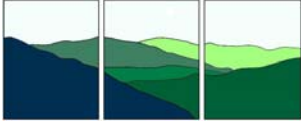


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November 2010

NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative Newsletter

Plan Locally. Act Regionally.



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Upcoming Events

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

November 6th, 2010
Our Energy Future
1-5pm Litchfield HS
Litchfield, CT

November 13th, 2010
House Tour of Accessory Apartments-10am
Cornwall, CT

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)
 Related Topics

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Jocelyn,

We continue to devote our energies to our member towns' housing & village vitality challenges (rather than raking the leaves piling up in our yards!). In October we organized:

- a successful annual meeting (where significant quantities of pie were consumed and critical information exchanged),
- a tour of our village centers with a group of potential funders, and
- a well attended workshop on How to Create Accessory Apartments

November brings us grant opportunities to implement our Village Center Vitality strategies and a house tour of accessory apartments in Cornwall. To learn more, read on or visit our [website](#) and click on "contact us".

Acting on Village Center Vitality

Step 1: Signage & Wayfinding Grant



Well designed signage can help our village center businesses by helping visitors find them. This was a critical issue expressed at our Village Center Vitality (VCV) focus group meetings. The Collaborative has been invited to apply to CT Main Street for their Preservation of Place grant program to assist our towns with this issue beginning with three pilot towns. The application is due November 19th and decisions will be made next

month. We will be talking with our member towns about participating in this and other grant opportunities. *If you are interested in signage and wayfinding in your town, contact us.*

We continue to work hard to find the funding we will need to act on our VCV Strategies. We have several meetings set up with potential funders to do just that- stay tuned.

House Tour of Accessory Apartments

Saturday, November 13th 10am

What do accessory apartments look like and how do they work? Find out, Saturday November 13th!

The tour will be led by Patrick Hare, a Cornwall resident who has owned and written books on accessory apartments. The tour will visit

a home with a newly installed apartment, a home where there is a "service exchange" between the owners and the tenants, and a home with a long history of accessory apartments in a variety of configurations. At each home, both owners and tenants will be available to discuss how the accessory apartments work for them.

Registration is free and can be made by emailing Pat Hare at hareplanning@yahoo.com or by leaving a message at 860.672.2315. Callers should leave a phone number in order to be contacted if the Tour is postponed to the rain date on Sunday, November 14th. The Tour will start at the Wandering Moose Café, just across the Covered Bridge in West Cornwall. Carpools will be formed to visit three homes. They will return to the Moose about 12 p.m.

The NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative has partnered with HousingUs and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to write Guides for homeowners and provide program coordination. For more information about the HousingUs accessory apartment program, please visit www.housingus.org.

Pie & Planning Annual Meeting

Makes front page news



"Thank you for the most delicious apple pie I have ever eaten and for organizing what turned out to be a very informative and enlightening gathering."
-Attendee

Twenty-six people representing Planning & Zoning Commissions, Conservation Commissions, Housing organizations, and Boards of Selectmen attended the Collaborative's Annual Meeting on October 25th. Each representative reported on the important work their committees and organizations have been working on to address housing, economic development, & conservation issues in our region. Chris & Jocelyn gave updates on the Collaborative's work over the last year, highlighting specific resources developed for our towns.

To see the Lakeville Journal's front page article on the meeting, [click here](#).

Many attendees asked us to provide these forums for the exchange of ideas & information more often. We will continue to work to bring you these opportunities more than once a year.

New Resources Available to You

2011 Barn Grants!
Pre-applications Being Accepted Now



Ever wonder how you might help save those old barns that help define our towns' rural character? The CT Trust for Historic Preservation is helping towns, non-profits, and private barn owners do just that through their Barn Grants.

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 BARNS GRANT. The Trust will notify

those applicants who will be asked to go forward with a full application by January 1, 2011. For more information on this go to: www.connecticutbarns.org

Note: This website also contains a searchable inventory of barns in your town!

Farm Protection Strategies Guide Updated

Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland: The American Farmland Trust, a national organization that conducts outreach in Connecticut, has published an updated version of its guide to help landowners and communities identify state and federal programs available to protect farmland and fund farm conservation practices. The updated version includes new detailed information on the Joint State-Town Farmland Preservation Program, the CT Agriculture Viability Grants program, and tax considerations specific to the 2006 Federal Tax Code. For a copy, [visit our website](#).

Sharon Eligible for Incentive Payments

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has sent letters to Old Saybrook, Wallingford, Sharon, Torrington, New London and East Lyme informing them that their applications for Incentive Housing Zones (IHZ) under the HOME Connecticut statute have received a "preliminary determination" that they are eligible for incentive payments for creating their zones.



The municipalities have been given a Nov. 30 deadline for adopting the incentive housing zone regulations and design standards. If approved, the six would be the first Incentive Housing Zones approved in Connecticut under the 2007 statute. The NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative is working with Sharon on this through its IHZ planning grant.

Now we are going out to rake leaves!

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Ayer & Chris Wood
Collaborative Planners

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