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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS...**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 23, 2010, <i>NCC Board Meeting</i> , 3-5:00 p.m., NCC Offices | August 11, 2010, <i>Transportation Advisory Committee</i> , 3-5:30 p.m., NCC Offices. |
| June 23, 2010, <i>NCC Quarterly Rep Meeting</i> , 5:30—7:30 p.m., The Barn, Rocks Estate, Bethlehem. | August 18, 2010, <i>NCC Board Meeting</i> , 3-5:00 p.m., NCC Offices |
| July 7, 2010, <i>CEDS Energy Subcommittee</i> , 2-4:00 p.m., NCC Offices. | August 25, 2010, <i>NCC Quarterly Rep Meeting</i> , 5:30—7:30 p.m., The Barn, Rocks Estate, Bethlehem. |
| July 7, 2010, <i>Ammonoosuc Summer Series</i> —Rare, Endangered and Threatened Species and Important Natural Communities, 7-9:00 p.m., The Barn, Rocks Estate, Bethlehem. | Sept. 1, 2010, <i>CEDS Energy Subcommittee</i> , 2-4:00 p.m., NCC Offices. |
| July 20, 2010, <i>Scenic Byways</i> , 11-1:00 p.m., NCC Offices. | Sept. 1, 2010, <i>Ammonoosuc Summer Series</i> —Ice Jams, 7-9:00 p.m., The Barn, Rocks Estate, Bethlehem. |
| August 4, 2010, <i>CEDS Meeting</i> , 2-4:00 p.m., NCC Offices. | Sept. 10, 2010, <i>GCRCC</i> , 10-2:00 p.m., NCC Offices. |
| August 4, 2010, <i>Ammonoosuc Summer Series</i> —Invasive Aquatic Plants, 7--9:00 p.m., The Barn, Rocks Estate, Bethlehem. | |



North Country Council
Regional Planning Commission

POINTS NORTH

A Regional Report From The North Country Council

North Country Council, 107 Glessner Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574

June 2010

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Wren Opens Second Local Works Farmers Market in Berlin

Article by: *Marilynne Cooper, Executive Director WREN*



Photo Courtesy—WREN

The Local Works Farmers Market is coming to Berlin this summer! For the last two summers, the Local Works Farmers Market and Outdoor Marketplace has operated twice-weekly from its current location at WREN in Bethlehem. This year Local Works is expanding its venues to include a Thursday evening market on Main Street in Berlin.

WREN is excited to be able to offer this great, two-town opportunity to the greater North Country community. The idea for the market grew out of the feasibility study that WREN is currently conducting in regard to a satellite WREN program in Berlin. "When we realized that there were no other farmers markets within 30 miles, we saw this as a really easy way to test the waters," said Marilynne Cooper, WREN's executive director. "With little overhead cost, we can achieve two goals with one project –

bring a burst of lively economic development energy to downtown and at the same time get a firsthand reading on the entrepreneurial opportunities and challenges of Berlin."

WREN is excited to be able to offer this great, two-town opportunity to local vendors in the greater North Country community. All farmers, crafters, artisans, local product vendors and WREN members who register to participate in the Bethlehem Saturday morning market will automatically have the option to be part of the Berlin Thursday evening market at no extra cost. Although the Bethlehem Market will open as usual on Memorial Day weekend, May 29, from 10am-2pm, the opening date for the Local Works Berlin Farmers Market is set for Thursday, July 1, 3-7 pm, and will run weekly through September. Members can participate in either one or both of these markets.

Laura Jamison, a Berlin resident, has been hired to coordinate the local efforts. She is still actively seeking farmers and vendors interested in participating in the 2010 market. Laura, who has been part of Berlin Planning and the Master Plan process says, "This is

an exciting way to implement Berlin's goals of downtown revitalization, economic development and sustainability." She will be working with Heather Harvey, the current Bethlehem market coordinator, to get this project off the ground as soon as possible. So far, 50 vendors have signed up to participate in the Berlin market, which will take place on Mechanic Street just off of Main Street, where WREN will be opening a small satellite office this summer. The Berlin Main Street program will be providing music each week.

"This is the perfect venue for both emerging entrepreneurs and seasoned vendors," added Cooper. "It's a low-risk opportunity to try out products, market your services and grow your customer base in a lively, friendly atmosphere."

The Local Works Farmers Market project is supported in part by funding from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation, a USDA RBEG grant and a donation by the Berlin Industrial Development and Parks Authority (BIDPA). For more information, call WREN at 603-869-9736 or email wren@wrencommunity.org.

Planner's Corner

Article By: Community Planning

Draft Regional Impact Guidelines Available for Review

In New Hampshire communities, local land use boards are required to determine when a local development project might have the potential for creating regional impacts. (N.H. RSA 36:54-58.) A development with the potential for regional impact (DRI) is a proposal with potential impacts beyond its municipal boundaries. These statutes establish a framework to be followed by a community that is reviewing such a development. Once a DRI determination is made, the abutting communities and the regional planning commission are granted the status of abutter. As "abutters" they receive timely notice and are allowed to furnish timely input. The municipi-

ality with jurisdiction then considers the interests of other potentially affected municipalities when making its decisions.

North Country Council staff has noticed confusion in our region about what constitutes a DRI. Despite statutory language defining a DRI, conflicts have arisen because this confusion then affects a community's perception about whether, as the host of the proposed development, the community has any legal responsibility to notify or consider its neighbors. Conflicts have arisen with large developments on municipal boundaries when the adjacent community was not afforded a voice in the planning process.

In response, the North Country Council staff decided to develop a set of guidelines to

assist communities in determining when to provide notice under the DRI statute. NH RSA 36:56, II, enables each regional planning commission to develop regional guidelines with public participation. NCC developed a draft set of guidelines and held two regional roundtable meetings this spring, in Lancaster and Jackson, to gather input from local planning boards and others who have to comply with NH RSA 36:54-58. Revisions were made to the draft guidelines based on these discussions. The revised draft can be downloaded from the North Country Council website at www.nccouncil.org. Please send us your comments on the revised draft by email to cbont@nccouncil.org by July 31, 2010, or by mail to the NCC office. A final draft incorporating these comments as

appropriate will be presented to the NCC Representatives for consideration for adoption at the NCC Annual Meeting this fall. We thank all of those who have contributed their thoughts and experiences to this project.



Lempster Wind Farm

Photo Credit: <http://kategale.wordpress.com/2009/10/page/9/>

UPDATE

As Director of Tri-County CAP Transit (TCCAP Transit), I want to thank the towns that decided to help fund the Carroll County Transit system. I want to recognize the county and thank them also. Our projected start day was July 1st of this year; unfortunately the start date will need to be pushed a bit further out due to the late arrival of the vehicles. We were fortunate to have received our vehicles (4-16 passenger and 4-8 passenger busses with wheelchair accessibility and bike racks) with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). My understand-

ing is the amount of vehicles throughout the country being ordered with ARRA funds has overwhelmed the manufacturers, thus production times are later than expected. Still, the vehicles would have cost this project \$540,000 without ARRA assistance, so we ask for your patience and understanding while we await their arrival. During this period, we are not being idle. The Carroll County Transit Advisory Committee is working on sponsorship programs, planning the big "Kick Off" event, ironing out any wrinkles in the volunteer driver program as well as working

to recruit volunteer drivers, educating residents, businesses and other organizations about how to use the system with our Travel Trainer program, installing the toll free number, and accomplishing many other tasks needed to be completed before we start operating. I will keep everyone posted as more information regarding the arrival of the vehicles and the start date for the system becomes clearer. I invite all to learn more about this exciting new transportation opportunity and watch our progress by visiting our web site at:

UPDATE

<http://www.carrollcountyttransit.org>

or contacting our system manager, Ted LaLiberte, 323-8150 or tlaliberte@tccap.org

Sincerely,
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Good News for Groveton Mill: The Topic of North Country Council's June 23rd Quarterly Meeting

Article by: Jeff Hayes

Recent environmental assessment results indicate the site is in better environmental condition than expected, clearing the way for a new development strategy at the former Wausau Mill campus in Groveton NH. "It is uncommon to find a former paper mill site in such good environmental condition. Our goal is to remove the perception of contamination from this property and to promote timely redevelopment/reoccupation of the mill site", Keith DuBois, NHDES. "This is a great opportunity for the North Country and we are looking to a very positive result", said Michael King, Executive Director of North Country Council.

The food processing industry is a good reuse strategy for asset-rich former paper mill sites according to Preston Gilbert, SUNY Center for Brownfield Studies Operations Manager, and current consultant for the North Country Council. State of NH Economic Development Director Roy Duddy sees potential, "The new assessment results and reuse strategy is great news for our Groveton mill recruiting efforts. I believe this property is much more marketable now that it has a reuse strategy and has been environmentally assessed."

The Town of Northumberland and the Village of Groveton have suffered a series of setbacks in recent years including the 2006 closure of Groveton Paperboard and the 2008 closure of Wausau Papers. Groveton lost over 300 jobs when the Wausau mill closed its doors. Over 46% of the Town

of Groveton was unemployed. In two years, 50% of private jobs in Groveton were lost according to the New Hampshire Department of Employer Security. The Wausau mill closure created a \$72 million reduction in Coos County's gross regional product. Coos County once had several paper mills, but the industry went into decline in the late 1990's. This is not localized but rather a general industry decline seen throughout the United States and Canada, caused by a drop in demand and competition from over-seas. "I have been working closely with Nobis engineering out of Concord and they have a lot of success with Brownfield sites, said Patricia Garvin, senior economic development planner for NCC.

Regional economies are connected by groups of related companies. In the North Country, the forest industry and tourism are examples. However, we are also surrounded by agriculture and food processing up and down the Connecticut River Valley and along the border region from western Maine to upstate New York, as is detailed in Gilbert's report.

Specialty food manufacturing is a growing industry and one that has performed well in neighboring areas. Vermont, Maine and Upstate NY, in particular, are known for a variety of processed food products. A report from the New Hampshire Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, **Agricultural Trends in New Hampshire**,

discusses recent changes within farm products produced in the state. Nursery and dairy have been important farm products. In recent years nursery and greenhouse crops and floriculture have been increasing. Recent growth in farming and an interest in organic and alternative crops may lead to future opportunities.

Looking more broadly, in southern Quebec, the overall number of farms declined by 4.6 percent between 2001 and 2006, however, the number of organic farms grew by 105.6 percent. Leading organic crops included hay or field crops, maple products, fruits and vegetables, and animals or animal products.

According to NCC's Director of Economic Development, Jeff Hayes, "The Groveton site appears to be in good environmental condition and has the right assets to make this strategy work including acres of modern warehousing space, on-site alternative natural gas and hydro energy, enormous water and wastewater treatment systems, railroad and interstate access and the active engagement of a plethora of public and private sector partners." Hayes believes this project is a good example of NCC's economic development coordination role. "In addition to SUNY, NCC has worked closely with US EDA and DRED, US EPA and DES, the owner and the broker, the engineers, and of course, the Town of Northumberland, which is a member of NCC." No significant subsurface en-

vironmental conditions were discovered during the recent environmental assessment work. Other than apparent minor groundwater contamination that can be addressed with a groundwater management permit and some soil contaminants typically associated with coal ash, the site appears to be fairly clean. Some work remains to fill several data gaps (including a limited hazardous building materials survey and identification and characterization of some containerized materials that likely require disposal). North Country Council is coordinating with the current site owner, DES officials and state brownfield contractors on completing remaining work in the next several months.

NCC's quarterly membership meeting scheduled for June 23rd will be dedicated to presentations outlining the new environmental assessment and proposed new reuse strategy. To find out more about the meeting please call NCC at 444-6303 or email nccinc@nccouncil.org.



Groveton Mill
(formerly Wausau Mill)