

Windham Regional Commission

August 2009

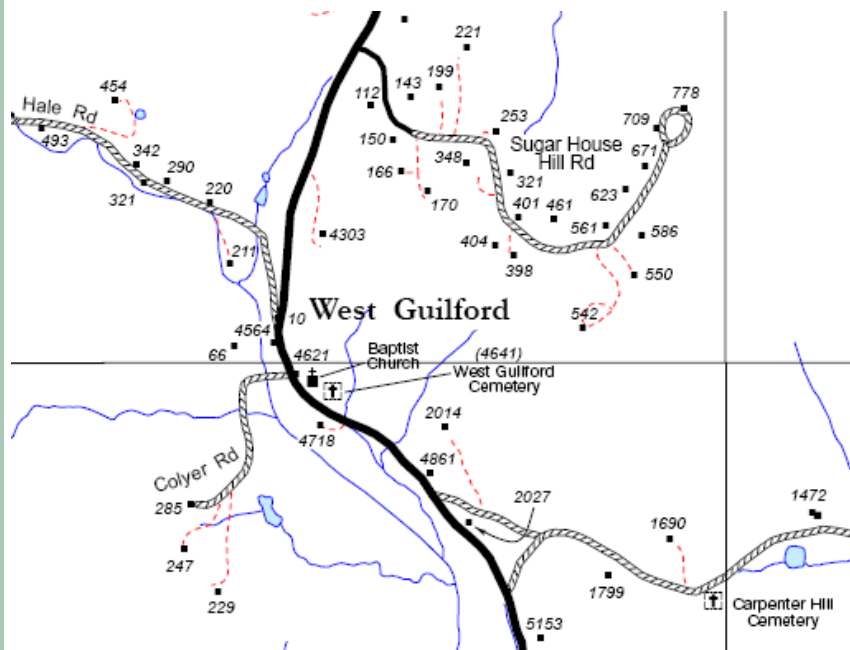
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WRC GIS Staff Have Been Busy

The GIS staff have been working on a number of mapping projects this summer. New maps include:

- **Brattleboro road maps** – We have updated Brattleboro’s 11x17 road map series to include a number of new private roads and make some corrections to road classifications (public vs. private, paved vs. unpaved, .etc). Working in close consultation with Brattleboro officials Jane Smith, E911 coordinator, and Gary King, DPW employee, a great many edits were made to the base GIS road data file. The updated GIS data will serve WRC, the Town, and many of the edits will hopefully make it into the State’s database as well. Copies of the maps can be download from the WRC web site.



- **Guilford E911 map** – We have updated a map showing all roads and E911 addresses for the town. This map is used in the town office and the fire station. The map is 34x36 inches in size. Copies are available from the WRC for \$10 each.

New Culvert Maps: Dover, Jamaica, and Newfane – New culvert maps have been produced for three towns in the Region. These maps show all culverts on town highways, along with a culvert ID number that links to a sheet listing information such as size, material, and condition.

Bicyclists and Pedestrians to be Counted in September

Discussions at the August Transportation Committee Meeting included the renewed interest by VT Agency of Transportation in determining the number of people walking and bicycling. In a June memorandum to all RPCs, VTrans explained how this information should be collected and to what purpose. The counts are to be manually performed at the same sites every September, to establish a baseline to measure future bike and pedestrian activity in relation to highway improvements. As in 2007 and 2008, the WRC will be collecting data on Canal St at Fairground Road, and on Route 30 just north of the Retreat “pull-out.” In addition to the manual counts, WRC has an automated counter that will be deployed at various locations in the region. Data from this will also be shared with VTrans.

WRC Planner to Join Brattleboro Staff

We are sad to say “good bye” to Sue Fillion, who has done so much good work to support town planning and our Brownfield program since joining the WRC team exactly six years ago, in August 2003. She’ll be leaving in September, but we also look forward to working with her as a member of the Brattleboro Planning Department staff. Sue’s work with towns on a wide variety of projects has been nothing short of exemplary, which we know those who’ve worked with her agree. Please join us in thanking Sue for her dedicated service to the WRC and wishing her all the best in her new endeavor.



Shawn Goodell of Westminster farms explains the workings of the methane digester, part of the farm's newly installed electric generation system to Bruce Gardner of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corp. Manure from the farm's approximately 1200 calves, heifers and milkers runs through this system and fuels a 225 kW electric generator before going on to traditional use as fertilizer, bedding and soil amendment. The WRC Energy Committee recently toured the farm and the nearby Green Mountain Power Co. solar photovoltaic installation. Photo: Tom Buchanan

WRC Reviews Significant Regional Development and Energy Proposals

In addition to the energy projects discussed in last month's Newsbrief, the WRC is also busy with review of regionally important residential developments under Act 250, and energy transmission projects under Section 248 of Title 30.

One of the residential developments is the Powers subdivision in Stratton which is important on two fronts. First, the subdivision depends upon communal lots for individual septic systems in a Class A watershed, and is to be built with stringent water quality monitoring requirements. The other significant aspect of this project is that it provides for conservation of approximately 70 acres of bear travel and foraging habitat in the regionally critical Sage Hill bear travel corridor.

The National Grid transmission line refurbishment project running from Bellows Falls to Brattleboro involves replacing most of the poles and the wires the length of the line as well as relocating 11.5 miles of poles from the western edge of the right of way toward the middle of it. There are numerous poles and several stretches of access roads in wetlands and there are several populations of federal and state listed rare, threatened or endangered species of plants in the right of way. The project was determined to be exempt from wetland review by both the Corps of Engineers or ANR. The WRC raised questions about water quality protection, non-native invasive species, and protection of the rare plants. National Grid filed responses to the WRC comments, ensuring the Public Service Board is aware of and can address them.

Vermont Orthophotography Gets a New Home

On July 1, 2009, VCGI Imagery program began distributing orthophotos for free from their website: www.vcgi.org/dataware. On their website you are able to use VT interactive map viewer, download compressed orthos from the VCGI data warehouse for free, purchase orthos for counties or the whole state, on media, and connect to the Imagery web map service. Current paper orthophotos can be printed out at WRC for a fee.

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