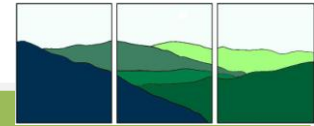


NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative Newsletter

Plan Locally. Act Regionally.



Dear Collaborative Partner,

A week of rain isn't keeping our spirits down here at the Collaborative. We have too much good news to report:

- Regional Housing Breakfast Forums being held in Kent & Torrington (June 16th & June 1st): **"Creating the Housing We Need for the People We Need"**
- Funding to support our local businesses, create jobs, and **keep our village centers vital! Incredible funding opportunity** through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program
- Accessory Apartment Workshop being held in Lakeville, June 8th
- Falls Village Town Plan Survey gets great response
- New York Times covers affordable housing in Salisbury

Read more about all this below. Sunshine is on its way.

Best,
Jocelyn & Chris - Collaborative Planners

CREATING THE HOUSING WE NEED

Breakfast Forum: June 16th @ 7:30am
KENT TOWN HALL

Come hear about all the resources available to your community to plan for and build the housing options we need for young teachers, fire & ambulance volunteers, our parents and our children- WITH community input and support and WITHOUT conflict and court fights.

To REGISTER NOW for the Kent forum contact Dan McGuinness at 860-868-7341. To register for the Torrington forum on June 1st contact Rick Lynn at 860-491-9884.

For Details: See the full event flyer on [our website](#).

NWCT VILLAGE CENTER SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING INITIATIVE

Awarded additional grant funding

Our thanks go to the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut who awarded the Collaborative a \$2,450 grant to support our regional signage workshop.

Both our regional and local signage workshops held to date have been well attended and very productive. The signs & wayfinding systems designed through these workshops will direct residents and visitors to our local businesses and add to our village center's historic character and sense of place. AND they are already being implemented! **Look for an example- being installed on Academy Street in Salisbury next month!**

The local signage workshops that have been held in Cornwall, Salisbury, and Sharon were made possible through a grant from Connecticut Main Street Center.

FUNDING TO CREATE JOBS & KEEP OUR VILLAGE CENTERS VITAL

STEAP funding proposal

On May 10th we met with our member towns' first selectmen to discuss the next steps in putting our Village Center Vitality strategies into action. This meeting was hosted by Rick Cantele, President & CEO of Salisbury Bank & Trust.

We discussed an incredible opportunity we have right now for each of our towns to apply for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funding to:

- **Support our local businesses** by creating a website for residents & visitors to promote our local businesses, including a coordinated schedule of events.
- **Assist our town's economic development commissions**, study groups and merchant associations to put their plans into action.
- **Create jobs and fill vacant storefronts** through focused marketing of business opportunities in our towns.
- **Build the signage and wayfinding systems** identified as priorities through our local Village Center signage workshops.

This can be done cost efficiently and with expert professional assistance if we all work together. The Collaborative's proposal is currently being considered by our towns and many of them have already expressed excitement and commitment to making it happen.

FALLS VILLAGE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Town begins Town Plan update process with a bang

The Collaborative continues to assist the Falls Village Planning & Zoning Commission with updating their Town Plan. We got a great response rate to the Town Plan survey last month.

To view the survey results and the Town Plan update homepage, [click here](#).

ACCESSORY APARTMENT WORKSHOP

June 8th @ 5:30am, Salisbury Bank-Lakeville

HousingUs, an initiative of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation presents another workshop on how to turn underutilized space in your home into an accessory apartment. The Accessory Apartment Program Coordinator, Jocelyn Ayer, will be on hand to take homeowners through each step in the process and answer questions.

Join us at the Lakeville Branch of Salisbury Bank & Trust to hear about the resources available to you through the Accessory Apartment Program. Following the presentation there will be a panel discussion including a homeowner and a contractor experienced with accessory apartments. There will also be a bank representative on the panel to talk about financing options.

Please **RSVP** to Jocelyn at jayer@housingus.org or by leaving a message at 413-229-0370 ext. 105. For more information on the Accessory Apartment Program please visit www.housingus.org.

New Resources Available

2010 CENSUS DATA ON CONNECTICUT'S NORTHWEST CORNER TOWNS

This report prepared by David Grossman summarizes the population and housing information that is currently available from the American FactFinder website of the Bureau of the Census in a very reader friendly format. For a copy [Contact Jocelyn](#)

New York Times story on Affordable Housing in Salisbury

The Real Estate section of the New York Times last Sunday included an article describing the need for and response to affordable housing in Salisbury, CT bringing attention to this critical issue for all our towns.

To view the article, [click here](#).