



FALL PLANNING AND ZONING FORUM

co-sponsored by the
**VLCT Municipal Assistance Center and
The Northern England Chapter of
the American Planning Association**



**Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Montpelier, Vermont**

AGENDA

- 8:30 Registration** (coffee and light breakfast provided)
- 9:00 Welcome and Overview of the Day**
Abby Friedman, Director, VLCT Municipal Assistance Center
- 9:05 Getting from “NIMBY” to “Due Consideration” before the Public Service Board**
The Commissioner of the Public Service Department (PSD), the attorney who recently represented the Town of Newark in a very important case before the Superior Court and Adam Lougee from the Addison Regional Planning Commission will discuss the recent litigation, with a broader discussion focusing on the Public Service Board (PSB) permit process. The speakers will discuss what the Newark case’s outcome means to Vermont municipalities and how local officials can best communicate the town plan’s “clear community standard.”
Geoffrey Commons, Esq., Director of Public Advocacy of the Department of Public Service
Brooke Dingleline, Esq., Valsangiacomo, Detora & McQuesten, P.C.
Jeannie Oliver Esq., Special Counsel, Public Service Department
Adam Lougee, Executive Director, Addison County Regional Planning Commission
- 10:35 Break**
- 10:45 Roundtable Discussion on the Public Service Board Process**
This session will give attendees an opportunity to engage in discussions with a variety of “players” who will provide insight and perspective about the PSB process, how to participate effectively, and more generally how the PSB Certificate of Public Good process works. As the session expands upon the previous discussion, participants will be encouraged to ask questions, share experiences, and connect with other municipal officials who may be working through the PSB process, are updating local bylaws to better comply with state law, or are updating their town plans to communicate their town’s “clear community standard.”
Geoffrey Commons, Esq., Director of Public Advocacy of the Department of Public Service
Cindy Hill, Esq., Law Offices of Cindy Ellen Hill
Adam Lougee, Executive Director, Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Jeannie Oliver Esq., Special Counsel, Public Service Department
Richard Saudek Esq., Diamond & Robinson, P.C.

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 Legislative Update and the Outlook for 2016

In this session, we will review the 2015 legislative session, including how Act 56 pertains to solar siting. We will also update participants on the Solar Siting Taskforce, the Department of Housing and Community Development and PSD report on new screening requirements, the report from the agencies of Natural Resources and Agriculture, Food and Markets and Public Service Department on land use and environmental impacts of renewable energy generation siting, and the legislative Joint Energy Committee, which was scheduled to meet on September 30, 2015. Finally, we will look ahead to possible legislation in the 2016 session.

Karen Horn, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, VLCT

1:45 Template for Group Net Metering Agreements

The Municipal Assistance Center coordinated a collaborative effort to create a Template for Group Net Metering Agreements to help guide municipal and school district officials through the process of “going solar.” This session will review the process to develop the Template and how it is intended to be used.

Abby Friedman, Director, VLCT Municipal Assistance Center

2:00 Break

2:15 How to Write Effective, Shorter and Clearer Town Plans

A whopping 92% of Vermont’s 262 municipalities regularly prepare and adopt a municipal plan. How can we improve these plans to better serve as a practical guide for local decision-making? Staff from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and its partners are working to address this question and invite you to preview the state’s new Planning Manual. Learn how to develop more targeted town plans with measurable implementation objectives to achieve community goals.

John Adams AICP, Planning Coordinator, Agency of Commerce and Community Development

3:30 Complete evaluations

3:35 Conclusion

WHO SHOULD ATTEND AND WHY

From solar panels sited on open farmland to wind turbines on ridgelines to the Public Service Board process, energy issues are front and center in Vermont and municipalities are trying to deal with them. This workshop is geared towards zoning administrators, planning commissioners, selectboard members, town attorneys, town administrators and managers, municipal planners, town energy committee members, and regional planning commission staff as it will offer a mix of legal information, practical solutions, and policy discussions, as well as the opportunity to discuss pressing issues in municipal planning and zoning with knowledgeable officials from across the state. AICP Certification Maintenance and CLE credits are being sought for workshop attendees.