

The Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience

(created September 15, 2023)

Montpelier's recovery and renewal will take years, and resilience efforts should be instituted and grow with time under consistent, dynamic and unifying leadership. City government cannot carry the costs or leadership of the whole recovery effort, or the long-term efforts to expand the resilience of the city in the face of future floods and other climate change impacts.

At the recent flood recovery forums, community members highly prioritized the establishment of a public/private partnership to coordinate and drive forward recovery and resilience work. In response to this feedback, the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience will be formed to serve as a convening and resource partner for the City and all working groups advancing recovery and resilience projects in the City.

Chaired by a private sector member, the Commission will provide leadership to coordinate recovery and resilience strategies, advocate for the community, oversee staff, and support the progress of initiatives throughout the community.

The Commission will be staffed by a Montpelier Recovery and Resilience Director, answerable to its members. Under the oversight of the Commission and with support of staff of the City of Montpelier, the Director will:

- Provide support and coordination to recovery and resilience working groups in the city;
- Convene leadership around key aspect of recovery, from best practices for hardening buildings, to developing collective inventory space and other practical recovery projects;
- Convene public dialogues as needed;
- Bring together engineers and architects to envision and advance projects to advance the downtown and its resilience;
- Convene regional governments, planners, business leaders, engineers, architects, hydrologists and environmental scientists to evaluate opportunities, then plan and implement mitigation strategies to slow and hold water to minimize the impact of future flooding events.

Commissioners will be selected by a committee of Montpelier Alive, the Montpelier Foundation and the City of Montpelier which will each have equal weight in appointing members from the public. The City Manager, the Executive Director of Montpelier Alive, and the President of the Montpelier Foundation (or their permanent designees) will be founding members.

Commissioners will be certified, and the authority established for two years, at which time the efficiency of the effort and implementation results will be evaluated toward a decision on continuing or reforming the initiative. The three organizing entities will work to raise funds toward a two-year budget for the Commission.

The Commission must represent the community and have needed expertise to be effective. Applicants to participate on the Commission should describe skills related to the following categories: Architecture; Hydrology/Engineering, Environmental Science; Downtown Development; Fundraising (especially related to state and federal resources); Land Use Planning; Property Ownership; Business; Low Income Issues; Non-Profit Management; Financing; Clean Energy

Development; Housing; Public Health; Resilience Planning and Other pertinent skills. Applicants will be also be reviewed with a lens to youth and diversity.

To apply or to nominate someone to the commission, email your contact information and a one-paragraph description of qualifications to: msmith@montpelier-vt.org by the end of the day on September 14 with the Subject Line "Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience."