



FOUNDATION
for a RESILIENT
MONTPELIER

June Update

Public Forums Result in 4 Areas for Action: Planning Meetings Coming Right Up

As part of its launch, Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier has hosted two public forums with a focus on strengthening Montpelier's civic culture, improving our resilience, and supporting a vibrant downtown. From brainstorming sessions on these topics at the April 30 forum came countless ideas from Montpelierites for the future of our community. These ideas were put through two layers of analysis: to compile a set of action ideas and to review the overlap with work already happening in Montpelier. The result was [a list of potential action ideas](#) that were the starting point for a second community forum hosted on June 4 at the Montpelier High School.



At this meeting the ideas were reviewed, some were refined, and new ideas were added. By the end of the forum, the group had selected preferences and participants signed up for further action. The following are the four areas that were prioritized:

- Love our rivers, with a focus on improving public access and flood resilience
- Strengthen community by supporting volunteerism
- Support our local food system, with urgency
- Support a new gathering place for teens and young adults through an existing effort named ["Clubhouse Commons"](#)

The Foundation will now convene action-planning sessions for the priorities focused on volunteerism, local food, and our rivers. The following meetings have been set:

- **Support Our Local Food System - Monday June 29, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Kellogg-Hubbard Library**
- **Strengthen Community by Supporting Volunteerism - Tuesday June 30, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, the Vestry at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 130 Main Street**

Want to learn more, or join a group to work on one of these topics? [Sign up here.](#)

Stay tuned for more details including a forthcoming date for the Love Our Rivers meeting by checking [our website](#), or signing up at the link above.

87 State Street Heads to Auction

As the former post office and federal building at 87 State Street hits the auction block, steps are being taken to secure the future of the property in a way that benefits Montpelier. On June 2nd a first meeting was held of a new entity, the 87 State Street Local Development Corporation (LDC), established with the goal of seeing the property successfully redeveloped. The Board for the LDC consists of a group of ten organizations and businesses that all want to see Montpelier thrive.



The new LDC includes:

- Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier
- Preservation Trust of Vermont
- Downstreet Housing & Community Development
- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
- the City of Montpelier
- Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
- Central Vermont Medical Center
- Union Mutual Insurance
- Vermont Mutual Insurance
- National Life Group

The LDC will soon apply for funds from the Rural Industrial Development Program (RIDP) for the dual-purposes of potentially acquiring the property and covering some ownership and early redevelopment costs. The RIDP program was amended and supported with additional funds by the legislature with key leadership from Washington County Senator Andrew Perchlik explicitly for the purposes of supporting two federally-impacted projects: one in Newport and 87 State Street in Montpelier. The hope remains that a private developer with a positive vision for the property emerges, but the LDC is prepared to step in and participate in the auction if a viable private party doesn't materialize. The goal of the project is to create flood resilient development on site, including up to 80 units of housing on the back portion of the property.

Two excellent news pieces have recently been published on this project:

[Seven Days story from June 10th](#)

[Montpelier Bridge story from June 24](#)

Do you have questions or feedback on these developments? Please contact Jon Copans at jon@montpelierstrong.org

The Latest from Montpelier Neighbor Net



Montpelier Neighbor Net aims to support our neighborhoods to come together for better communication, social connections, and emergency preparedness. Working on a hyper-local level, local volunteer coordinators are strengthening our ability to connect and look out for one another. MNN is growing with 46 active Local Neighbor Nets covering over 1,300 households! [Click here](#) for an interactive map of the neighborhoods in the network. Are you and your neighbors on the map? For anyone interested in starting a Local Neighbor Net, It's easy to take part. Sign up and join the buzz at MontpelierNeighbor.Net/join

Who We Are

Born from the merger of the Montpelier Foundation and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience, the Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier is an action-oriented organization established to create a healthy and resilient city by facilitating democratic engagement, supporting community-led initiatives, and gathering and distributing resources. [Learn more here.](#)



Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier

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