

TASK FORCE

Homelessness task force

DATE SEptember 6. 2023

LOCATION

Hybrid meeting Zoom and City Council chambers

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Erica Reil, Chip Castle, Miriam Ben-Dor, Jeremy Spiro-Winn, Joe Mueller, Stephen Finner and Philip Moros

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHER ATTENDEES

Staff Liaison Brooke Pouliot, Samatha Hiscock, Joe Reil

TOPICS

a) Update on Flood and info hub

An info hub is being set up at the old police station. A Montpelier website that serves the same purpose is being used as a template.

The city manager is having a meeting on September 10 to finalize it.

b) Commissioner Reil briefing on ADU's in the city

Joe Reil planning commission update on ADU. City council considered changes in ADU. It was voted down. It is going to be reintroduced at a subsequent meeting.

The planning commission is pursuing grants. The grants will be used to get consultants to look at revising/revitalizing N Main Street and Summer St. and to look at zoning changes. Nothing is in place yet. For more current information contact Joe Reil.

c) update on city response to homelessness

The library will be used as a warming shelter for 2023/2024.

An ice machine is located at the Aud.

There was a discussion about the placement of the toilets. We would like the location to be more central to the city and less grouped on the North end. The location of the North end allows those who have no plumbing due to food access to bathroom facilities. Location and info on portable toilets should be on the city website and made otherwise available.

Ericka will draft a letter to the City Manager

There was some discussion about whether the focus of the task force was becoming flood centric. The consensus was no. That those displaced by flooding were indeed homeless. This is true but it is a different kind of homelessness.

d) other updates

Green Mountain United Way Is resurrecting the Summit.

A summit is held in Montpelier to strategize and share information about the Homeless population with the addition of those rendered by the flooding.

The summit is attended by city officials from Barre, Berlin, and Montpelier as well as Good Sam, Washington County Mental Health (WCMH) and Another Way.

Officially there are 31 buildings damaged in Barre City by the flood. The City Manager estimates the homeless population at 300. 150 of those are flood related. The shelters are full.

Stephen is attending a VIA meeting and will send info out.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTIONS

1) A motion was made to approve the July 2023 minutes.

Moved by Jeremy.

Seconded by Phil

Unanimously approved

2) Ask the city to increase the number of portable toilets in the city and consider placing portable showers in the city.

Moved by Stephen
Seconded by Miriam
Unanimously approved

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:43

NEXT MEETING
10/4/2023
7 pm

CLERK Philip Moros