

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 3/22/2019**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

Monday, March 25                      Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers

**Wednesday, March 27                      City Council, 6:00 PM, Council Chambers**

Thursday, March 28                      City Hall Art Committee, 3:30 PM, Council Chambers

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path**

Construction on this project remains on schedule. The Transit Center and Housing work is well underway – which is clearly visible from Taylor Street -- and plumbing for the building has begun. Work has started on both the lower and upper roofs. The mechanical and electrical systems will continue to be roughed in and exterior insulation and air sealing work will also continue. A team from the FTA visited last week and was very pleased with the progress.

- Substantial Completion – Aug. 15, 2019
- Project Completion – Aug. 22, 2019

**Public Parking Garage**

Representatives of the Capitol Plaza, Christ Church, City and Appellant group met for a second time on Thursday, and have tentatively scheduled another meeting for April 11<sup>th</sup>. All information has been submitted to the Act 250 District Commission, and we're awaiting word on whether another hearing is needed.

**5 Home Farm Way**

As you know, the building inspector was asked to inspect this structure because of safety concerns, and the review found numerous violations. Some windows are not boarded and access to the interior is available. Portions of the roof and floors are sagging, and the framing is deficient. Framing members are rotted, undersized and overloaded throughout the building. The foundation shows evidence of movement and potential failure. The parties listed as either owner or interested parties have been notified, as have historic preservation representatives and abutting landowners. The City Council will discuss the findings at the April 24 meeting.

**Legal**

The Environmental Division has issued a decision upholding the Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge permits issued by the Agency of Natural Resources. The Court's decision granted summary judgment in favor of the State and municipalities, including the City, and denied CLF's motion for summary judgment. The 30-day appeal period to appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court has now expired so the decision is final.

**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.

**Strategic Planning**

We have scheduled our strategic planning work with Julia Novak for April 15 and 16. City Councilors and Staff have received invitations via e-mail. More complete session agendas to come. Please RSVP to Jamie if you haven't yet.

## WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

### Public Works

DPW Street Division: Heavy wet snow today has resulted in difficult travel conditions. City crews have been out since early this morning. In addition to the snow plowing operations, several large trees fell across roadways which DPW crews needed to saw into manageable pieces in order to remove. Crews will continue to work into the evening with 2 plow operators working through the night. The snow plow crew is scheduled to resume work at 4:00am tomorrow morning.

Shared Use Path Project (Granite St – Gallison Hill Road): The contractor has begun roughing in the new path from the railroad crossing to Gallison Hill Road. This work will continue as conditions permit. Work is also taking place on Barre Street where a new sewer system is being installed at the Trakside, LLC property which is necessary for the construction of the storm water bio-retention pond. The new pump station at the Trakside property is scheduled for startup next Wednesday.

VTrans has provided the requested assistance to overcome the organizational issues impacting Consolidated Communications lack of response and delaying critical utility pole relocation work. The city issued a formal relocation order last June which gave notice that project delays could result in a contractor claim for damages. We are pleased to report that a meeting was held with Consolidated this week and they provided assurances that work will begin next week. GMP is also assisting in moving this work forward.

Clarendon Avenue Project Development: Project design is nearing 90% completion. Next week, the Engineering staff will order the new water main piping and begin the state permitting process.

Water Resource Recovery Facility Upgrade: Final permits are being applied for next week. Light construction activity will begin in early April with full crews on site starting in early May.

### Police

Sgt. Cochran, Sgt. Nordenson, and Cpl. Knisley attended a special law enforcement discussion with Gil Kerlikowske (retired Seattle police chief and former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy under President Obama), Dr. Rick Rawson, researcher and subject matter expert on opiate abuse, and Fred Ryan (retired Arlington, MA police chief) that examined Vermont's opioid abuse problem and effective strategies to combat the health crisis. Wednesday's presentation was held at Champlain College in Burlington. Chief Ryan (Ret.) was one of the many experts that helped Central Vermont Substance Abuse Services and MPD develop and launch our Project Safe Catch.

Related to the law enforcement discussion on the opiate crisis in Vermont, the Washington County Substance Abuse Regional Partnership (WCSARP) meeting this week had a presentation from Christine Johnson, Executive Director of the Chittenden County Opiate Alliance. Thanks to a more coordinated response to the addiction crisis: using Burlington PD analysts, imbedded clinicians with police, multi-disciplinary support, and the prevalence of naloxone (NARCAN) use, ODs in 2018 were greatly reduced from 2017 numbers. Next month the WCSARP will be learning more about Rutland's Project Vision as Washington County continues to shape and build its capacity to reduce addiction through prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. It is important to note that although the opiate problem is a significant community wellness challenge, the WCSARP team remains committed to the broader issues of substance abuse disorder (alcohol, cocaine/crack, marijuana and other drugs). MPD is a member of the WCSARP.

Last week, Chief Facos attended a FBI National Academy Associates Leadership Summit at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. This summit included FBINAA chapter presidents from around the globe to discuss law enforcement topics, both current and future issues, with peers and FBI senior leadership. Subjects covered

ranged from national security to improving police/community relations (including “Coffee with a Cop”).

### **Planning**

The Planning & Community Development Department received a question of how all the various city plans worked together – City Plan, Montpelier in Motion plan, complete streets plan, Barre/Main corridor plan, storm water master plan, the new downtown plan, etc. One answer is that we hope that in the development of the plans we have been considering the other plans and therefore there are no conflicts when each gets implemented. That does not always happen as some plans are narrowly focused like our Economic Development Strategic Plan or the Montpelier in Motion Plan (the City's bike and pedestrian plan). Other times these conflicts can be addressed in a Master Plan or City Plan. These general plans intentionally are trying to be broad and inclusive in order to identify opportunities and constraints.

So how else do these conflicts get worked out? The broad and inclusive view is also taken when the implementation strategies for these plans are developed. Plans, in and of themselves, don't do anything. Plans are the basis for implementation tools like regulations (zoning), programs (tax stabilization), or projects (multi-modal center). A plan to build a bike lane doesn't make the bike lane appear; the paving project in the capital improvement program is when the bike lane could be built. Most implementation tools will impact multiple topics therefore when we get to writing the regulations or designing the project then we will take a new look at all the plans to take them into account. Our street paving example where we want to add a bike lane may need to take into account our stormwater plan or parking plan as well. If anyone has questions on planning or implementing plans, email Mike Miller at [mmiller@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mmiller@montpelier-vt.org).

### **Community Services**

MSAC 2019 Rummage Sale is coming!

- **Donations** accepted: Monday, April 1 and Tuesday, April 2, 9:00 am—4:00 pm
- Acceptable items include... Clothing, shoes, accessories, toys, housewares, linens, books, arts, jewelry, antiques in good condition. No upholstered items, electronics, large furniture, VHS tapes, cases tapes are accepted.
- **Rummage Sale at 58 Barre Street to benefit the Senior Activity Center:**
  - Friday, April 5, 10:00 am—5:00 pm
  - Saturday, April 6, 10:00 am—2:00 pm
  - **Bag Sale:** Saturday, April 6, 12:00—2:00 pm: Everything you can fit into a bag (MSAC will provide bag) for \$4.00
- **Volunteers still needed!** For before, during and after the sale! Volunteers with access to pick-up trucks are especially needed to help transport unsold items to local non-profits after the sale. Call Becky at 225.8694 or email [rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org)

Registration for Spring Classes Continues!

Adults can still register for many adult classes with MSAC that start in April! While dozens of classes have filled or are nearly full, dozens more have space. We especially encourage you to consider some of our newest classes, including Writing Terrific Fiction, Yoga Foundations for Healthy Backs, Tile Making, Financial Foundations, and Intuitive Gelli Printing. There is still space in ongoing art, humanities and active living classes as well! Remember, if you'd like to try a new class, you can withdraw within the first two weeks and get a full refund or credit. Call 223-2518, visit [www.montpelier-vt.org/msac](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/msac), or stop by the office at 58 Barre Street for more info and registration form.

Bus Trip to Fenway Park!- Sunday, June 9, 8:45am—8:00pm

Spring must be coming. We are going to a Red Sox game! Join us on a trip to watch the Red Sox play Tampa Bay Rays. Seats are in covered grandstand #2. Reserve your space on the bus that leaves you right at the door of Fenway Park. This is a great Father's Day gift! \$97 per person, all ages welcome. Call 223-2518 or stop by the office at 58 Barre Street for more info and registration form. Many more MSAC classes are in the works for May-July and beyond. Stay tuned!

Pool Vendor Wanted!

Looking for a summer spot for your food truck or trailer? The Montpelier Pool is seeking a vendor to set up on the grounds and provide patrons with dinner and lunch options. Vendors will pay a flat rate for the space and will need to provide their own equipment necessary to operate. The pool season is June 15<sup>th</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup> (Doggie Days August 21<sup>st</sup>). The Montpelier Pool is located at 3 Poolside Drive and is also home to athletic fields, tennis courts, and also weekly sports camps, attracting even more visitors to the grounds each week. Open swim hours run from 1-7pm Monday-Friday, and 1-5:30pm on weekends. If interested please contact Eric White at [ewhite@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:ewhite@montpelier-vt.org) or 802-225-8691.

- In 2018 the pool sold 1,113 season passes, and saw over 11,500 visits. The pool was open 66 days averaging 175 visitors per day
- Our Capital Kids Day Camp of over 100 kids visits the pool daily with parents picking them up at the facility.
- Each week specialty sports camps is run at the field across from the pool with an average of 52 kids participating each week. Some weeks more than 75. These camps often take a short afternoon swim.
- The Montpelier Swim Team practices at the pool Monday – Wednesday evenings.
- The Mountaineers play their home games just a short 150 yard walk across the facility.
- The Pavilion is often rented for private parties.

Parks and Trees received notice this week of receiving a \$5,000 watershed grant which will provide additional help with our parks habitat improvement project, and invasives control efforts.

With the back and forth of cold weather official Hubbard Park mud season has been on and off. Parked gates and cross country skiing should be quite nice over the weekend, and then through Tuesday, but it looks like from Wednesday for the next month we may have a clear onset of mud season and spring like weather. Happy trails!

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**UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...**

<b>Mar 27</b>	Zoning Public Hearing <b>P&amp;D</b> Committee Appts: <b>ATCM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Commission</li> <li>• Tree Board</li> </ul> Audit <b>Finance</b> Tax Stabilization – Connor Bros. <b>CM</b> Voluntary rental inspection program <b>P&amp;D</b> Socially Responsible Contracting – <b>Councilor Casey</b>	<b>Apr 10</b>	Tax Stabilization Policy <b>CM</b> Ordinances? <b>ATCM</b> TIF Resolution <b>CM</b> Art Committees? <b>Mayor</b>
<b>Apr 15</b>	Strategic Planning	<b>Apr 16</b>	Strategic Planning
<b>Apr 24</b>	Parking Ban debrief <b>DPW</b> 5 Home Farm Way – Nuisance <b>CM</b> Committee Appts.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review Board</li> </ul>	<b>May 8</b>	
<b>May 22</b>	ADA Report <b>DPW</b>	<b>June 5</b>	



William Fraser  
City Manager