the WRC.

Mike currently sits on the boards of the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance, Waypoint Visitors Center and American Legion Post 37 in his hometown of Bellows Falls. He is also an active coach in various youth sports in BF. He resides there with his wife Tracie and children Ryan and Jordan.

