

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 11/17/2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, November 20	Design Review Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Monday, November 20	Development Review Board Meeting, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Monday, November 20	Sprinkler Committee Meeting, 4:30 P.M. in the Police Department Community Room
Tuesday, November 21	Energy Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:00 P.M. in the Memorial Room

FOR YOUR CALENDARS...

Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24, City Hall closed for Thanksgiving.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

One Taylor Street

Securing the signed purchase and sales agreement with Mowatt has enabled us to move forward with planning and design, bid prep, work with AOT, and other pieces of the project. All aspects of the project remain on schedule, with prep work and groundbreaking planned for the Spring.

State House Ice Skating Rink

Per Council's request, a letter went out to the Capitol Complex Commission today expressing objection to the Commission's rejection of the ice skating rink on the State House lawn for the coming winter season. We continue to look for other locations for the rink, including Montpelier High School and the College of Fine Arts green. Several residents and business owners have also stepped forward with ideas and offers. The community support for the rink has been great.

TIF

Sue Allen met with Joe Evans, Executive Director of the Montpelier Development Corp., Stephanie Hainley from White and Burke, and Fred Kenney, Executive Director of the Vermont Economic Progress Council today to go over some of the options for mapping potential TIF districts. Fred is leaving VEPC, and his replacement, Casey Mock, was also at the meeting. Fred went over the 'rules' of TIF to help us narrow our potential projects list.

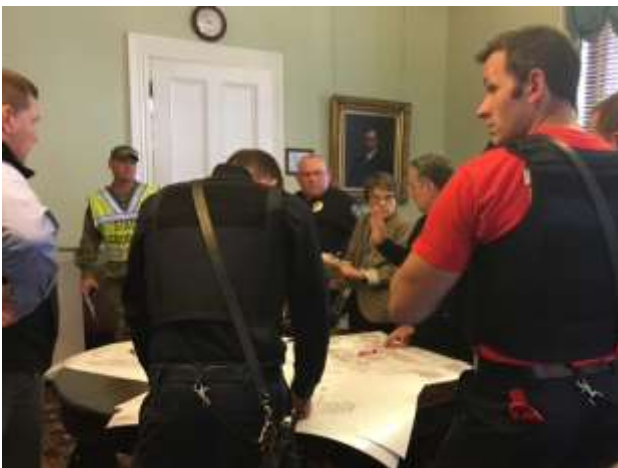
Master Plan & Zoning

The December 13th and 20th meetings will have public hearings for both the master plan and zoning.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Police & Fire Departments

MPD officers and our Crisis Negotiation Unit recently participated in a joint training exercise at the State House with the Vermont Capitol Police, the Vermont State Police's Tactical Services Unit, and the Montpelier Fire Department. A complex scenario was enacted requiring response from patrol units within the building and nearby, negotiations to attempt a peaceful resolution, evacuation and treatment of injured bystanders, and staging of the tactical team to contain the situation safely. The drill was successful and important for our on-going planning and emergency preparation.



Planning & Community Development

Public Hearings for Zoning, River Hazard Area Regulation, and the Master Plan will take place on December 13th and December 20th. The Master Plan draft is already on line and ready for review at <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/974/20172018-Master-Plan-Re-adoption>.

Finance Department

The due date for second quarter property taxes has passed and we thank everyone for their timely payments. The Finance Department's focus has now shifted to the FY19 budget process.

Public Works

Water / Sewer Division:

Repairs to a leaking hydrant line on State Street across from the Capital Plaza Hotel will take place on Monday the 20th. Work will primarily involve the sidewalk area where an excavation will be made to locate the source of the leak and undertake the repairs. Restoration work will take place immediately following but may consist of a temporary patch for the winter if necessary. We do not expect to shut the water main off, but that could change.

Next on the list is the repair of a leaking gate valve at the intersection of North Franklin Street & Cross Street. This will consist of an excavation to expose the valve which will need to be replaced if it can't be repaired. If the valve can be repaired, the water mains will not need to be shut down.

Street Division:

The crews are busy with end of season project completion including final lawn & shoulder restoration on Towne Hill Road which had to be postponed last week due to other pressing matters and poor weather conditions. Other work planned includes anything related to hot mix paving such as potholes, shimming where needed such as for drainage control, and final street restoration for catch basin and water system patching. We expect the local hot mix plant to close for the season before Thanksgiving. We sometimes travel to the plant in Williston which often stays open for a little longer should the need arise and if conditions are acceptable. If possible, some additional pavement markings will be completed as well.

The crew is also prepared to respond to winter weather conditions as we are now in the transition period between construction & winter operation seasons. Equipment has been fitted with snow tires, plow and salt spreading attachments are complete, deicing materials are on hand ready for use and the fleet has been checked and tested for deployment when needed. The last of the flower barrels, bike racks and benches have been removed from the downtown and stored away for the winter. The seasonal event based on-street winter parking ban is now in effect and public notices have been published in the newspaper, posted on the web site and the Police Department distributed the annual flyers by placing them on vehicles found parked on the streets.

“Makeover Montpelier”:

The paving contractor, Pike Industries is scheduled to continue and hopefully complete punch list work in the downtown area on Tuesday the 21st which looks to be a day with favorable weather conditions. The list includes some shim paving of the Main Street railroad crossing which will be an interim patch to address the severe bump. This crossing is scheduled to be replaced next summer as part of the planned Main Street paving contract.

Community Services

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Featured on VPR

Vermont Public Radio's series on “Aging Well in Vermont” aired this week and showcased the

Montpelier Senior Activity Center as an example of how older adults are staying healthier in Vermont. VPR's Bob Kinzel interviewed staff, instructors, and program participants and learned about the impact the Center has on encouraging healthy aging. [Part One of "Aging Well in Vermont"](#) and [Part Two](#). (audio will be posted)

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Open House

On Monday, November 27 from 5-7pm, join us at 58 Barre Street for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's Holiday Open House. Learn more about the programs and services offered by the Center and its partners, sign up for classes and membership, and enjoy light refreshments. Open to all!

Recreation Field Updates

The recent windstorm knocked down a tree near the Recreation Field baseball field (see photo), damaging the scoreboard. We're looking into a repair. We are also planning to put accessible seating in the bleachers at the Mountaineers Field. Details are currently being worked out.



Winter Program Registration Begins Monday, November 27

The Community Services Department is offering more than 100 programs for people of all ages this winter. We know that winter in Vermont can be hard. That's why we are offering more than 100 programs for people of all ages to bring fun and activity to the season. This winter, you and your family can join us for skiing at Sugarbush, take a yoga class, play Pickleball, learn to cook, or create puppets for All Species Day. No matter your interest or age, we're confident that you'll find lots of affordable programs to enjoy this winter. Winter registration begins Monday, November 27 in our office and online at www.montpelier-vt.org/csregister. More information about programs will be available in our Winter Program Guide, available on November 21 in our office and online at www.montpelier-vt.org/cs.

Sugarbush Ski Program

The cold is here, so it's time to think snow and winter skiing! The winter, our Ski Program returns to Sugarbush Mountain for five weeks of skiing and lessons. This program offers several packages and combinations of lessons, life tickets, and rentals at a reduced group rate. The program also includes round-trip bus transportation from Montpelier High School. Open to children 8-18 and

adult chaperones, the program runs January 7, 21, 28, February 4, 11 from 10:30am-4:45pm. All registrations must be received by November 28 at 3pm. For more information and prices, please visit www.montpelierrec.org/skiprogram.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

Dec. 6	Eminent Domain Hearing for the Cummings Street Bridge	Dec. 13	Master Plan Public Hearing Zoning Public Hearing Budget WRRF update Charter changes Hubbard Park land Dog Ordinance, 2 nd reading Public Safety goal Parklet Ordinance, 2 nd reading Wayfinding Signs MTIC appointments Complete Streets Group appointments
Dec. 20	Master Plan PH Zoning PH Budget Affordability Goal	Jan. 3	Budget or Zoning Workshop
Jan. 10	Budget Workshop Infrastructure Goal	Jan. 17	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Charter Public Hearing Bond Public Hearing Necessity Resolution
Jan. 24	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Charter Public Hearing Bond Public Hearing	Feb. 14	Apartment Inspections Good Governance Goal



William Fraser
 City Manager