

1/22/07

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #3

In its third week, the Legislature will hear the Governor's Budget Address, Tuesday at 2pm, and continue with joint committee meetings on the subject of Climate Change and "Specific Opportunities for Vermont to Build a Sustainable Economy by Addressing Climate Change".

CLIMATE CHANGE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(the following appears on the House and Senate Committee agendas of Agriculture, Transportation and Natural Resource & Energy, and the House Commerce Committee:)

On Wednesday Jan. 24th in Room 11 from 9-11 AM with:

- Richard Cowart, Regulatory Assistance Project
- Richard Sedano, Regulatory Assistance Project
- Michael Dworkin, Director, Institute for Energy and the Environment
- Robert Costanza, Gund Institute for Ecological Economies, UVM
- Richard Watts, Transportation Research Center, UVM

And on Thursday, Jan 25th in Room 11, from 9-11 AM with

- Jeffrey Wolfe, Gro Solar
- Lawrence Mott, Wind developer
- David Blittersdorf, NRG Systems
- Scott Johnstone, Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Robert Mulcahy, Smugglers Notch Ski Area
- (TBA - Business community representative)

Other Committee agenda items of interest:

House Natural Resources & Energy Committee

Tuesday January 23, 2007; 11:00am

Growth Centers

Michael Zahner, Executive Director, Natural Resources Board

Brian Shupe, Program Director, Vermont Forum on Sprawl

Thursday, January 25, 2007; 2:30-3:30pm

Greg Brown, Executive Director, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

House Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources Committee

Wednesday January 24th, 2007; 11:00am

In-ground Septic Technological Advisory Committee

-Craig Heindel, Heindel & Noyes, Inc..

-Roger Thompson, Engineering Manager, DEC

House General, Housing & Military Affairs Committee

Friday January 26th 10:00 am

Inclusionary Zoning : H.49 – Housing Prices

- Brian Pine, Assistant Director, Housing, City of Burlington

- Colin Bloch, Director, Homeownership Program, Champlain Housing Trust

- Julie Beth Hinds, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning, South Burlington

Senate Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs Committee

Friday, January 26th, 2007; 9:30 am

S.44 - Common Assets Trust Fund

Al Boright, Legislative Counsel

New Bills of Interest:

- S.48 by Senator Mullin of Rutland - AN ACT RELATING TO A LOCAL OPTION ACT 250 EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION WITHIN A TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT - This bill proposes to allow municipalities that have a zoning administrator and that have adopted permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws to determine by ordinance to exempt from Act 250 the construction of improvements on one or more tracts of land lying entirely within a traditional industrial district that was in existence on June 1, 1970 and that still exists, whether or not currently subject to an Act 250 permit.
- H.89 by Representative Rodgers of Glover - AN ACT RELATING TO OPEN MEETINGS - This bill proposes to require: (1) a reasonable date, time, and place for meetings of public bodies; (2) public announcement, at least 48 hours prior to a meeting, of any change in the date, time, place, or agenda; (3) public announcement of a special meeting at least 48 hours prior to the meeting; (4) municipal public bodies to post notice of special meeting agendas; (5) posting meeting agendas at least 48 hours prior to the meeting; and (6) public bodies to restrict action at their meetings to only those items on the agenda.

- H.107 - by Representatives Klein of East Montpelier, Botzow of Pownal, Cheney of Norwich, Clarkson of Woodstock, Fisher of Lincoln, McCullough of Williston, Minter of Waterbury, Nuovo of Middlebury, Pellett of Chester, Spengler of Colchester, Weston of Burlington and Zuckerman of Burlington - AN ACT RELATING TO NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION - This bill proposes to prohibit the conduct of an activity that results in the placement of any waste, substance, or material in a location where it is likely to enter the waters of the state. The bill would authorize the secretary of natural resources to adopt rules to limit the placement of waste or the conduct of activity in proximity to the waters of the state. [From the bill: “The rules shall address limitations on: noncommercial car washing; residential application of pesticides and fertilizer; the use of sealants on driveways, decks, and porches; and other activities that may result in the placement of a waste, substance, or material in the waters of the state. Exempt are activities authorized by accepted agricultural or silvicultural practices, as such are defined by the secretary of agriculture, food and markets and the commissioner of forests, parks and recreation”.]
- H.111 by Representatives Minter of Waterbury, Westman of Cambridge, Hutchinson of Randolph, Obuchowski of Rockingham and O'Donnell of Vernon - AN ACT RELATING TO UNIDENTIFIED CORRIDORS - This bill proposes to delay by two years the dates by which a town highway which is not clearly observable becomes classified as an unidentified corridor and the date by which an unidentified corridor will be discontinued unless it appears on a town highway map.
- H.119 by Representative Deen of Westminster - AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING MINIMUM WATERFRONT PROTECTION STANDARDS - This bill proposes to establish minimum waterfront protection standards that would apply to lands located within the protected waterfront, which is defined as being that area within 250 feet from the ordinary or mean high watermark of the navigable public waters of the state. The standards include provisions that prohibit certain activities within the protected waterfront. [The standards would be promulgated by the Secretary of ANR and would cover subdivisions, structures, tree cutting and removal, and would establish minimum lot sizes and regulate land use, construction and post – construction activities. Variances are authorized – employing the Chapter 117 variance criteria. The bill specifically reserves to municipalities the right to set waterfront frontage requirements]

VPA CRACKER BARREL

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the VPA Legislative Committee Cracker Barrel discussions at the State House last Friday. Becky Basch is preparing a meeting summary / notes which we will post on the VPA list serv.

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