

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 1/25/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, Jan. 28, 2019

Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, City Council Chambers

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path -- unchanged

Construction on this project remains on schedule. The Transit Center work is well underway. The first floor of the upper-floors housing segment of the project is underway. This week the team started putting in the abutments for the pedestrian bridge. The full schedule:

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

Public Parking Garage

The Act 250 District Commission issued a recess memo that outlines all remaining questions and information. We have 30 days to respond. Other parties will have 15 days after our response to offer any comments. The Commission will determine then whether another hearing is needed. Once all evidence is closed, the Commission has 15 days to issue a decision. It's also possible that some people may contest party status determinations made by the commission.

As you know, the group planning to add a garage-related item to the Town Meeting Day ballot failed to secure enough signatures. That issue will not appear on the ballot in March.

The DRB appeal could add costs to both the hotel and garage projects. Any delays may also jeopardize other projects such as Confluence Park, the North Branch East property plans, bike lanes and other initiatives made possible through use of garage parking

River Ice Formation

We continue to watch the rivers closely for ice build-up and potential flooding. Other Central Vermont communities, including Barre, are under similar watches.

Use of Area on the East Side of the North Branch

My advisory group met this week. We have an interim plan which we will present to the Council in February.

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.

Legal

The DRB site plan and subdivision permits were appealed by a group of residents. Our attorneys have reached out to their attorney to learn more about the reason for the appeal and whether the issues being appealed are the same as those in this group's petition or raise additional concerns. Thus far they group has not chosen to meet with us or discuss issues. The appellant has to file a statement of their issues and matters of law after which the city can respond.

Strategic Planning

We have scheduled our strategic planning work for April 15, 16 & 17. Details to come.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Facilities

Insulation of the hot water piping that supplies the Fire Station ice melting system (from the City Hall boiler room) was completed this week.

Public Works

Water Leaks

This week, the Water / Sewer division combatted 2 more water leaks; one on Liberty Street & the other on East State Street. The East State Street leak required a partial shutdown to isolate the leak.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project

Plans for next week consist of pouring the 2nd bridge abutment, fireproofing the building beams, installing metal framing and setting floor trusses.

Shared Use Path Project Granite St. – Gallison Hill Rd.

Next week, the contractor will be finishing the Old Country Club Rd. culverts, continue with the path excavation on the north side of Barre Street, and installing drainage system headwalls on Gallison Hill (to be coordinated around school peak traffic hours).

DPW Winter Operations

Our response to one of the most challenging weather events we've experienced in some time finally wrapped up on Friday afternoon but much work remains to be done. The sidewalk plows won't be wrapping up their routes until late in the day as work to do their routes for the second and third time.

The street division, supported by staff from the water / sewer division and mechanics worked almost continuously beginning on Saturday the 19th. Immediately following clean-up work from the 16" – 18" snow fall and arctic blast, the crews began day time and night time snow bank removal efforts throughout town hauling over 6,000 cubic yards of snow just during the overnight hours. Snow bank removal efforts had to be put on hold when the rainstorm event occurred as the crews then responded to widespread street and sidewalk flooding which then froze to the surface due to the very low ground temperatures. The overwhelming number of locations of ice obstructed drains necessitated that the engineering staff pitch in. Sidewalks were layered thick with ice rendering the salt ineffective so we had to switch over to sand for traction and safety.

Plans have now been made to resume snow bank removal operations. A crew will be out tonight removing snow banks along River St & Berlin St (Rt. 2) to widen lanes and open drains and clear sight lines. Beginning Sunday night (Monday morning), snow bank removal operations will take place for two consecutive nights

throughout several of the high density neighborhoods surrounding the downtown and schools. We will also be working during the days as we try to regain capacity for the next major storm event predicted to bring additional snowfall during the middle of the week.

Community Services

Parent Child Dance

This year's Parent Child Valentine's Day Dance will be on February 12th at Capitol Plaza Hotel. Tickets are on sale now at the Community Services front office (58 Barre Street) and we hope to see all families there for a night of music, dancing, and fun! Volunteers are still needed to help set up for the event, organize food and drinks, and help clean up after guests. If you are interested in helping to create a magical evening for kids in our community, please consider joining us! Email Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org for more information.

Free Tech & Tea – Technology Workshops for Older Adults

Pre-Registration Required - Sign up through the MSAC office.

Wednesdays | 10:15 - 11:15 am | Montpelier High School, Room 203 | Ages 50+

Presented in partnership between Montpelier Senior Activity Center and Montpelier High School, and led by students of MHS Math/Computer Science teacher Whitney Machnik. Come and learn about important topics presented by high school students, then receive individualized help to practice on your own device or use one provided by the school. Optional hot tea, frequently enjoyed in the classroom, will be available. Sign up individually or take 'em all!

Jan. 30 - Knowing your Computer (PC and Mac)

March 6 - How the Internet Works

March 20 - Smartphones and Syncing Them

April 3: Internet Safety

April 24: Online Shopping and Online Transactions

Lantern-Making Workshop for Montpelier's Community Lantern Parade

Saturday, February 2, 9:00 am—1:00 pm \$20 MSAC members/\$35 public | Ages 14+

Pre-registration Required – Sign up through the MSAC office by Feb. 1!

Join us for a fun and creative one-day lantern making workshop. Participants will be building beautiful hand-held luminaries from willow branches and paper for Montpelier's third community lantern parade. Facilitated by visual artist, Kalie Schneider, the luminaries can be used in the parade, or at home. They are lit from within by a battery operated LED light. No previous experience necessary. All tools and materials will be provided.

However, if you have a pair of handheld pruning shears, please bring them along; you'll find it useful to have a pair of your own.

Upcoming Blood Drive at MSAC

Friday, Feb. 1 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm, Red Cross will be having a blood drive at the Senior Center at 58 Barre Street. Did you know only 3% of Americans give blood? Now's a great time to give, especially you type Os out there! The Red Cross has issued an emergency appeal for blood donations, stating they have less than a three day supply—O-positive is the most transfused and O-negative (only 7% of Americans have this) can be given to anyone.

"Hidden Surprise" Clay Masks by Janice Walrafen Artist Reception

Friday, Feb. 1 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm.

From the artist: "I love masks. I make them for community pageantry of papier-mâché, cardboard, wire, cloth, and paint: big ones as street puppets, and smaller ones to wear, allowing the wearer to become someone else. I also make them from clay and glaze, to hang on the wall, to tell stories. Eight of the masks displayed in this exhibit are the clay masks from a series I created in 2013, titled Grief and Praise, Reflections of a 7- day Walk-

about Fast. Others in this exhibit are new. Come see them and let me know what stories they tell you.”

Brazilian Cuisine Potluck with Montpelier Gourmet Cooking Meetup

Friday, February 1, 6:30—8:30 pm | MSAC Community Room

Brazilian cuisine is characterized by African, Amerindian, Asian (mostly Japanese) and European influences. It varies greatly by region, reflecting the country's mix of native and immigrant populations, and its continental size as well. This has created a national cuisine marked by the preservation of regional differences.

What to bring: Please bring (i) a potluck dish that’s of Brazilian Cuisine (or a neighboring country) (ii) Tupperware if you'd like to return home with some leftovers, and (iii) a small card listing ingredients.

Cutlery and dishes are provided. Stove and microwave available for reheating. (This is potluck, so no cooking on site.) No alcohol, please. \$5.00 suggested (\$2.00 minimum) donation. Register at www.meetup.com/Montpelier-Gourmet-Cooking-Meetup, call Rod at 236-0893, or email rod@infinitelasertag.com.

Ice Rink to re-open this weekend

The rain earlier this week forced the ice rink on the statehouse lawn to temporarily close. However, we anticipate that the rink will re-open on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Skiing in Montpelier Parks

Despite the recent rain, there is plenty of delightful snow to enjoy in our local parks. It may take couple days of grooming but that should return most of the trails to sweet conditions.

Ice on Fire

The Montpelier Parks and Trees Department is proud to announce we will be co-hosting this year’s Ice on Fire festival, a celebration of deep winter that will take place at North Branch Nature Center next weekend, Sunday Feb. 3. Volunteers are needed to join us from 1:30pm-4:30pm for various roles, including food prep, parking assistance, and games coordination. Anyone interested should email Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

Feb 7	City Manager Review CM	Feb 13	Restructure revolving loan funds P&D Rec Center Study ACM Tax Stabilization CM North Branch East plan CM Social Equity Committee Charge – CM Zoning Fixes – P & D Audit – Finance Public Message Board - CC
Feb 20	City Manager Review CM	Feb 27	Main/Barre Implementation Plan DPW Charter Change PH - CM Zoning Fixes PH – P&D Scooters ATCM Parklets? - CM
Mar 13	Organizational Meeting Open Meeting/Public Records CM Community Indicators - CM Complete Ordinance review –?? ATCM	Mar 27	Livable Wage/Min wage ordinances CM Personnel Plan CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D Complete Ordinance review –?? ATCM



William Fraser
City Manager