



# Region Matters

[mvpc.org](http://mvpc.org)

Merrimack Valley  
Planning Commission  
*plan • develop • promote*

**Fall** 

## Rising with the Tide



*Category: People's Choice  
Winner  
Winnekenni Castle, Haverhill  
Photo by Alison Colby-Campbell*

**Essex National Heritage Area**

**Enter the 2015 Contest**

[www.essexheritage.org/  
photocontest](http://www.essexheritage.org/photocontest)

### Highlights

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Level Rise Symposium](#)

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The Merrimack River binds the region together, it is what forms the Valley and created the opportunity for the region to develop and prosper. Today we sometimes take the River's existence for granted and fail to focus on the fact that the River has, does and can further drive the development of the region. On October 16th the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce will be



sponsoring a summit to talk about Merrimack River as a catalyst for economic development ranging from the construction of mixed use developments, to generating tourist attraction, to stimulating recreational activities.

The management of the river as a resource is complicated by the fact that it crosses political boundaries indiscriminately. A river intersects and even forms borders between the many different users that share the water. Rivers are physical and economic systems, and when efficiently managed and developed can yield major benefits. It is only by working together as a region that we can fully realize these benefits.

So please join us on October 16th at 7:30am at the Roma Restaurant in Haverhill. Dennis DiZoglio, Executive Director of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will be a panelist and will discuss how development of the region is being shaped by the Merrimack River, how communities can use the River to connect the region, see the burgeoning regional trail network and the potential for a Merrimack River trail. At the summit you will also discover what needs to be done to make the river more navigatable, and at the end of the summit share you can share your ideas and prioritize how the region should move forward to fully benefit for the Merrimack River. To register for this event [Click Here](#)

*Written by Dennis A. DiZoglio  
MVPC Executive Director*

# GREAT MARSH COALITION 2015 SEA LEVEL RISE SYMPOSIUM

## *Great Marsh Communities in Action*

*Join fellow local officials, residents, and partners to explore and discuss case studies of adaptation efforts to address sea level rise impacts in the Great Marsh*

**WHERE:** The Essex Room, Woodman's of Essex

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 12, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

**REGISTRATION:** Required by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10 as space is limited  
\$15 Discount Rate (on or before October 30); \$20 Regular Rate (after October 30)  
Coffee and lunch included

Generously supported through contributions by Essex County Greenbelt, Essex National Heritage Area, Ipswich River Watershed Association, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, League of Women Voters-Cape Ann, National Wildlife Federation, Woodman's of Essex, and Essex River Basin Adventures

TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER, go to <http://www.greatmarsh.org/>

FOR QUESTIONS, contact Kathryn Glenn at the North Shore Office of Coastal Zone Management at (978) 281-3972 or at [kathryn.glenn@state.ma.us](mailto:kathryn.glenn@state.ma.us)

## Attention Pictometry Users—Mobile Apps now available !



Access your image library and measurement tools from your mobile or tablet device! Pictometry's "Connect" application that many of you have been accessing from your desktop computers is now also available for your mobile phone or tablet device (Android and iOS operating systems). By accessing the links below from your mobile device you'll be able to download the application for your operating system. It's free to download and using your existing login credentials you'll be able to access the same Pictometry images and tools you traditionally access from your desktop using your mobile device. Imagine the convenience of being able to directly access imagery while you're in the field or in a meeting directly from your phone or tablet!

Google Play (Android users) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pictometry.connectmobile&hl=en>

iTunes Store (iOS users) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pictometry-connectmobile/id574013063?mt=8>

Written by Jerrard Whitten  
GIS Program Manager

## Open Streets



Open Streets or Ciclovías have made it to the Merrimack Valley. Open Streets means just that — open the streets for people who are walking, running,

bicycling or using their legs (or wheelchairs) for transportation or exercise. No cars. Usually held on Sunday afternoons when car traffic is at a minimum, these events make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to get outside and be active in their neighborhoods.

Lawrence held its *Ciclovía* Open Streets event on two Sundays in August this year. Activities included zumba, soccer, volleyball in addition to riding or walking the streets. This event was organized by the City of Lawrence and Mayor's Health Task Force (including MVPC) with support from local organizations and companies ([www.facebook.com/groups/MHTFLawrence/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MHTFLawrence/)).

In Newburyport, an Open Streets event was used to promote the idea of the Newburyport Greenway, a 4-mile shared-use route along slower neighborhood streets on what has been for years referred to as the Middleway. This event was organized by Transition Newburyport and Community Resilience Circles with support from many local organizations,

the city and local companies ([www.facebook.com/NewburyportGreenway](http://www.facebook.com/NewburyportGreenway)).

*Written by Betsy Goodrich  
MVPC Sr Transportation Planner*

## Merrimack Valley MPO

Summer 2015 was a particularly busy time for the MVPC Transportation Program staff as it worked closely with the region's communities, MassDOT, and the MVRTA to prepare the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan, the FFYs 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and the FFY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). <http://mvpc.org/programs/transportation/merrimack-valley-metropolitan-planning-organization/>

Staff members are now working on an MVRTA Strategic Plan, a draft MVMPO Public Participation Plan update that will be released for public comment soon, and several community-requested traffic studies. These and other transportation issues were discussed at the **Merrimack Valley Transportation Committee (MVTC)**. For more information, contact MVPC's Tony Komornick at (978) 374-0519, ext. 15 or by email at [akomornick@mvpc.org](mailto:akomornick@mvpc.org)

*Written by Anthony Komornick  
MVPC Transportation Program Manager*

## EDA Planning Grant Approved

The Comprehensive Planning Department received approval from the Economic Development Administration of a grant for \$70,000 for the third year of a three year planning grant. The Planning Grant allows MVPC to develop and implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the MVPC Region. One initiative begun in 2103 as a recommendation in the CEDS document is the Merrimack Valley Support Team Initiative. The Valley Support Team over the past several months has been working on the following projects:

- **City of Methuen** - An Urban Land Institute - Technical Assistance Panel was held on June 19, 2015. The Executive Director of MVPC and the Comprehensive Planning Manager were interviewed about the redevelopment/revitalization of the City's downtown. In addition, MVPC's Economic Development Coordinator has been providing technical assistance to the city regarding creation of a 40R district and also helping to write a PATH application.

- **Town of Groveland** - MVPC has been assisting Groveland with the creation of a Permitting Guide to help people through the development process. A draft has been completed and is currently under review by the town.
- **Town of Merrimac** - MVPC has been working with Merrimac writing a Housing Production Plan to be submitted and approved by DHCD.

Also, MVPC continues to support its innovative [MVMB.biz](http://MVMB.biz) marketing website. Properties for sale and for lease within the Merrimack Valley, and other related economic development news, are listed on the website. MVPC is also in the process of updating realtor information.

If you have any questions on these projects or other economic development initiatives, please contact MVPC's Comprehensive Planning Manager Mike Parquette—email [mparquette@mvpc.org](mailto:mparquette@mvpc.org)

*Written by Heidi Murphy  
MVPC Economic Development Coordinator*

# Upcoming Events & Workshops



## Training Offered for Planning and Zoning Officials

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will host two municipal training workshops, “Site Plan Review” on Monday, **October 26**, 7-9 pm, and “The Next Chapter of 40B: Targeted Training for Zoning Board Members” on Monday, **November 16, 7-9pm**, at the **MVPC Offices, 160 Main Street, Haverhill**. The cost of each workshop is \$30 and attendees will earn MIIA credits. Register at the [CPTC website](#) or by calling (413) 545-2188.

The two workshops are part of a series of municipal training sessions offered each year by MVPC, CPTC, and their partner organizations. For more information on these sessions, contact Nancy Lavallee, MVPC office administrator, [nlavallee@mvpc.org](mailto:nlavallee@mvpc.org) or consult the [CPTC website](#).



## Moving Together 2015

The Commonwealth’s annual conference on bicycling, walking (and transit!) is scheduled to be held **Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM**, at the **Boston Park Plaza Hotel**. This highly successful event, initiated in 1998, brings together transportation organizations and individuals involved in the areas of planning, public health, bike and pedestrian safety, transit, advocacy, elected office, law enforcement and education. Over 650 attendees participated in last year’s conference! Moving Together 2015 is a learning and advocacy opportunity that you won’t want to miss – particularly if you care about healthy transportation options! Go to [Moving Together 2015](#) for more information.

## MVPC Monthly Commission Meetings

Third Thursday of the month @ 7pm

October 15  
November 19  
December 17  
January 21, 2016

MVPC Offices  
160 Main Street Haverhill, MA 01830

Check our website for Commission Meeting Agenda and details on upcoming events [www.mvpc.org](http://www.mvpc.org)

## Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

**October 16** [Rising with the Tides](#)

**October 26** [Site Plan Review Workshop](#)

Location: MVPC Office  
160 Main Street, Haverhill  
Time: 7pm

**November 4** [Moving Together 2015](#)

**November 16** [Next Chapter of 40B Workshop](#)

Location: MVPC Office  
160 Main Street, Haverhill  
Time: 7pm

MVPC Commission Office 160 Main Street Haverhill, MA

Contact: Nancy Lavallee [nlavallee@mvpc.org](mailto:nlavallee@mvpc.org)

Tel: 978-374-0519 ext. 10



Serving the communities of:  
Amesbury Andover Boxford Georgetown Groveland Haverhill Lawrence Merrimac Methuen  
Newbury Newburyport North Andover Rowley Salisbury West Newbury