

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

Mad River Valley Path Association

- Joshua attended the most recent Board meeting and meetings of the Land Owner Committee and Strategic Planning Committee.
- Joshua is facilitating a work session with the Board during their November meeting.
- MRPA is developing a Strategic Planning work session after the new year.

Housing

- The Mad River Valley Housing Coalition's (MRVHC) accessory apartment project was awarded to Karen Winchell.
- The MRVHC is working on education material for its new land bank program. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 12/2 at 7:30 AM.
- Joshua and members of the MRVHC attended the 2008 VT Housing Conference in S. Burlington.

Mad River Byway

- Nearly all Byway kiosk and interpretive sign locations have been identified (Lincoln Gap vs. MRG is still up in the air). State permitting requests will commence once the location has been shored up.
- Joshua attended the 10/23 meeting of the Byway Committee.
- The concrete pad for the Wait House location has been poured, with the kiosk expected to be erected within the week.
- Warren will be home to an interpretive sign near to the covered bridge.
- At the December 4th Byway Committee meeting Joshua will be leading a discussion of themes for the Mad River Byway.

Valley Futures Network

- The Steering Group continues to meet monthly. Various work groups are also meeting.
- A subset of the group met to discuss the group's overall structure and future viability. A larger group meeting on this topic will commence during the 3rd week in December.
- Joshua attended a two-day Transition Town Training in Cambridge, MA. It was a worthwhile experience that will hopefully help shape VFN's future developments.

Transportation

- GMTA and CCTA are discussing the possibility of a merger. This topic will be discussed at our Nov. 20th Steering Committee meeting.
- The Mad Bus schedule has been finalized. The brochure is planned to be released by the end of November.

Energy

- A "Button Up" weatherization workshop is scheduled for 11/20 at Warren Elementary School..

Barn Census

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

Friends of the Mad River

- Joshua attended the 10/29 membership dinner of Friends of the Mad River
- MRVPD wrote a letter of support for FMR's recently pre-approved Project Implementation grant application through the Center for Clean and Clear. This project will address priority projects identified in the upper Mad River Corridor Plan, including working with Waitsfield and Warren to further fluvial erosion hazard work.

CLG

- The CLG Rural Resources Committee met on 11/6 and discussed future projects.

Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership

- Joshua met with the partners on 11/12 and discussed future cooperation and projects.

Forests Wildlife Communities Project Steering Committee

- The FWCP summit on October 30th was a success. The agenda included presentations on forest fragmentation, community mapping results, a build-out analysis, and a prioritization exercise. The consensus from the attendees was that future work should be done to further existing mapping work and focus on protecting specific travel corridors. A December meeting of the FWCP Steering Committee will be scheduled.
- Joshua attended the Forest Conservation and Urban Forestry Planning Workshop on 10/21.

Tri-Town Selectboard Meeting

- The tri-town Selectboard meeting on November 13th was also a success. Attendees included the three towns, MRV Solid Waste Alliance (John Malter), MRV Health Center (Sue Frechette & Chuck Martell), MRV Seniors (Valerie Hale & Helmut Hietzker), MRV Recreation District (Ken Felderman), Valley-wide Constable Association (Peter Laskowski), GMTA (Chris Cole, Tawnya Kristen, Steve Gladczuk, & Margo Wade), VTrans (Nancy Rice), and Central Vermont Humane Society (J. Schwartz for Marcia Bellas).

Community Calendar

- The Mad River Valley Community Calendar has been released. Two items not fully included so far are a month by month view and recurring events. These two items are being worked on.

Fayston

- Joshua attended the Selectboard's meeting on 10/27.

Waitsfield

- Joshua spent a morning providing technical assistance to the ZA.
- Joshua submitted a letter to the VR discussing the regional implications of the water project.
- Joshua attended the Waitsfield Selectboard's Business Meeting on 10/27.
- Waitsfield submitted Municipal Planning Grant application focusing on their impending Town Plan rewrite.

Warren

- Joshua attended the Selectboard's meeting on 10/14.

- Joshua attended the Warren Village Visioning meeting on 11/10.