

Homelessness Task Force Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 22nd, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall, Montpelier

To dial in, make advance arrangement with Cameron (cniedermayer@montpelier-vt.org/802-262-6250)

ITEM	ACTION
Introductions & Agenda	1. Introductions 2. Review and approve agenda
Public Comment	3. Public invited to comment on any items not on the Agenda
Minutes	4. Review and approve Minutes from prior meeting(s): a. December 18th, 2020 minutes b. January 8, 2020 minutes
Ongoing Issues & Updates	5. Updates from Council Meeting(s), as needed a. January 8th, 2020 meeting b. January 15th, 2020 meeting 6. Camping – public property identified 7. Issues with transportation-getting people to shelter 8. Permanent Housing 9. Good Sam Overflow-Shelter location options and discussion
Policy	10. Policy for spending money donated to support immediate urgent needs and street outreach a. Advertising
Networking	11. Volunteers from the Task Force to attend other agency meetings
Next steps	12. Set agenda for next meeting. a. Potential Topics: i. # of people who are homeless in Montpelier – update on number crunching ii. Solutions regarding health care needs of people who are homeless
Adjourn	13. Review action items – who, what, by when?

Overall HTF AGENDA

I. Urgent / Immediate Needs (specific items included in today's agenda)

For future agendas:

- Camping possibilities
- storage for strike force supplies
- places for cleaning - shower & laundry
- 24 hour bathrooms
- Transportation (vouchers, off-hours)
- Process for banning people from Another Way, shelter, warming spaces

II. Improvement of Existing Systems

A. Gathering information & Support

1. Determine what information is needed and how to get it
2. Connect with other Stakeholder (who, how, when)
3. Align HTF with other groups focused on helping homeless people
 - Vermont Interfaith Action
 - Housing Task Force
4. What is the budget that is needed and where will money come from?
5. Explore grant possibilities – especially with other stakeholders

B. Specific ideas

1. Have service providers go to where people in need naturally gather
2. Connect more people with Coordinated Entry System
3. Create a means for One Stop Shopping
4. Utilizing the Nest
5. Hold a community forum that will bring attention to the issues and people who are homeless and generate creative ideas for community-based solutions

III. Strategies for Reducing Homelessness

1. Help people who are homeless take responsibility & work for own interests
2. Wages that match costs of living
3. Filling existing housing stock (need information about # of available rental units – Cameron and Rick are collecting information on this)
4. Creating more permanent housing options using multiple strategies (housing first, harm reduction, for people not eligible for any programs, Gary's suggestion of a communal farm run by a nonprofit where residents can voluntarily do work or pay a small sum in exchange for their housing)

Homelessness Task Force CHARGE

The Montpelier Homelessness Task Force is charged with providing the City Council with a report in three months that includes:

- Creative, collaboratively developed short-term ideas and/or solutions to improve conditions for the people who are homeless
- Policy recommendations and concrete ideas for longer-term structural and systems improvement that the City could implement, along with a preliminary budget and timeline for duration of work and implementation

Ideas and recommendations should be supported by data that includes:

- Information regarding the scope of homelessness in Montpelier and the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Montpelier
- The systems currently in place in our region to address homelessness
- The range of concerns, perceived barriers, and potential solutions identified by the community
- Existing strategies in other cities or states, recognizing that the location of our city requires solutions that are responsive to our changing seasons