

2/20/06

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #7

No new bills of particular interest to Vermont planners this week – but continued committee action, and increasing floor action in the House and Senate as the Legislature senses the mid point on its 2006 schedule.

I sent out as a separate package the Senate Calendar with the Growth Centers legislation (S.142) as it came out of Senate Natural Resources last week. Also sent around separately was information on the Downtown Program Tax Credits legislation. Reports are that the Growth Centers Bill is headed to Senate Finance this week (Thursday and Friday's agenda.)

SENATE FINANCE

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

S.124 - A Certificate of Public Good for Extending the Operating License of a Nuclear Power Plant and Intervenor Funding

Thursday, February 23, 2006 1:30 p.m. **Growth Centers Bill - Tax and Housing Provisions**

Witnesses in process of being scheduled :

Emily Bergquist, Legislative Counsel, Sara Teachout, Joint Fiscal Office

Friday, February 24, 2006 1:00 p.m. **Growth Centers Bill - Tax and Housing Provisions**

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Tuesday, February 21, 2006 10:30 a.m. **S.204 - Offset Projects in Stormwater-Impaired Waters** :Michael O'Grady, Leg. Counsel; Pete LaFlamme, DEC; Mary Borg, DEC; Michael Duane, Agency of Agriculture

Wednesday, February 22, 2006 9:00 a.m. **S.259 - Greenhouse Gas**: James Moore, VPIRG
Rebecca Ryan, American Lung Assn. (9:15 a.m.) Michele Carner, Respiratory Therapist (9:30 a.m.) Rev. Paul Bortz (9:45 a.m.) Witnesses to be announced (10:00 a.m.)

11:00 a.m. **Vermont Housing & Conservation Coalition** Paul Ralston, Green Mtn. Club;
Marty Strange, Vermont Land Trust

Thursday, February 23, 2006 9:00 a.m. **To be announced**

Friday, February 24, 2006 9:00 a.m. **To be announced**

HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE & WATER RESOURCES

Tuesday, February 21, 2006 10:00 a.m. **H.817 (Stormwater)- Committee Discussion/Bill Mark-Up**

Housing –Last Wednesday I asked DHCA Commissioner John Hall about the status of housing legislation and he showed me two preliminary draft documents prepared by DHCA’s counsel - a “State Land Bank” and a “New Neighborhoods” initiative. According to Peg Elmer in the DHCA Planning Division there is nothing available for email circulation or public release.

HOUSE GENERAL, HOUSING & MILITARY AFFAIRS

No published meeting agendas for this week, but see below:

SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & GENERAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 22, 2006 9:30 a.m. **Housing**

Proposed Legislation Kevin Dorn, Secretary, Agency of Commerce & Community Development
John Hall, Commissioner, Department of Housing & Community Affairs

10:00 a.m. **Housing: Joint Meeting With House General, Housing & Military Affairs**

Affordable Housing Coalition in Room: 11 Erhard Mahnke, VT Affordable Housing Coalition, Burlington, 660-9484 Ed Stretch, Gilman Housing Trust, Newport, 334-1541 Chris Young, Former Jay Selectboard Member, Jay David Mullin, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, Burlington, 878-7367 Chuck Leif, Hartland Group, Burlington, 865-6991 Jim Keyes, President, Citizens Bank, Burlington, 951-2479

11:00 a.m. **Housing continued in Room: 27**

Proposed Legislation Sarah Carpenter, VT Housing Finance Agency, Burlington, 864-5743 Ken Prine, VT Housing & Conservation Board, Montpelier Gus Seelig, Executive Director, VT Housing & Conservation Board, Montpelier, 828-3250 Tayt Brooks, VT Home Builders & Remodelors Assn., Burlington, 651-0519 Bob Hill, Executive, VP, VT Association of Realtors, Montpelier, 229-0513 Erhard Manhke, VT Affordable Housing Coalition, Burlington, 660-9484 Jolinda LaClair, USDA Rural Development, Montpelier, 828-6066 Andy Broderick, Housing Vermont, Burlington, 863-8424 Darby Bradley, VT Land Trust, Montpelier, 223-5234

Thursday, February 23, 2006

9:30 a.m. **H.665 - Wine Tastings**

10:30 a.m. **S.291 - Tax Incremental Financing Amendment; Committee Discussion; VOTE**

Friday, February 24, 2006

10:00 a.m. **Residential Electrical Installations Proposed Draft; Committee Discussion; VOTE**

10:30 a.m. **Home Inspections Proposed Draft; Committee Discussion**

HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

2:30 p.m. **H.758 - Licensing of Plumbers** Rep. Kathie Keenan,

H.808 - Limitations of Municipal Bylaws; Adoption of those Bylaws and Notice of Appeal with Respect to those Bylaws Rep. Gail Fallar, Sponsor

Friday, February 24, 2006

10:30 a.m. **H.747 - Municipal Regulation of Public Shade Trees** Rep. Winston Dowland,

10:45 a.m. **H.809 - Municipal Acquisition of Street Lights** Rep. Jim Masland, Sponsor

11:45 a.m. **H.834 - Municipal Fees for Water and Sewer Services** Rep. Don Bostic, Sponsor

HOUSE COMMERCE

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

11:00 a.m. **H.776 - Appropriation for Community Development** Rep. Bill Botzow, Sponsor
Jane Van Buren, Ex. Director, VT Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations Paul Costello, Ex.
Director, VT Council on Rural Development

Fred S. Dunnington, VPA Legislative Liaison
Middlebury Town Planner

fdunnington@town.middlebury.vt.us

(802) 388-8106 x 228