



March 2, 2017

Contact: Karen Freeman, Chair, Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions, Cell: [802-917-3587](tel:802-917-3587)

## **Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Seeking Applications for Tiny Grant Conservation Program**

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is seeking applications for its 2017 Tiny Grant program.

The grants provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific conservation projects at the local level and AVCC members are eligible to apply.

“Conservation commissions and other volunteer groups spend countless hours working in their communities to protect and enhance Vermont’s natural resources,” said Karen Freeman, chair of AVCC. “These grants help support local projects around the state, and we’re thrilled to be able to support these efforts each year through the Tiny Grant Program.”

Last year, AVCC awarded grants to groups in Bolton, Greensboro, Wallingford, Dummerston, and Bradford. Projects included a floodplain forest inventory project, establishing a pollinator corridor, outdoor education programs connecting kids with nature, improving a town forest trail network, and improving access to a natural area for Vermonters of all abilities.

Individual grants are available in the range of \$250-\$600. Applications are due **April 14, 2017** and awards will be announced **May 5, 2017**. Projects must be completed and a final report submitted by **May 5, 2018**. Extensions may be considered.

Conservation Commissions and groups working to become conservation commissions are eligible to apply. Groups must also be members of AVCC to be eligible. To become an AVCC member, read more and apply online at <http://vtconservation.com/join-us/>.

For more information about the grants and an application visit <http://vtconservation.com/tiny-grants/>.

*The **Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support Vermont’s conservation commissions, which are advisory bodies that help communities protect and enhance their natural resources, and to encourage the establishment of more conservation commissions in the state. AVCC is a membership organization with conservation commissions as well as individuals as members. Founded in 1990, AVCC is overseen by a volunteer board of directors.*



## Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions

### *2017 Tiny Grant Information*

**Grant range:** \$250 - \$600

**Grant application due:** April 14, 2017

**Grant award announcement:** May 5, 2017

**Mailing address:** AVCC, 89 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier VT 05602

**Email address:** vtconservation@gmail.com (AVCC Board)

#### **AVCC Goals:**

- To assist local committees/groups to become Conservation Commissions
- To increase the functioning capacity of existing Conservation Commissions, and
- To provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific projects in the broad categories of land conservation, education and outreach, stewardship and management, and planning.

**Eligibility for funding:** To be eligible for an AVCC Tiny Grant, groups *must be*:

- ***Vermont Conservation Commissions or local committees/groups that are working towards becoming a Conservation Commission and are paid members of AVCC***

**Other Stipulations:** Groups must be a municipality or IRS certified 501(c)(3) public charity, or have fiscal sponsorship by a municipality or IRS certified 501(c)(3) public charity. Prior recipients of grants from AVCC must have completed those grants and closed them out. Grants cannot be used for general funds, dues or subscriptions.

**Timetable:** Applications must be submitted (or postmarked if sent by postal service) on or before **April 14, 2017**. Grantees will be notified of funding approval by **May 5, 2017**. Projects must be completed and a final report submitted **by May 5, 2018**. Extensions may be considered.

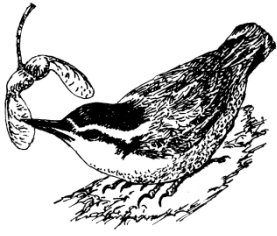
#### **Evaluation Criteria for Grant Funding:**

- Demonstrated need
- Evidence of matching funds and/or in-kind services
- Closely aligns with grant goals
- Project readiness
- Local support and volunteer involvement

**Payment Process:** The funds awarded under this grant will be available approximately a month after the awards are announced. Checks will be issued by the Vermont Community Foundation.

**Grant Closeout:** Grantees will be required to submit online a Conservation Success Story using the AVCC website (<http://vtconservation.com/success/node/add/avcc-story>), presenting evidence of grant completion with photographs, and text detailing outcomes and challenges.

**Acknowledgement:** If awarded, grantees should credit AVCC in any publicity.



## Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions

### *2017 Tiny Grant Application*

#### **Applicant**

Contact Person:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

Fiscal Sponsor, if any (legal name):

Fiscal Sponsor contact information:

**Reminder: Only AVCC members whose membership dues are current are eligible.**

**To check your status, please email AVCC Treasurer Melissa Gaydos at: [GaydosM@nwf.org](mailto:GaydosM@nwf.org)**

On a separate document, please provide the following information:

1. Brief description of the project (300 words max)
2. Total budget for this project
3. Amount of grant money requested (min. \$250 – max. \$600)
4. Other funds, if any, for this project
5. If yes, list the source(s) and amounts of other funds and/or in-kind contributions
6. Explain how these funds will make a difference to the success of your project (600 words max)
7. Explain how you will measure the success of your project (300 words max)

*Please email applications to: [vtconservation@gmail.com](mailto:vtconservation@gmail.com) (AVCC Board)*

*Or mail them to: AVCC, 89 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier VT 05602*

**Applications must be submitted (or postmarked if sent by mail) on or before April 14, 2017.**

**Awards will be announced by May 5, 2017.**