

# Mad River Valley Planning District Director's Report December 2009

## Mad River Valley Path Association

- MRPA's part time grant writer will be employed until the end of December.
- The deadline for the MRPA ED position is 12/15.
- Land Owner Committee on 11/4.
- The Greenway section has reopened after being closed for hunting season.
- Interested parties met to discuss next steps in regards to the Whiteside Parcel after its denial through the Transportation Enhancement Program.
- The easement between the Path and Sugarbush for the section on the west side of the Sugarbush Snowmaking pond is under review by Sugarbush.

## Mad River Byway

- Kiosks and interpretive sign content and design are nearly complete. Last minute edits are planned to be adopted at the January Byway meeting.
- MRVPD is working with the Byway Committee, MRV Chamber, CV Chamber, and CVRPC for the installation of a MR Byway *supplemental guide sign* on I-89.
- A draft brochure has been developed, which includes a map and info about the Byway.
- The next Byway meeting is scheduled for 1/11, 9 am, at the General Wait House.

## Valley Futures Network

- Final presentations of the UVM Service Learning Class, *Local Community Initiatives*, took place on 12/2 at the Warren School. The 15 UVM students presented the projects that they have been working on with local partners: Structure of the Valley Futures Network, Mad River Path Association and Members, and an Inventory of Renewable Energy Projects. This new relationship with UVM has been a great success and will be replicated fall 2010.
- Joshua attended a meeting on 12/9 to discuss how the MRV can enhance its agricultural and other entrepreneurial enterprises. The group is scheduling an event in February which will include speakers from Hardwick's Center for an Agricultural Economy and breakout sessions.
- The 12/11 VFN meeting included discussion of creating an executive committee, efforts to enhance agricultural and other entrepreneurial endeavors in the Valley, and focused on fall 2010 UVM projects.

## Forests Wildlife Communities Project Steering Committee

- Meetings are currently taking place with each town's CC, PC, and DRB to present the findings of the Arrowwood Studies and provide education on the Valley's wildlife habitat.
- Joshua and VNRC staff applied for \$30k in funding through the Conservation Alliance to prioritize key wildlife corridors & land conservation priorities, continue conservation advocacy with local planning and conservation commissions, and develop conservation initiatives with realtors and engineers.
- A Welcome Wagon Training took place on 12/2 at Knoll Farm. The Training is part of VT Forest, Parks & Recreation's pilot project in the MRV that provides information about planning for wildlife conservation to new large lot property owners (25 acre+).

## Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership

- On 12/11 VLT reps, Paul Hartshorn, and others with VHCB to review the recently submitted request to purchase the development rights on the Hartshorn Farm. Local leverage comes from the Waitsfield SB (\$20k) and the Mad River Fund (\$50k).

## Kingsbury Community Farm

- The VT Foodbank has interviewed finalists for the farm lease opportunity. A signed lease is expected by the first of the year.
- Yestermorrow is renovating a room in the farm house.
- Two sun-tracker solar panels have been erected at the site.
- A webpage has been launched: [http://www.vtfoodbank.org/about\\_us/kingsbury\\_farm/](http://www.vtfoodbank.org/about_us/kingsbury_farm/).

## Energy

- All eligible MRV entities submitted pre-applications by the 12/8 deadline for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Competitive Local Government Sub-Grants. Joshua held a grant workshop and coordinating event for the MRV on 11/24. The program provided 5 categories: Energy Efficiency Retrofits, Financial Incentive Programs for Energy Efficiency, Implementation of Transportation Projects, Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings, and Traffic Signals and Street Lighting. MRV towns and schools applied for the following 90% grants:
  - Waitsfield Town
    - Financial Incentives, \$18,900
      - Development of a Clean Energy Assessment District
    - Energy Efficiency Retrofits, \$72,093
      - General Wait House
        - Spray foam insulation in attic
        - Exterior storm sashes
        - Propane gas boiler (98% efficient)
        - Heating registers, zone dampers, thermostats
      - Town Garage
        - Oil furnace (84% efficient)
      - Fire Station
        - Spray foam insulation at exterior walls and soffets.
        - Propane gas boiler (98% efficient)
  - Waitsfield School
    - Energy Efficiency Retrofits, \$55,000
      - HVAC upgrades, including new air handlers and ventilators
  - Warren Town
    - Energy Efficiency Retrofits, \$57,780
      - Municipal Offices
        - Spray foam insulation at crawl space
        - Cellulose in attic
        - Exterior storm windows
      - E Warren Schoolhouse
        - Spray foam insulation at crawl space
        - Cellulose in attic
        - Blown-in insulation in exterior walls and attic
        - Exterior storm windows
      - 1867 Village School
        - Exterior storm windows
  - Warren School
    - Energy Efficiency Retrofits, \$18,000
      - Gymnasium lights
      - Kitchen appliances
  - Fayston Town
    - Energy Efficiency Retrofits, \$20,000
      - Cellulose insulation in attic
    - Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings, \$55,000
      - Pellet Boiler
  - Fayston School
    - Energy Efficiency Retrofits, \$55,000
      - HVAC upgrades, including air handlers & CO2 sensors
- The 11/23 MRV Button-Up weatherization workshop at Yestermorrow was a success, with 12 people in attendance.

Etc

- The MadBus has commenced.
- Sugarbush began its season on 12/4. Mad River Glen plans on opening on 12/12.
- Joshua has begun meeting with MRV selectboards to present the 2009 Data Report and request funding for FY11. Joshua will be meeting with Fayston and Waitsfield on 12/14.