Greetings!

New Act 250 Rule for Archeological Protection Adopted
Revised Rule Clarifies Protection of Archeological Sites and Historic Resources

A new rule for protecting archeological and historical sites during development under Act 250 is in place after a legislative panel signed off on the changes.

Officials from the Douglas administration said the new rule would maintain the protection of archeological sites while making it easier for applicants to comply with the state's environmental protection and development control law.

Under Act 250, the division makes recommendations to the district environmental commissions on whether a proposed development would impact "historic sites," including archeological sites.

The new rule clarifies that District Commissions, not the Division, have the final decision-making authority about such questions as whether to require additional field studies, and whether a site is historically significant enough to warrant protecting it.

The new rule also clarifies that the definition of a "historic site" includes archeological sites that have not yet been discovered, and encourages...
applicants to work with the Division as early as possible in the planning process to identify and protect sites, even well before an Act 250 application is submitted.

The changes reflected the feedback received during five public meetings last summer around the state, and minor changes were made after a hearing before the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, which then recommended approval of the new rule.

For complete details and the final rule visit: www.HistoricVermont.org

Submitted by Giovanna Peebles

Charlotte Cemetery Reclamation Project

Cameron Wesson of UVM is working with the Charlotte Cemetery Commission to recover information on three abandoned cemeteries in Charlotte.

The project will consist of mapping the cemeteries, conducting a gradiometer survey to determine the locations of any presently unmarked burials, and historical and genealogical research on those buried in these cemeteries.

The work will take place on Saturdays in July and August. If you would like additional information on the project or would like to volunteer, please contact Cameron at cwesson@uvm.edu.

submitted by Cameron Wesson

Recent Discoveries

(a recurring feature)

The base of a bi-faced "Lamoka point" was discovered during excavations in Cambridge. The excavations are part of a summer field school being conducted by Corbett Torrence of Johnson State College.

The discovery of this point was unexpected and dates occupation of this area of Vermont at least to the Middle Archaic Period.

Dr. Torrence has been leading this field school for two years and hopes to continue excavations in the Lamoille River watershed into the fall.

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