

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 5/10/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

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| Monday, May 13 | Tax Stabilization Subcommittee, 5:30 PM, Memorial Room |
| Monday, May 13 | Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers |
| Monday, May 13 | Recreation Board, 5:30 PM, Barre Street Gym |
| Tuesday, May 14 | Historic Preservation, 6:30 PM, City Manager's Conference Room |
| Thursday, May 16 | Housing Task Force, 5:15 PM, Council Chambers |

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path -- unchanged

Construction on this project remains on schedule. Work on the Mowatt Property (Montpelier Beverage) has begun. We have been working with the businesses located in the one building that backs up to the construction site to help them work through delivery issues during the three months of the project. Work is moving fairly quickly, and soon that site will have green space, additional parking spaces, improved stormwater systems, and a road to enable large trucks to deliver to businesses in the North Branch lot.

Public Parking Garage

As you know, the District Commission approved the Act 250 permit for the hotel and garage last week. We are very pleased that the strong decision from the District Commission provides independent confirmation that the hotel and parking garage appropriately fit in our core downtown. The Act 250 process sets a high bar. We were confident that this project addressed all key requirements – environmental, historic, traffic, and others. This important project has now obtained the public vote of support, local Development Review Board permits, all relevant state permits, TIF approval and this positive Act 250 decision.

As to the pending appeal, there will be a routine status hearing with the Environmental Court on Monday.

City Website

We launched the changes to the website's pages on the agenda, minutes and video section linked to City Council, DRB, DRC and Planning Commission. The goal is to improve the searchability of those sites, and to have all agendas and minutes -- from all boards and committees -- in one place. Some Council members had trouble locating some of the information for last week's meeting. Jamie will create a 'how-to' video for the Council and the public to help clarify the changes. The roll-out went fairly smoothly.

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.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance

Third quarter installment of property tax bills are due Wednesday, May 15th. Payments may be made in person at the City Clerk's office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by mail, or 24hours a day by utilizing the drop box at the rear entrance to City Hall. You may also pay online using Official Payments [by clicking this link](#). An administrative fee is charged by the vendor for online payments. In addition, the City offers convenient and free automatic payment processing. By signing up, you never have to worry about missing a payment. The payment is withdrawn from your bank account electronically on the actual due date. This service is available for property tax payments, water/sewer bills or both. If you would like to enroll, [please click on this link to complete the authorization form](#). You can drop off the completed enrollment form at the City Clerk's office or mail to:

City of Montpelier
Attn: Treasurer
39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Fire

The Fire Department has hired John Leu as a Firefighter Paramedic. John has extensive experience as a paramedic in both the pre-hospital and hospital setting. Please join us in welcoming John to our team.

Also, a note from Sue: Our thanks to Chief Gowans for his help setting up and breaking down the Farmers Market on State Street last Saturday. The Market went off fairly smoothly, and they/we are working through some minor glitches.

Public Works

DPW Street & Water/Sewer divisions:

Main Street / Towne Hill Road Sewer Main Project completed. The cured in place pipe (CIPP) project was successfully completed, effectively replacing approximately 1,400 linear feet of sewer main with little to no impact to the travelling public and pedestrians at a fraction of the cost, and without the time consuming traditional open cut excavation method. An open cut project of this magnitude would have taken at least 3 months to complete. Not all pipes are viable candidates for this process and two segments were found to unsuitable for the CIPP process which will need to be replaced by traditional methods. As a side benefit, this completed project is expected to help reduce CSO overflows by eliminating ground water infiltration which consumes pipe capacity, so this is a key part of our overall CSO elimination strategy. Air quality concerns were raised about the CIPP as a result of the off-gas byproduct, which are being actively investigated. It is our intent that trenchless pipe projects are carried out without causing any harmful impacts to the environment or human health.

The Street Division work plan for next week includes addressing the more significant street repairs include fixing a couple of sink holes in the Deerfield/Greenfield neighborhood and patching a large hole on School Street. Although we now have top soil available, weather conditions have not been very favorable to repair all of the plow damage which we hope to resume next week. Over a dozen active work orders for a variety of issues are on the list for next week as well. The Corporate Cup race course has been inspected for trip & fall hazards with a little more work to do in the Meadow neighborhood. Downtown flower barrels will be put out next week as well. The paint trailer has been fitted and is now ready to go allowing a small crew to begin painting crosswalks, stop bars, etc., provided the weather cooperates.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project: All drywall has been completed on the fourth floor. Insulation is currently being placed and will continue on the third and second floors next week. Construction of the shared use path and the roadway on the Main Street side will continue next week.

Shared Use Path Project (Granite Street – Gallison Hill Road):

Multiple consecutive work sites persist throughout the length of the project with the various crews the contractor now has working. Storm drainage and retaining wall work continues on Barre Street, slope work along Old Country Road has resumed where possible considering wet conditions, final restoration is taking place in some areas and road work continues on Gallison Hill Road. Major work still to come includes additional retaining walls in the Barre Street area, the storm water bio-retention system near Caledonia Spirits and construction of the path along Sabins Pasture. The project is slightly ahead of schedule at this early juncture. Traffic advisory notice continues: Multiple & concurrent work zones will be active on Barre Street & Gallison Hill Road over the next several weeks. Motorists are being advised to expect construction delays and to seek alternate routes if possible or allow additional time if passing through the work zone.

Cummings Street Bridge Project: The temporary water main is now complete and will be placed into service next week pending receipt of passing lab results for the second set of water samples. A four hour mid-day water shut down is tentatively scheduled for May 14th to transfer service to the temporary water main. All affected parties will be given sufficient advance notice. The traffic signal for the one-way temporary bridge is now in place so when guard rails are installed and the detour route has been paved, traffic will be shifted over and demolition of the old bridge will commence.

Water Resource Recovery Facility:

Montpelier's Water Resource Recovery Facility has completed some stormwater work in order to keep all storm water self-contained on-site to avoid the need for additional state permitting as part of the planned project. The purpose of this work was to prevent any possible spill that may occur during the facility's upgrade from reaching the river. Now all storm water that falls on site will be treated within the facility. All permits have been received with the exception of the Act 250 permit minor amendment. Crews are scheduled to mobilize to the site at the beginning of next month.

Community Services

TreeCity 2019 Event at MSAC: How to Green the World's Deserts and Reverse Climate Change

Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Montpelier Senior Activity Center

How can we be part of the climate change solution? And what does soil have to do with it? Come watch a movie and talk with the Co-Founder of Soil4Climate, a guy who knows his dirt about healthy soils, trees, and climate. Free and open to the public. Donations to support the Montpelier Tree Board, who organized this TreeCity 2019 event, are greatly appreciated! To learn more, visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/495/TreeBoard>.

Family Friendly Film Screening Next Friday! | Friday, May 17, 3:30 – 5:30 pm, Montpelier Senior Activity Center

Families of all ages are invited to join the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's Savoy Archive DVD lending library for the third of our monthly film screenings in the "A Hero in All of Us" Film Series. Join us at the Community Room at 58 Barre Street for a classic family film, delicious snacks, and craft activities for our youngest film goers!

This month, we'll be checking out an animated Disney classic featuring a beloved character portrayed by the late comedian Robin Williams. Williams plays a genie who can grant three wishes and is perused by a kindhearted street thief and a power hungry wizard. Join us as we see this great film full of magic, adventure, and music! Disney will be releasing the live action version of this movie the following week, so this is a great opportunity for everyone to see the original before the remake comes out in theaters!

Tickets are by donation only; and donations are on a sliding scale. Please pay as you are able. If you're interested in this event, or if you have any questions please call or email Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org or by calling 802-225-8694.

Peace & Justice Center's Racial Justice Returns with a film screening of "The Way Home: Women Talk about Race in America"

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, suggested Donation of \$5 - \$15, Montpelier Senior Activity Center
This film follows sixty-four women of various cultures and background, over eight months, as they share their experience of racism in America. A short facilitated discussion will follow the film. This film screening is part of the Peace and Justice Center's Racial Justice Series.

'Remembering our Veterans' FEAST Luncheon | Friday, May 24, 12:00—1:00 pm

The 3rd annual Remembering Our Veterans luncheon will be Friday, May 24th. This well attended event falls on the Friday before Memorial Day and honors veterans and their guests with a ceremony remembering family and friends who served in the military. Guests are treated to a delicious BBQ chicken dinner with strawberry shortcake for dessert which is served by volunteers from local company CadCut. The ceremony includes an Honor Guard and Chaplain Invocation, video presentation, poetry, and music. As with all FEAST luncheons, this event is open to the public. However, seating is limited and reservations are required by Friday, May 17th. The program starts promptly at 11:30, seating begins at 11:00 AM.

Main Street Pocket Park Pergola may move to 58 Barre Street

The 58 Barre Street Condo Association, of which MSAC/the City is a 40% owner, is seeking Design Review Committee approval to move the bulk of the Main Street Pocket Park Pergola to the courtyard patio in front of 58 Barre Street. Designer Ward Joyce is managing the project, a meeting of stakeholders was held on May 8, and fundraising to cover the project costs is underway.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

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| May 22 | ADA Report DPW Ch. 2 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 3 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM Five Home Farm Way – CM Validation Resolution – CM Strategic Outcomes work plan – CM Energy Report MEAC/Finance Zoning fixes – P&CD Confluence Park | June 12 | Ch. 3 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 4 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM MTIC Budget Winter Operations Debrief DPW Berlin St. Speed Limit, 1 st Public Hearing |
| June 26 | Ch. 4 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 5 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM Berlin St. Speed Limit, 2 nd Public Hearing FEAST Contract MSAC | July 10 | Ch. 5 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 7 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM |
| Aug. 14 | Ch. 7 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 8 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM | Aug. 28 | Ch. 8 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 9 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM |



William Fraser
City Manager