

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Director's Report
September 2008**

Mad River Valley Path Association

- Whiteside Parcel
Town of Warren, MRPA, and MRVPD submitted a VTrans Transportation Enhancement Grant application for the purchase of this 3 acre parcel. The proposal consists of the land being owned by the Town of Warren, who would then grant an easement to the Path. The grant would be administered by the Town of Warren.
- Town Pond & Marsh Loop
The MRPA and Open Hearth discussed both the proposed Marsh Loop and Town Pond sections of the Village Path with the Waitsfield Selectboard, receiving their approval to apply for required state approvals.
- Mad Dash
The Mad Dash is scheduled for September 21st.

Housing

- We've submitted a mini-grant application to the Central Vermont Community Land Trust for the development of a Valley specific accessory apartment project, consisting of a "how-to" brochure, education of local officials and builders, and exploration of local resources for apartment development. This project focuses on Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston, and Moretown. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10/7 at 7:30 AM.

Mad River Byway

- The new Wait House kiosk has been temporarily placed behind the Wait House barn. I am coordinating the removal of the existing Vermont Information structure and the erection of the new kiosk with VTrans, the Byway group, and the Town. I am also coordinating the design of the panels, which are proposed to be designed by the following: 1) Mad River Byway, 2) State of VT map, 3) Mad River Path, and 4) Waitsfield Historical Society.
- I am working with the Town of Warren to place and design an interpretive sign.

Valley Futures Network

- The Steering Group continues to meet monthly. Various work groups are also meeting. One of the recent discussions has focused on the potential development of a "time bank" system. The next Knoll Farm retreat is scheduled for Sept 30-Oct 1.

Valley Moves

- Mad Bikes
Bikes are being ridden and program is working smoothly.
- Van/Car Pooling
I talked about Valley-wide transportation options as a guest on Rob Williams' WDEV radio show.
A handful of individuals have approached me inquiring about ride-sharing. I have forwarded them to the state's database (www.vermont.gov)
VTrans has received a fair amount of interest in the program since it's announcement (5 vanpools signed up, 5 more showing strong interest)
GO Vermont brochures should be available the week of September 15.
- Next Meeting scheduled Sept 25th

Transportation

- I attended a MRV Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to discuss potential revisions to the Mad Bus schedule.

Energy

- A “Button Up” weatherization workshop will be held Thursday, October 2nd, from 6:30 – 9:00 PM, at Yestermorrow. Attendance is free of charge, but RSVP is requested. The workshop is partnership between Town Energy Coordinators, the VFN Energy Group, MRVPD, Carbon Shredders, Chittenden Bank, Mad River Chamber, Central Vermont Community Action Council, State of Vermont, and Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. Chittenden Bank has donated funds to cover printing costs.
- I presented this information and spoke to energy efficiency as a guest of Bob Ferris and Gregor Barnum on their Carbon Shredders WDEV radio show.

Barn Census

- I have been working with Carlene Marie Ramus to update the Valley’s barn information.

Forests Wildlife Communities Project Steering Committee

- The Project Steering Committee met and discussed the status of the project and options for the future. A Summit is scheduled for October 30th, which will present the findings from April’s group project and identify future steps (Multi-town corridor mapping? Overlay zones?).

MRV Chamber

- I introduced myself at the Chamber’s annual meeting. The Chamber has hired a new marketing firm focusing on increased internet presence.

Fayston

- I attended their DRB meeting as well as the PC’s second public hearing on the proposed Town Plan revisions. I met with the ZA to discuss the Town Plan and other town and regional projects.

Waitsfield

- I attended the three board summit where the MRVPD was requested to provide future assistance to the PC, DRB and ZA. I explained my willingness and outlined potential areas of expertise.
- I am assisting the PC in the revision of it’s sign ordinance.
- I attended a SB meeting, where we discussed the outcome of the three board summit and I further outlined the role that MRVPD could play with the town.
- Attended a meeting on Fluvial Erosion Hazards with DEC River Management, CVRPC, and Friends of the Mad River. The meeting focused on bringing Waitsfield’s ZA up to speed on related work that has been completed within the town. A future meeting will be held with the Waitsfield PC to further the discussion.

Warren

- I have been coordinating with Town of Warren on the placement and design of Byway interpretive signage.