

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT 2015 Annual Report

The Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) was created in 1985 by the Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield & Warren to carry out a program of planning for the MRV directed toward its physical, social, economic, fiscal, environmental, cultural and aesthetic wellbeing. To this end, MRVPD provides professional planning, leadership, partnership, awareness, and grant support. Staffing is provided by a full-time Executive Director and a part-time Planning Coordinator. MRVPD brought \$295k in grants to the MRV this year, either through direct grant pursuit or through guidance to town officials or local entities, totaling \$2.76 million since 2009. Below are a few highlights from 2015:

Economic Development: Assisting the towns of Warren and Waitsfield in securing federal funds and developing steps to implement village enhancements as identified in their respective 2014 Vermont Downtown Action Team (V-DAT) reports.

MRVPD, in partnership with the MRV Chamber of Commerce, engaged the broad community in defining community goals and exploring pathways to economic vitality through this year's ten-part Vision & Vitality Workshop Series. This work resulted in the identification of themes, opportunities, and strategies for valley-wide economic vitality, as presented at the 2015 MRV Economic Summit.

Transportation: Undertaking the MRV Moves Active Transportation Planning Project, a robust public involvement process that seeks to articulate a unified, multi-town, watershed-wide vision for recreational trails and non-motorized transportation facilities, how they integrate with economic development, enhance visitor experiences and enhance residents' quality of life and transportation choices. The resultant MRV Moves Plan will implement this broadly held vision through the identification of specific goals and action steps needed to develop, maintain and promote non-motorized transportation facilities in the MRV as community assets for residents and visitors. <http://mrvmoves.org>



Flood Resilience: Participating in a 5-town initiative to develop a long-term approach for building flood resilience and water quality in the MRV through improved and coordinated stormwater management. The work

will result in the identification of readily achievable strategies for reducing community vulnerability to stormwater runoff, development of information and resource-sharing strategies for municipalities, and preparation for impending state regulations related to cleaning up the waters of the Lake Champlain Basin.

MRV Town Leadership Meeting: MRVPD hosted a combined meeting of the Selectboards, Planning Commissions & Development Review Boards from across the five MRV towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown & Duxbury. The well-attended valley-wide discussion focused on four important topics that transcend individual municipal boards and municipal boundaries.

Looking Forward: In the new year, MRVPD is excited to continue supporting the planning programs of its member municipalities, furthering its existing endeavors (Village Enhancements, Stormwater Management, MRV Active Transportation Plan, etc), and addressing barriers identified through the Vision & Vitality Workshop Series process (Housing, Transportation, & Downtowns) in new and exciting ways. In order to do so, MRVPD requests \$41,986 from each of its four funders, Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, and Sugarbush. This will fund two-full time employees.

A 7-voting member Steering Committee, consisting of a Selectboard member and Planning Commissioner from each of its member towns and a representative from the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce, oversee MRVPD activities. Representatives from Sugarbush and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) serve as non-voting members. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at the General Wait House in Waitsfield, 7pm.

Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee

Bob Ackland (Warren), Chair	Steve Shea (Waitsfield)
Jim Sanford (Warren), Vice Chair	Peter MacLaren (MRV Chamber)
Jared Cadwell (Fayston)	Margo Wade (Sugarbush)
Carol Chamberlin (Fayston)	Laurie Emery (CVRPC)
Kari Dolan (Waitsfield)	

Respectfully Submitted, Joshua Schwartz, Executive Director
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