



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission 2016 Town Report

Northwest Regional Planning Commission is a multi-purpose governmental organization created by the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC implements a variety of projects and programs tailored to local, regional and statewide needs. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners.

## Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projects & Programs:

**Municipal plan and bylaw updates and related technical assistance:** Focus on predictable and effective local permitting through education and training, bylaw modernization and plan updates.

**Brownfields:** Complete environmental site assessments and fund clean-ups so properties can be sold, developed or re-developed to benefit the economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

**Transportation planning:** Coordinate local involvement in transportation decisions through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and provide services such as intersection studies, corridor plans and traffic counts.

**Emergency planning:** Better prepare our region and state for disasters by coordinating with local volunteers and VT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on emergency planning, exercises and training.

**Energy conservation and development:** Implement projects to support municipal energy conservation to save energy and tax dollars, support job training programs and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation.

**Watershed planning and project development:** Implement water quality projects and programs to protect water resources, ensure safe water supplies, enhance recreational opportunities and address known sources of pollution.

**Regional plans:** Coordinate infrastructure, community development and growth at the regional level through the development, adoption and administration of a comprehensive regional plan.

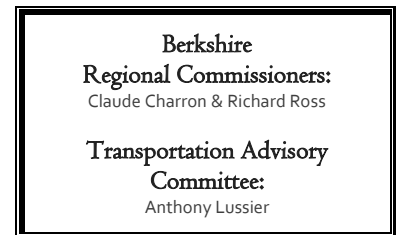
**Geographic Information System Services:** Provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

**Special projects:** Complete special projects such as downtown revitalization, recreation paths, farmland preservation, economic development and affordable housing projects.

**Grants:** Provide assistance identifying appropriate grant sources, defining a project scope and writing grant applications.

## 2016 Berkshire Projects:

- ☞ Provided technical assistance in planning and zoning.
- ☞ Assisted with updating and adoption of the Local Emergency Operations Plan.
- ☞ Completed and submitted to FEMA a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ☞ Completed an updated Town Plan draft in coordination with the Planning Commission.
- ☞ Provided regional approval of the Town Plan.
- ☞ Updated the E-911 poster map.
- ☞ Wrote a successful Municipal Planning Grant application to update the zoning regulations.
- ☞ Coordinated High Risk Rural Roads sign review/replacement project for Water Town Road and Berkshire Center Road.



This year the Commission will assist communities with water quality compliance and project implementation, complete a regional energy plan, implement our new regional plan and provide other needed services to our member municipalities. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds needed for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for local and regional planning is greatly appreciated. NRPC is your resource -- please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, mapping or other needs.