

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 10/26/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, October 29	Cemetery Commission, 12 PM, City Manager's Conference Room
Monday, October 29	City Council: Ballot Items Public Hearing, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 30	Special Design Review Committee re: Parking Garage, 5:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Thursday, November 1	Tree Board, 5:30 PM, Memorial Room

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path

See additional information below in DPW report.

Timeframe for 1 Taylor Street project:

- Weather tight building – March 22, 2019
- Substantial Completion – Aug. 15, 2019
- Project Completion – Aug. 22, 2019

Public Parking Garage

The project goes before the Design Review Committee at a special meeting on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers. The Committee hopes to complete work on the proposal. The Development Review Board plans to continue work on the proposal at its Nov. 5 meeting. These are opportunities for public feedback. We have poster-sized renderings of the new drawings showing the Heney Lot connection to the bike path on display in City Hall. **Environmental work on the site gets underway next week.** That will include testing, followed by a remediation plan based on the findings. The Times Argus story today suggested surprise that environmental work would be part of the expense of the project. However, virtually every downtown project (in almost every downtown in Vermont) requires environmental remediation. That was anticipated from the start, and we included some environmental remediation in our budget. The 1 Taylor site is an example of how this works – testing and remediation improved the site. This is important to understand because we *want* development in our downtowns, not on open land outside growth areas.

Scooters

We are keeping track of calls and comments about the Bird scooters during this trial period. We are hearing from both sides – those who oppose the scooters and worry about safety issues, and those who like them and use them for transportation. We take the safety issues seriously, and are forwarding the concerns to the Bird staff. We would appreciate you forwarding any e-mails you receive to Assistant City Manager Sue Allen (sallen@montpelier-vt.org) because the City Manager's office is keeping a spreadsheet on opinions.

Recreation Center Feasibility Study

Ken Ballard of Ballard and King, the firm hired to conduct the Rec Center Feasibility Study, spent Wednesday and Thursday in Montpelier talking to everyone from CVMC to seniors to pickleball players and many others about what they want from a municipal recreation center. We held a public hearing Thursday evening at the High School, which was well attended, to brainstorm ideas. As you know, the current Recreation Center on Barre

Street needs extensive upgrades just to meet ADA codes. Ken will spend the next few months reaching out for public input, conducting a survey, and studying options and funding issues. He will return to Montpelier for another round of focus groups and a public hearing, and is expected to present Council with a report of realistic options sometime early next year.

Act 250 Jurisdictional Question – unchanged

Resident Alan Goldman filed a request with the Act 250 regional coordinator for a jurisdictional opinion which would tie all the potential projects in the TIF district and/or growth center together and require full Act 250 review of any of them as they arise, including the hotel and garage projects. Attorney David Rugh will be filing comments on behalf of the city.

CVPSA

Reminder that November 14 will be primarily a joint meeting with the Barre City Council to receive a proposed dispatching plan from the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority.

Legal – unchanged

The City's petition to enter the proceedings concerning GMP's re-construction of the Marshfield Dam has been approved. We are now a party to the matter, for the purpose of monitoring the information in case there is anything relevant to the city.

Legal – unchanged

In the appeal by Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) of the City's WWTF discharge permit, the matter has now been fully briefed by all parties, including motions for summary judgment, responses thereto and reply filings. In its submissions to the Court, the City supported the legal briefs filed by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and also filed a separate reply memo addressing the issue of whether the discharge permit authorized an increase in phosphorous, as CLF has claimed. A hearing before the Environmental Court was held on July 30th to present oral arguments on the motions. We are now awaiting rulings on the motions and summary judgement.

City of Montpelier Help Wanted

View the latest job opportunities at <https://vt-montpelier.civicplus.com/Jobs.aspx>

View the latest City committee vacancies at <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?CID=22>

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Fire Department:

The fire department has ordered, and expects delivery next week, of a Large Wheel Stocks Stretcher. This new Stretcher will allow crews to safely remove injured persons from one of our many back country trails. We are planning a joint training with the police department, and members of our mountain biking community.

Please come visit us on Halloween at 5 p.m. for some scary treats, and not so scary fire safety tips. We are expecting a couple of special guest to help us out Halloween night. Hopefully they will not be too scary!!

Department of Public Works

Special Notice! City of Montpelier, Vermont Wins Competition for a Free Implementation of ArcGIS Hub! October 25, 2018 (Montpelier, VT): Stone Environmental has chosen the City of Montpelier for implementation of a web-based technology for community engagement using Esri's ArcGIS Hub technology. Stone will be providing their community service and innovation hours to support the development of a citizen engagement

website so that the City can take advantage of the latest tools to better inform its citizens.

Shared Use Path Project Granite St – Gallison Hill Road:

Gallison Hill Road drainage work will begin the week of October 29th. The contractor intends to work as late into the season as possible to include the box culvert on Old Country Club Road and the water main relocation on the side of Barre St near Caledonia Spirits.

Water Resource Recovery Facility Project:

DPW and finance met with USDA Rural Development to discuss potential funding for the WRRF OE project. The meeting was very productive and the initial assessment indicates the project is likely eligible for low interest loan financing as well as a potential grant opportunity of \$3M.

First Ave Sidewalk: Completed

Lague Drive Reconstruction:

The contractor has paved the new base course and has begun paving in the side street and driveway transitions. Restoration work will follow which will primarily be accomplished by DPW. The finish wearing surface of pavement will be applied in the spring which is typically done to allow for any settlement or defects that may occur over the winter to be corrected before final paving.

Cummings Street Bridge Project:

The contractor has now mobilized and work is well underway on the temporary bridge. The contractor expects to begin work on the temporary water main within the next week or two. The plan is to have the temporary bridge and water main in place and ready for use in the spring so the contractor can begin dismantling the old bridge without delay in the spring.

Northfield Street Project:

With the paving last section sidewalk last week, construction is officially now substantially complete. This marks the end of a two year duration project.

One Taylor St Transit Center:

Work has begun on the new bridge for the shared use path. Work planned for next week consists of sheet pile driving for the abutments and placing rip-rap (stone) along the edge of the river. This activity includes installation of the new drainage culvert that will outlet at the bridge abutment and will eventually be replaced through to Main Street.

Winter Equipment Preparations:

The equipment division has been busy preparing for snow with tire changes and mounting de-icing equipment. The new sidewalk plow has arrived which is now being fitted for use and training the operators because this piece of equipment is substantially different from other sidewalk tractors. Our new plow truck is being fitted at our vendor's shop with the truck body and plow features. Everything else has been ordered and is either waiting to be built or is in transit to us.

Miscellaneous:

- Our bagged leaf program continues through November 2nd. Please check the schedule for our daily curb side pick-up areas.
- Other customary Fall work is also underway, including storm system inspection and cleaning, seasonal sign changes, etc.
- Our bridge maintenance contractor has been authorized to perform routine cleaning, greasing and other preventative maintenance measures for three more bridges this year. We are awaiting notice of the start date.
- DPW Crews: Installed a new catch basin and associated piping to alleviate a chronic icing problem in winter on Deerfield

- Continue street sweeping and leaf pickup
- DPW administration & engineering staff has been fully engaged with multiple construction permit applications which is typically busy in the Fall as contractors attempt to complete projects before winter. Numerous hours have also been consumed by the proposed garage & hotel project.
- A section of river bank eroded on the North Branch which damaged a short length of sidewalk next to the tennis courts at the Elm Street Recreation Field. Staff conducted a survey and is preparing a site plan for the repair project and a meeting with the ANR stream alteration engineer took place. Work will begin the week of October 29th after the state permit has been issued.
- Route 2: Hot mix patching on bridge and near Agway
- Towne Water Services: A crew will be installing new water services on Towne Hill Road to eliminate connections to an old galvanized line.
- DPW plans to begin removing street containers, benches, flower barrels, etc....

Community Services

You are Invited to MSAC's Open House!

For over 50 years, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) has been a place for Montpelier area seniors to discuss, learn, explore and gather. On Monday, November 12 from 3:00 – 6:30pm, MSAC will opening its doors and inviting everyone from Montpelier and beyond to come and experience the center for themselves. Course demonstrations, music by renowned local artists Allison Mann and Colin McCaffrey, a sneak preview of the winter course offerings and so much more is planned - this is a great opportunity to come and learn what exactly happens at 58 Barre Street. We hope to see you there! Limited transportation is available in the Montpelier area – contact the MSAC office for more details.

Photography Bug Needed!: As part of our Senior Center Open House, we are looking to get pictures of classes, meetings, events, and all kinds of happenings at our Montpelier Senior Activity Center! If you love taking pictures and would like to volunteer your talents for about an hour a week from 10/ 29 through 11/9, please call Becky at 802-225-8694.

Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era 1946 - 1960

Monday, October 29 at 7:00 pm

MSAC Film Appreciation Instructor, Rick Winston, and historian/member Michael Sherman will discuss Rick's new book at MSAC. What happened in Vermont when the anti-Communist fear known as the "Red Scare" swept the country? Quite a bit, as it turns out. Rick Winston explores some forgotten history as we see how a small, rural "rock-ribbed Republican" state with a historically libertarian streak handled the hysteria of the time. Far from the klieg lights of Washington D.C., Hollywood, and New York City, there were several fascinating stories in the Green Mountains: a high-profile academic firing, a conservative senator who helped take down Joseph McCarthy, controversies involving left-leaning summer residents, and some veteran newspaper editors who spoke out against McCarthy's tactics. Now, as our country again experiences a political atmosphere charged with intolerance, condemnation, and widespread falsehoods, this book could not be more timely. Copies will be available to purchase and for Rick to sign, with 10% of the purchase going to benefit MSAC.

Osher Lecture: Addiction and Recovery in Central Vermont

Gary Lee Miller will be exploring the causes and symptoms of addiction and how we can all help at this upcoming week's Osher Lecture. Miller will be discussing Writers for Recovery and the science of using writing as a recovery tool. Join us on Wednesday, October 31 at 1:30 pm at MSAC, 58 Barre Street.

Halloween Party : Don't forget to bring your young ghouls and goblins to the Montpelier Recreation Department's annual Halloween Party this Saturday, October 27th! Children grades six and under are welcome to join us for an afternoon of games, prizes, food, and fun at the Montpelier High School cafeteria. Games will start at 1:00 and run for an hour; followed by a magic show at 2:30! We hope to see you there!

Girls on the Run: Are you looking for a way to get involved with the community while getting exercise? Consider signing up to coach a Girls on the Run team with the Montpelier Recreation Department! This is a great opportunity to coach a team of fifteen girls in grades 3-6 as they work their way through a curriculum that teaches healthy development, teamwork, self-confidence and leads the students to successful completion of a 5K run. Teams will form in January and February, but we're starting to reach out to coaches now! Contact Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org for more information or with any questions.

Parks Resiliency VISTA: The Montpelier Parks and Trees Department is seeking an AmeriCorps national service volunteer to help build a program that encourages healthy living and promotes a substance free lifestyle to Montpelier's young people. This AmeriCorps volunteer would serve full time; for about forty hours a week and in return would receive a living allowance; rent assistance; student loan forgiveness; and professional development opportunities. This is a great program for an entry level professional seeking to give back and gain experience; or works well as a gap year between undergrad and further education! For more information, please see <https://www.vermontyouthamericorps.org/vyt-join-our-team>.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

Oct 29 (Mon.)	Special Meeting – Public Information session for special election items CM	Nov 14	Budget Guidelines Finance Budget Schedule Finance Community Profile ACM CVPSA Board Presentation – joint w/Barre CC MTIC appointments – ATCM Election update - Clerk
Nov 28	Report on PCI Targets DPW Main/Barre Corridor Study DPW Personnel Plan Revision – CM/Finance Master Plan Update – P&D Zoning Fixes – P&D Conservation Commission Appts. – ATCM Montpelier Foundation 501-C-3 - Finance	Dec 12	Budget Finance/CM Official Map P&D Complete Streets Plan DPW
Dec 19	Budget Finance/CM Economic Development Summary P&D MDC goals/measures CM/MDC Housing Strategy (Purchasing land?) P&D Sabins Pasture Plan CM/P&D Tax Stabilization Policy CM/P&D/MDC Storefront Incentives CM/P&D Livable Wage/Min wage ordinances CM Ex-Officio Committee Appts ATCM Energy Efficiency Charter Language - ACM	Jan 2	Budget if needed Finance/CM
Jan 9	Budget Finance/CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D	Jan 16	Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Riverfront Access plan P&D District heat summer operations plan ACM
Jan 24 (Thurs)	Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Charter Public hearing CM Bond public hearing/necessity res. CM Approve warning CM Audit Report - Finance	Feb 13	Restructure revolving loan funds P&D Complete Ordinance review – 1 st reading ATCM Manager Review CM
Feb 27	Main/Barre Implementation Plan DPW Ordinance review – 2 nd reading ATCM		

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Not calendared as agenda items:

- Utilize TIF for applicable projects – *being done with Garage*
- Reinststitute council budget survey **CM done**
- Implement municipal facility best practices for stormwater **DPW - ongoing**
- Ensure any new facility or renovation meets net zero goals **Facilities**
- Publish and Post resources for landlords and tenants **ACM/P&D done**
- Conduct public outreach about housing rights and issues **ACM/P&D done**
- Add public dashboard from Envisio (October) **ATCM**
- Community workshops on social justice if approved by council
- Continue W/S master plan **DPW - ongoing**
- Continue planning for CSO elimination **DPW ongoing**
- Seek grants for EV Charging stations **P&D**
- Employee parking incentive **ACM/P&D**
- Substance Abuse prevention program with schools **CS**

For Budget:

- Upgrade street lights to LED **DPW**
- Consider Net Zero fund/benefit charge **CM/MEAC**
- Seek funding to expand COSA to work with DCF families **CJC**
- Prioritize non-fossil fuel based vehicles in equipment plan **DPW/Finance**
- One Taylor Street – develop & Fund maintenance plan **DPW**
- Evaluate compatible fuel match **DPW**
- Police staffing and training **MPD**
- Replace aging fire vehicles **MFD**
- Facility Management **CM/Facilities**
- Community Services integration and staffing **ACM/CS**

Pending Meeting items:

- Parks tour and meeting with Parks Commission - *done*
- Open Meeting/Public records briefing



William Fraser
City Manager