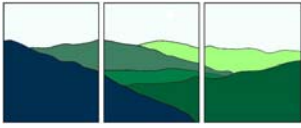


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December 2010



NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative Newsletter

Plan Locally. Act Regionally.

In This Issue

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Upcoming Events

Visit [our website](#) for more
info on the following events:

December 17th, 2010
Soil & Water
Conservation Winter
Meeting

January 1st, 2011
Free coffee at Toymakers
Cafe
Falls Village, CT

January 3rd, 2011
Barn Grant
pre-applications due

February 28th, 2011
NRCS grant applications
due

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Jocelyn,

The Collaborative received an early Christmas gift this year, a **\$10,000 grant from CT Main Street!**

These dollars will help us put our Village Center Vitality Strategies into action and our new partnerships with CT Main Street and Northeast Utilities come with a commitment to devote their staff time as well to helping us keep our main streets and village centers vital.

We have also signed a contract with Falls Village to assist with their Town Plan update process over the next two years. We hope other towns will consider our services when planning next year's budget.

We are thankful for these new partnerships this holiday season and look forward to another year of opening doors to critical funding for our communities. - Chris & Jocelyn

Citizen Planning Award Goes to Ruth!

On December 3rd Ruth Skovron received the 2010 Citizen Planning Award from the CT Chapter of the American Planning Association for her exceptional efforts- Tom, Jocelyn & Chris joined in the celebration. The award plaque says it best:

2010 Citizen Planning Award
For her exceptional vision and tireless support to create & sustain the NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative



Tom, Ruth, Jocelyn, & Chris

Sharon Adopts Incentive Housing Zone!

On November 29th the Town of Sharon became the first in the state to adopt an officially approved Incentive Housing Zone! This not only qualifies the town for up to \$76,000 in incentive payments, it also creates the opportunity for an **additional 32 homes that are affordable** to young families, seniors, and emergency service volunteers who earn less than \$67,000 a year.

This need was identified in the 2006 Town Plan. Studying and adopting the Incentive Housing Zone was a forward thinking approach to putting Town Plan goals into action.

To see the Lakeville Journal article about this [click here](#). For Jocelyn's letter to the editor praising Sharon's efforts see this weeks Lakeville Journal.

Touring Accessory Apartments

Our accessory apartment home tour was a great success. On November 13th, Patrick Hare, led eleven interested homeowners on a tour of three accessory apartments in Cornwall.

We learned about efficient ways to use and convert space and talked with homeowners about their experience being landlords.

The Accessory Apartment program has been launched in Cornwall, Salisbury, Sharon, and Kent. Next up...Falls Village.



The Accessory Apartment Program is an initiative of HousingUs & Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. For more information, visit www.housingus.org.

Collaborative Awarded \$10K Grant from CT Main Street

[NWCT VILLAGE CENTER SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING DESIGN PROJECT-Regional Theme, Local Flavor](#)

We are excited to report that our grant application to CT Main Street was successful! Activities under this grant will include a regional workshop to discuss our signage & wayfinding needs, possible regional themes and designs (with the assistance of a professional graphic sign designer) and then workshops in three pilot project towns to discuss the specific needs, locations, & designs in these towns. The three pilot project towns for the town-specific workshops under this current round of funding will be Salisbury, Sharon & Cornwall.

Work will begin in January 2011 and be completed by September 2011. All member towns will be invited to participate in the regional workshop under this grant and in future funding opportunities.

A big thanks to the Community Foundation of Northwest CT for agreeing to be our fiscal sponsor for this grant.

New Resources Available to You

[NRCS Currently Accepting Applications for Conservation Funds](#)

Applications for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) are currently being accepted and are **due February 28, 2011**.

For more information visit www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Slides on Cross Acceptance Process for Update of State Plan of Conservation & Development

See the Regional Planning Documents section of our [website](#).

**Reminder 2011 Barn Grants!
Pre-applications Due January 3, 2010**



These grants can be used for conditions assessments, feasibility studies, and stabilization.

The CT Trust for Historic Preservation is now accepting pre-applications for the 2011 BARN GRANT. For more information on this go to: www.connecticutbarns.org

May your days be merry & bright.

Happy holidays,

Jocelyn Ayer & Chris Wood
Collaborative Planners

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