



NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BERKSHIRE TOWN REPORT - 2024

CONTACT

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NRPC PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

- Municipal plan and bylaw updates, technical assistance for local permitting
- Brownfields site assessments, cleanups and redevelopment plans
- Transportation planning and project management
- Bike and pedestrian planning and project management
- Emergency preparedness, disaster recovery and resilience
- Energy conservation, renewable energy plans and projects
- Water quality planning, grants and project management
- Regional plans for growth and development
- Geographic Information System maps and data
- Downtown and village revitalization and community development

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS MANAGED BY NRPC

- Northern Vermont Economic Development District
- Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail
- Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation, Inc.
- Clean Water Service Provider: Missisquoi & Lamoille River Basins

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

vacant seats

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

vacant seat

Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) 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.

2024 BERKSHIRE TOWN PROJECTS

- Provided technical assistance in local planning and zoning efforts.
- Completed a Local Emergency Management Plan which helps the town be prepared for disasters.
- Served as local liaison to town officials for the State Emergency Operation Center during the January severe wind and July severe weather events.
- Consulted with local officials, identified projects and provided technical assistance for Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid construction projects.
- Consulted with local officials, evaluated infrastructure projects and reviewed grant funding sources for projects that address water quality concerns.
- Provided technical assistance to East Berkshire Fire District 1 with maintaining operations and finding new funding sources, including working with state and federal funders and seeking Congressionally Directed Funding.
- Supported the Northwest Communications Union District, in which Berkshire is a member.
- Assisted the Town with the adoption (8/12/24) of updated Berkshire Land Use and Zoning Regulations to address on-farm businesses, adaptive re-use of historic structures, and to expand opportunities for home businesses.
- Healthy Roots provided business assistance to 1 farm.
- Healthy Roots purchased from a local farm to support the Northwest Farmacy CSA in partnership with the NOTCH Richford Health Center.
- Assisted with an application for an energy assessment for the Town Offices through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Completed a consultation of the municipal planning program.
- Secured \$9,000 grant to evaluate accessibility of the Town office and design needed improvements.

This year the Commission will assist our member municipalities with maximizing local, state and federal infrastructure funds, water quality project implementation, Municipal Roads General Permit compliance, local energy and climate planning, zoning bylaw modernization, emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment and other needed services. NRPC will help promote the Missisquoi and Lamoille Valley Rail Trails, assist the Northwest Communications Union District in expanding broadband access in the region, update its Land Use Plan to support housing development and coordinate Housing For All, a three-year housing development campaign. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for NRPC is greatly appreciated. We are your resource - please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, project management, mapping or other needs.