

VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Published monthly by The Vermont Natural Resources Council, a non-profit citizens' conservation organization supported by membership dues and contributions. 26 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802) 223-2328 Chairman, Jonathan Brownell, Executive Director, Seward Weber, Editor, Arthur Williams

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NEW FORMAT

The new VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT format is designed for easier reading and economy of paper which will result in reduced printing cost and provide members with nearly as much copy as the old format. We would appreciate hearing your reactions to this change.



N. Danville Road, Sleepers River, new Route 2 construction on right

The North Danville Road and Sleepers River Valley area have long served St. Johnsbury residents as a recreation area, a place to hunt, fish, snowmobile and hike. Roy Brook provided good fishing and many people depended on the excellent never failing water of Allright Spring, particularly in dry spells when local sources were contaminated.

The Route 2 improvement project, if permitted, will have significant adverse environmental and economic impact at the local level in that it will channelize portions of Sleepers River and Roy Brook and cut through two large farms. The project will have greater statewide significance as well because it will be used to justify future four-lane construction along Route 2. By its design, alternatives for improving Route 2 are being foreclosed.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Vermont State Department of Education in cooperation with the New Jersey State Council for Environmental Education has the opportunity to train 100 Vermont teachers, grades K-12, in the use of Computer Based Resource Units (CBRUs) in environmental education. This program provides teachers a quick retrieval system to help them develop environmental programs in their classrooms.

CBRUs have the potential for facilitating planning, instruction and evaluation based on the needs of a class and the individual students in it. A typical CBRU makes the following information readily available:

1. learning objectives;
2. content;
3. class and individual activities;
4. measuring devices; and
5. resources.

As a first step, the students and teacher select objectives to be achieved. The objectives, along with several learning variables such as reading levels, chronological ages and interest areas for the class and individual students are sent to a CBRU center where they are entered into the computer. The teacher then receives a Computer Based Resource Guide (CBRG) containing information, content items, activities, measuring devices and resources that pertain to the chosen objectives. The teacher selects what is to be used in instruction.

(cont.)

A donation from Crowley Cheese Company has supported the publication of this VER issue.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (cont.)

In brief, the CBRU system is a planning tool and data bank from which "tailor made" units of instruction are constructed for use in the classroom. It should be stressed that the teacher retains the decision making authority throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation phases of the program.

ANOTHER REGIONAL SHOPPING CENTER?

In spite of new efforts to revitalize existing downtown areas and a trend, sparked by last winter's fuel shortage, to shop close to home; another shopping center comprising some 144,000 square feet has been proposed for the Barre-Montpelier area.

The proposed center to be located on a 30-acre field across from the Berlin Elementary School, is only a few miles from the Barre-Montpelier Road which is often cited by planners as an example of the worst type of strip development in the state.

A number of merchants in Barre and Montpelier are up in arms fearing the new development will further drain their downtown areas. Other citizens deplore the fact that the shopping plaza is being located in a relatively unspoiled area and question the need for the proposed Berlin Mall.

The application of the Boston-based developer is currently under review by the District 5 Commission and is being contested by regional planners, Vermont Tomorrow and a citizens group called Save the Cities.

It is the largest retail complex to come before the District Board to date and if approved, the 2.65 million dollar mall will house a K-Mart Department Store, an A&P Supermarket, a movie theater, and space for a dozen smaller retail shops.

MAJOR SKI AREA GIVES UP!

With our major ski areas barely hanging on after two poor winters and a gasoline crises, the Glen Ellen Corporation of Fayston has declared bankruptcy and bids have been asked on its 1658 acres and ski facilities on Mt. Ellen.

LAND USE COMMITTEE AGREES ON CONCEPTS

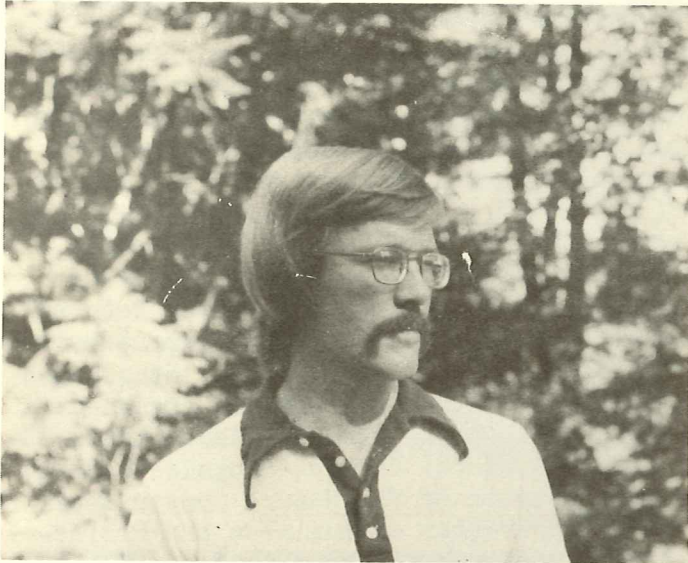
Meeting weekly since May, the committee has reached general agreement on some basic concepts. The first formal action taken was the unanimous adoption of a resolution that the state and municipalities have a dual responsibility and duty to carry out detailed land use planning and management. This resolution makes clear that the state's role is only proper when there is "transcending state interest" that cannot be properly taken care of at the local level.

According to Schuyler Jackson, Chairman of the Vermont Environmental Board and a member of the Land Use Study Committee, the resolution recognizes two important concepts: First, that uncontrolled growth is not an acceptable option for the state. Second, that in land use planning, interests outside of that of the individual town may be affected and if not adequately reflected in the local planning process by the state in some manner, not yet defined, may be proper to protect those interests.

The second task the committee has undertaken is the identification of guidelines for local planning. The committee agreed that town planning should address such matters as use of agricultural lands, protection of areas of significant environmental concern, housing and provision for lands for reasonable growth.

The state would map areas of Vermont to be designated "conservation" and "rural reserve" areas. Generally speaking, the conservation areas would include land above 2,500 feet in elevation and rural reserve areas would include forest land between 1,500 feet and 2,500 feet in elevation. Together, the two classifications would include much of Vermont's undeveloped backlands, which the state plan would try to keep open. Municipalities, with state help, would be allowed two years to draw up plans for these areas or accept state imposed restrictions.

Although the Plan is far from complete, it is clear that the committee has decided that the major impetus for land planning and land use decisions, should be made at the local level.



VNRC APPOINTS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Darby Bradley has been named Assistant Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. A native of New Hampshire, Bradley graduated from Dartmouth College in 1967 and from the University of Washington Law School in 1972. He has practiced law in Seattle for the past two years.

In his practice he has dealt extensively with environmental problems including floodplain zoning, preservation of wetlands and prime agricultural lands, and the impact of dams on land use patterns. He was instrumental in the formation of a citizens' environmental group called GREEN—Green River Economic and Environmental Needs. Bradley was also a member of the Washington Environmental Council, an environmental lobbying organization, and maintains membership in the Sierra Club.

Bradley will assist Executive Director Seward Weber in all phases of the VNRC's program.

VNRC'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEAFLET SERIES BEGINS WITH "SCENIC ROAD PRESERVATION"

VNRC has embarked on a new information program with the publication of the first in a series of Vermont Environmental Leaflets. The goal of this leaflet series is

to provide Vermonters with a brief introduction to specific environmental topics of direct impact to their lives and communities.

The first pamphlet, already distributed to local and regional government officials, deals with "Scenic Road Preservation." Additional topics to be covered in the series include sanitary landfills, floodplain zoning, Act 250, the importance of wetlands, and the protection of mountain lands.

"Scenic Road Preservation" explains how paving and upgrading of town roads often destroys their scenic qualities. The leaflet outlines several means for protecting scenic roads, including the use of town plans and bylaws, efforts by town road commissioners, adoption of a state scenic roads law, and changes in state highway policy.

Copies of this new leaflet are available free from VNRC.

MICHELE FROME

Michele Frome who has been with the VNRC for the past six months as a student intern has returned to Williams College where she is a senior majoring in economics with an emphasis in environmental studies.

At the Council she was active in a number of projects including organizing the Vermont Water Workshop at Killington, evaluating the Council's role in citizen participation, helping to organize and run the Vermont Environmental Leadership Workshop at Londonderry, and researching and reporting for the VER.

Michele will be missed by the staff of the Council and the Editor of this Report who could always rely on her initiative, research and writing capabilities.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM VNRC.

Policies for the Use of New England's Forested Lands, American Forest Institute, 1974.

Scenic Road Preservation, Vermont Natural Resources Council, August, 1974.

VNRC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS TO SUBMIT
NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three of the eight positions on the VNRC Board of Directors which will be filled at the 1974 annual meeting will be elected from nominations submitted by member organizations including business members. The following are 1974 members of the Council in good standing. Any member of these Vermont organizations wishing his organization to seek representation on the VNRC Board of Directors should contact his own group's officers.

American Association of University Women, American Institute of Architects, Appalachian Mountain Club, Arlington Garden Club, Barre Granite Association, Bennington Garden Club, Town of Bennington, Camp Holy Cross, Center for Northern Studies, Central Vermont Audubon Society, Chester Art Guild, Conservation Society of Southern Vermont, Fairbanks Museum, Farm & Wilderness Camps, Fawb's Island, Inc., Friends of Spruce Mountain, Granite Center Garden Club, Green Mountain Audubon Society, Green Mountain Club, Handle Road Associates, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Keewaydin Camps, Lake Champlain Committee, Lamoille County Development Council, Malmquist Wood Products, Middlebury Garden Club, Mintz-Marcus-Schnell, Naomi Ingalls Garden Club, New England Kurn Hattin Homes, Norwich Recreation Conservation Council, Northeast Kingdom Audubon Society, Ottauquechee Regional Planning and Development Council,

Otter Creek Audubon Society, Peru Outdoor Recreation, Plain Dirt Gardners, RCM Construction Systems, Randolph Division of Ethan Allen Furniture Co., Randolph Garden Club, Rutland Plywood Corp., Rutland Regional Planning Commission, St. Joseph's College Library, Shelburne Industries, Vermont Sierra Club, Snowald Corporation, Green Mountain Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, So. Burlington Natural Resources Committee, Southern Vermont Dairy Goat Association, Stanley Tools, Sterling School, Stowe School, Students Concerned for the Environment, Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Vermont Bicycle Touring, Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Vermont Federation of Women's Clubs, Vermont Historical Society, Vermont Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Vermont Petroleum Association, Vermont Sierra Club-Central Vermont Group, Vermont Timberland Owner's Association, Vermont Tomorrow, Vermont Weatherboard, Inc., Weston Priory, White River Natural Resource District and the Woodstock Garden Club.

VERMONT 2000

The Environmental Program, Dept. of Sociology, UVM and Planned Parenthood of Vermont will sponsor a day-long conference called Vermont 2000 on Saturday, October 26 at UVM. Dr. Dana Meadows, senior author of Limits to Growth will give the main address. For further information contact Carol Scott, Planned Parenthood, 19 Church Street, Burlington, tel: 802-862-9637.

VERMONT NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

26 STATE STREET

MONTPELIER, VT. 05602

IN THIS ISSUE - Sept. '74, No. 32

- New Assistant Director
- Another Shopping Center
- Land Use Committee

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