

Historic Resources Implementation Strategy

Goals and Strategies:

(Aspiration A) Montpelier will be a community that understands, appreciates, and preserves our historic resources.

Goal a. Improve the City's understanding of its historic resources.

Strategy: Conduct **surveys of historic sites, structures, and districts** including at a minimum two of the new activities listed below:

- i. Assess ongoing eligibility of resources listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** [Priority: Low; Cost: Low; Who: HPC, P&ZA, consultant]
- ii. Inventory (survey and map) neighborhoods and areas listed on the **State Register of Historic Places** but not the **National Register**, for purposes of nomination as new historic districts on the **National Register**. At a minimum, do this for the Meadow Neighborhood. [Priority: High; Cost: Medium; Who: HPC, P&ZA, consultant]¹
- iii. Identify and inventory (map) existing sites and proposed updates to the **State Register of Historic Places, including both individual and district nominations**. [Priority: High, Cost: Medium; Who: HPC, P&ZA, consultant]
- iv. Other additions to the **National Register of Historic Places** through new individual and district nominations [Priority: Medium, Cost: Medium; Who: HPC, P&ZA, consultant]
- v. New **mapping of existing sites** that are listed individually on the National Register but are not within the City's Historic District [Priority: Medium, Cost: Medium; Who: HPC, P&ZA, consultant]

Strategy: Conduct a **survey of key scenic resources** and conduct a viewshed analysis of the resources. [Priority: High; Cost: Medium; Who: P&ZA and consultant]

Strategy: Continue to participate in the **Certified Local Government** program to provide access to grants and other funding to pursue studies and preservation projects.

Reserved Strategy: Conduct a **survey of archeologically sensitive areas** and map resources. [Priority: low; Cost: Medium; Who: P&ZA and consultant]

Reserved Strategy: When conducting **surveys of historic sites, structures, and districts**, identify and incorporate the findings of the **archeologically sensitive and historically significant areas study** into the State and National Register listings. Examples of significance include, areas reflecting historic settlement patterns (granite industry,

¹ Low Cost = less than \$1,000. High Cost = more than \$100,000.

tenement housing clusters, etc.), the Civil War Hospital on College Street, the Capitol Complex, the Bailey Avenue Brickworks, and Hubbard Park. *[Priority: Low; Cost: Low; Who: P&ZA with consultant]*

Reserved Strategy: Compile **oral histories of Montpelier** residents regarding the built environment. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Low, Who: P&ZA, consultant]*

Reserved Strategy: With our historic preservation partners, develop a **plan for the collection and preservation of artifacts** of local significance. Assist partners with identifying and maintaining a location to store local cultural and historical items, such location to be secure, flood proof, and climate controlled, with facilities for documenting and displaying the preserved items. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Medium, Who: P&ZA]*

Goal b. Increase the community's appreciation for its historic resources.

Strategy: Establish a **Historic Preservation Outreach Program** to coordinate, collaborate, and sponsor educational events with current and potential partners (e.g. Montpelier Alive, Div. of Historic Preservation, Montpelier Heritage Group, Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont Folk Life Center, Vermont Humanities Council, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, UVM Preservation Program, local historical societies, and other similar organizations) including:

- Develop a **speaker series, conferences, and/or workshops** to assist developers, contractors, and homeowners with meeting the design review standards as well as promoting changes to the **design review regulations**. *[Priority: High, Cost: Low-Medium, Who: HPC, P&ZA, hopefully with collaborators]*
- Hosting **walking tours** in conjunction with the Farmers markets and other appropriate events. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Low, Who: HPC and P&ZA]*
- Developing materials or apps for **self-guided walking tours** of the Historic District. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Medium, Who: HPC a collaborator with other leads; Overlaps with Cultural Resources Chapter]*

Strategy: Develop and improve the **historic resource topics on the City's website**. *[Priority: High, Cost: Low, Who: HPC and P&ZA]*

Strategy: Establish a **Historic Preservation Outreach Program** to Identify or develop educational materials for the public on the value of historic resources. Make them available through the Planning & Community Development Office. *[Priority: High, Cost: Low, Who: HPC and P&ZA]*

Strategy: Continue to participate in the **Certified Local Government program** to provide access to grants and other funding to pursue education and outreach opportunities.

Strategy: Continue to participate in the **Designated Downtown Program** to provide opportunities for events and outreach that supports Montpelier's Historic Downtown.

Reserved Strategy: Continue and expand a **Historic Preservation Outreach Program** to partner with educational institutions (schools of all types, libraries, and museums) for outreach including:

- i. Engage in relationship(s) with teachers and educators to expand student interest.
- ii. Continue to have a high school HPC member on the Historic Preservation Commission.
- iii. Develop new **educational programs** such as a 3D Vermont Team, Lego competitions of Montpelier buildings, or supporting entries for History Day Competitions.
- iv. Enlist aid of students from local and regional schools of all types to assist with surveys and mapping, either paid or volunteer. For example: Vermont Technical College, University of Vermont, Norwich, City schools, community based learning programs.

[Priority: Low, Cost: Low–Medium, Who: HPC, P&ZA and possible collaborators]

Reserved Strategy: Initiate a new set of activities in the **Historic Preservation Outreach Program** to install interpretive and informational historic markers and educational displays.

- i. Explore **Historic District Street Signs** and pop-up displays in City Hall and/or storefronts.
- ii. Create a program to actively promote the installation of interpretive and informational historic markers.
- iii. Coordinate with the Montpelier Alive! **Wayfinding** project.
- iv. Republish **historical downtown maps** for distribution through Planning and Community Development Office and other locations.

[Priority: Low, Cost: Low–Medium, Who: HPC, P&ZA, and possible collaborators]

Reserved Strategy: Create a program to assist with the **recovery, collection, preservation, and display of historically significant items**. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Medium, Who: P&ZA with HPC and partners]*

Goal c. Continue and improve upon the City's protection of historic resources.

Strategy: Adopt a policy that the **protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of the City's architectural, engineering, landscape, and cultural features of historic or aesthetic value is a public good** and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and general welfare of the people. *[Priority: High, Cost: Low; Who: HPC and P&ZA]*

Strategy: Adopt a policy requiring the **maintenance of City owned historic buildings** (e.g. City Hall, Fire Station, Hubbard Park Tower, and Green Mount Cemetery Chapel) consistent with Secretary of Interior Standards. *[Priority: High, Cost: Low; Who: HPC and P&ZA]*

Strategy: Revise the **City's agreement with the Capitol Complex Commission** to administer Design Review Rules in order to clarify roles and responsibilities of each party. *[Priority: Low; Cost: Low \$, high time; Who: Planning Department Staff and HPC]*

Strategy: Amend the **tax stabilization program** to provide points toward awarding contracts for projects that rehabilitate historic structures consistent with Secretary of the Interior Standards.

Strategy: Continue to administer and enforce provisions of the **Unified Development Regulations** that protect historic structures and amend as noted below including at least i, ii, and iii out of the following:

- i. Amend the demolition of historic structures provisions to make the process clearer and to study whether to cover all historic structures (not just those in the Design Review District). *[Priority: High, Cost: Low; Who: HPC and P&ZA]*
- ii. Amend the boundary of the Design Review District to match neighborhood boundaries, National Register District boundaries, or other justification. *[Priority: High, Cost: Low; Who: HPC, Planning Dept. Staff, Planning Commission, and City Council]*
- iii. Continue process to amend the City's Design Review Regulations including development of guidelines to assist developers and reviewers. *[Priority: High, Cost: Medium; Who: HPC, Planning Dept. Staff, Consultants]*
- iv. Review adaptive reuse provisions and determine if changes are required. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Low, Who: HPC, Planning Dept. Staff]*
- v. Explore amending the Design Review Committee procedures to require at least one member have historic preservation training or education. *[Priority: Medium, Cost: Low, Who: HPC, Planning Dept. Staff]*

Strategy: Investigate what **owner-occupied rehabilitation programs** could be instituted to assist projects involving single and two-family, owner-occupied historic homes that rehabilitate the structures consistent with Secretary of the Interior Standards. *[Priority: Medium, Cost: Depends on scope of program; Who: HPC, P&ZA]*

Strategy: Continue to assist historic property owners with **grant writing** for:

- Historic Preservation grants
- Barn Preservation grants
- Downtown & Village Tax Credits
- Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits
- Brownfield loans and grants
- Other opportunities that may exist.

Strategy: Continue to participate in the **Certified Local Government** program to provide access to grants and other funding to pursue revisions to programs and regulations that support preservation of historic structures.

Strategy: Continue to participate in the **Designated Downtown Program** to provide opportunities for grants and programs that support the rehabilitation of historic structures in Montpelier's Historic Downtown.

Strategy: This Historic Resources Plan supports the implementation of the **Land Use Plan** for its highlighting of historic context and character in appropriate neighborhoods.

Reserved Strategy: Establish a program to **identify endangered historic buildings** and provide technical support to the owners. *[Priority: Low, Cost: High; Who: HPC and Planning Dept. Staff, possible consultants and collaborators]*

Reserved Strategy: Follow up on the archeological resources study when conducted and if appropriate add new provisions to the **Unified Development Regulations** to protect those resources. *[Priority: Low, Cost: Medium, Who: HPC, P&ZA]*