

Montpelier Design Review Committee Meeting March 2, 2026

Subject to review and approval

This public meeting was recorded, and the video will be available for viewing at this link:
<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1094/CivicClerk>

Present: Eric Gilbertson, Martha Smyrski, Ben Cheney, Liz Pritchett (alternate), Rebekah Owens (alternate), Meredith Crandall – staff, ORCA Media – recording.

Also in attendance: Dan Groberg, Nadalia McLeary, Dan Clar, Brooke Premont, Jamie Fenoff, Riyam Al-Janabi, Jesse Harmon, Tolya Stonorov, Elijah Myer

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Ben Cheney.

Staff to review remote meeting procedures and processes, related questions may be asked at this time: As there were people attending remotely, staff gave a summary of how to participate in the hybrid model.

Approval of the agenda: Martha made a motion to approve the agenda, Rebecca seconded. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Comments from the Chair: There were no comments from the Vice Chair.

135 Main Street

Owner: Kellogg Hubbard Library Applicant: Norwich University School of Architecture & Art
Review proposed play space structures.

Tolya Stonorov and several Norwich University students were in attendance to represent the applicant.

The application is for a playscape featuring different structures to be placed on the library's south side lawn around a new accessible path connecting School Street, Main Street, and the library's front walkway. It will be a flexible, all-season environment to support ADA, medium, and high mobility users. The design and construction are through Norwich University's Design-Build studio.

The following Norwich students presented details of the project for the committee and answered some questions: Brooke Premont, Jamie Fenoff, Riyam Al-Janabi, Jesse Harmon, and Elijah Myer. Tolya Stonorov also detailed a few points. Committee members asked about structure height, material details – including finishes, safety features, and durability.

Final design details are still to be worked out, but: (i) the wood will be sealed with a finish that will allow graying, but help withstand deterioration; (ii) the walkways between the raised and enclosed platforms will be either playground rated netting or wood; (iii) if installed, the vertical netting for climbing will be playground rated – but budget requirements may mean this feature

is not installed; (iv) the engineering team is working on the installation details needed to ensure that the perforated "roof" panels will withstand bending from hanging or other weight forces.

The applicable criteria were reviewed and determined to be acceptable.

The application was approved on a 5-0 vote.

3 Granite Street

Owner/Applicant: Dan Clar

Review alterations to doors, windows, and siding associated with change of use.

The applicant was in attendance.

The application is to renovate an existing small building (the one closest to the river) to convert from office/storage space to parking/storage. An earlier permit proposed creating a dwelling unit in one end, but the applicant is no longer doing this.

The plan is to maintain as much of the existing structure as possible. The roof structure will remain as is, the walls will be altered to accommodate new overhead doors and remove windows. The new siding will be wood clapboard, the same as the big building. There will be a light fixture centered over the larger overhead door. The portico roof on the Granite Street side is in the way of larger vehicle maneuvers, and will be removed.

Staff reviewed the description the building as listed on the State Register of Historic Places, noting that window and door placement and type are not mentioned at all.

The applicable criteria were reviewed and determined to be acceptable.

Eric needed to leave the meeting before the vote.

Martha moved to accept the project as proposed. Rebekah seconded. The application was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Other business: There were no items to discuss.

Review minutes from February 17, 2026: Rebekah made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Ben seconded. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote, with Liz abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

Adjournment: Martha made a motion to adjourn, Rebekah seconded. The meeting adjourned 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary