

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 07/28/2017


UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Thursday, August 3 Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Meeting, 6:30 P.M. at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Monday, August 7 Development Review Board Meeting, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

Monday, August 7 Design Review Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

ATTACHMENTS ...

 Historic Preservation Commission's letter to property owners

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

One Taylor:

- ✓ **Mowatt** – They have all draft documents. Awaiting final approval. A personal matter for a Mowatt Trust member is causing delays. I have spoken with them and hope to reach resolution within the next week.

- ✓ **Overall Project** – The option agreement for Housing Vermont/Downstreet was approved at the July 26th meeting. Agreement signed at a public event in City Council Chambers. All other project work remains on schedule. [See the Times Argus article on the agreement.](#)



Caledonia Spirits

We are working closely with CS on construction planning and final resolution to the rail crossing issue. Their Tax Stabilization request will be on the August 23rd and September 13 agendas.

Goals

Goals approved by Council at July 26th meeting. I am working now to ensure the goals calendar tracks with scheduled City Council meetings so we stay on schedule to hit your targets. We'll have a more comprehensive calendar for you next week. We will begin a monthly review of one goal category.

Master Plan & Zoning

Now that you have made a decision on how to proceed, zoning deliberations will return to the agenda.

TIF

We will meet with Burke & White to finalize a contract, and determine how to proceed. I'll keep the Council updated throughout this process.

Berlin Pond

No news.

Organics to Energy Project

Thanks for the great questions and comments this week. We met this afternoon as a team and then spoke with ESG about issues that were raised. We'll have a revised contract to you as soon as reasonably possible.

Parking/Transportation Alternatives

The first meeting of the working group will meet on Aug. 3 at 1 p.m. in Sue Allen's office; goal is to outline process and how to proceed. The hope is to have a recommendation for the full council in October.

Econo Lodge

Formal notice is being sent to the owners and their attorney. We have received indication that they are actively working on a mitigation plan.

Collective Bargaining

Negotiations with the Police union continue on August 10th.

Summer Schedule

Reminder that we will NOT have a meeting on August 9th. All other regular meetings will occur as scheduled.

Legal

Illuzzi vs City, et al: The Court has ruled on the outstanding motions. Trial has been rescheduled to take place September 21-22. The parties are directed to engage in mediation which must be currently scheduled for August 23rd. Represented by Constance Tyron Pell, Esq.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Public Works

DPW projects scheduled for the week of July 31st:

Following a lengthy delay due primarily to adverse weather conditions, the contractor retained to perform pavement marking work has informed us they will begin on August 1st or 2nd. The contracted pavement marking work includes crosswalks, white edge lines, bike lane stencils, and lane marking including arrows and words.

Sibley Ave. sidewalk reconstruction will begin on Monday with work planned between College St & Sabin St. The DPW crew has completed sidewalk reconstruction work on Elm Street (Vine St. – Summer St.), and a section on Woodrow Ave. and is now ready to begin the next planned sidewalk improvement project on our list. Property owner notifications are being mailed today – Friday, July 28th.

Work to remove accumulated sediment and debris from the roadside under the guardrails will continue next week on Berlin St. This material builds up over time and must be removed periodically to restore the proper disbursement of drainage from the roadways. The work will be followed by street sweeping throughout the Route 2 & Route 302 highway corridors including at the roundabout. Additional pavement repairs will be taking place within the highway corridor as time & weather allows.

Other on-going active projects include Harrison Ave. street & utility reconstruction by DPW forces and the Northfield St. reconstruction project being performed by a private contractor. Information about our annual street paving contract and other sidewalk work will be provided

when the complete schedules are received and approved.

Makeover Montpelier

The downtown portion of the project (State & Main Streets) will begin to wind down over the next week as they approach the second interim completion date of August 4th.

Uncooperative weather conditions have persisted over the last couple of weeks and continue to hamper progress. Consequently, more daytime work has been necessary as an attempt to remain on schedule. Scheduled daytime sign replacement work is also taking place consecutively. Final paving of the remaining portion of Main St. from the rail crossing near Barre St. to State St. is scheduled to be completed Wednesday night (Aug 2nd), weather permitting.

The Spring St./Main St. roundabout makeover work has been going very well and nearing completion with only a few sections of concrete sidewalk remaining to be completed. Provided weather conditions permit, final paving of the roundabout and Spring St. will take place on Tuesday & Wednesday (Aug 1st & 2nd) followed by the installation of the bridge expansion joints. The roundabout detour route will continue to be used throughout much of next week. Once the downtown work is substantially completed, the contractor will then move the operations over to Elm St. to begin the next phase of the Route 12 project.

Some have noticed a few puddles within the completed sections of the street. The project resident engineer will conduct a thorough inspection of the work zone and prepare a punch list to be addressed before the contract is closed out. Please refer to the weekly updates issued by the public outreach coordinator, Francine Perkins, FRP enterprises for specific details about the work plan for next week.

Finance Department

Water/Sewer bills are being printed today and we expect to have them in the mail on Monday or Tuesday. We will be sending letters to some property owners with accounts that require water meter repairs. If you receive one of these letters, please contact the DPW Garage at the phone number indicated in the letter to set up an appointment for city staff to make necessary repairs.

Included with the water/sewer bills will be an authorization form allowing you to sign up for automatic payment of your water/sewer and/or property tax bills. Automatic payments are a great way to save time, save a stamp or save a trip to City Hall. In addition, you never have to worry about forgetting to make a payment and incurring late fees or penalties. The funds are drawn on your account on the due date of each installment. As an added benefit, staff time spent processing payments is reduced which improves efficiency and allows us to focus on other projects.

Planning Department

Zoning Administrator Sarah McShane advised Councilors that in Saturday's mail our office will be sending a letter to roughly 400 property owners regarding the Historic Preservation Commission's upcoming meeting and the amended National Register nomination. Since the letter is being mailed to so many property owners, I have attached a copy in case you receive questions from their constituents.

Senior Center

Senior Activity Center's Trash Tramps Keep Montpelier Clean With More "Sidewalk Buttlers"

The Trash Tramps, a group of volunteers organized through the Montpelier Senior Activity Center that works to keep Montpelier clean by picking up litter, have recently purchased nine additional "Sidewalk Buttlers." Sidewalk Buttlers are cigarette butt receptacles offered as a solution for cigarette waste. Cigarette waste that is thrown on the ground pollutes our rivers and mars our City's beauty. The new Buttlers will join existing receptacles downtown, providing more convenient opportunities for people to dispose of their cigarettes in a clean way. The receptacles are collected monthly by the Trash Tramps, and the butts are sent to TerraCycle, where the filters are recycled into plastic pellets and the organic materials are composted. The new Buttlers will be purchased using the prize funds that the Tramps won in Montpelier's July 3 parade. The Trash Tramps group meets every Tuesday at 2pm at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (58 Barre Street). All supplies are provided, and all are welcome.

Lunch with City Leaders

Join City leaders over lunch at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center to discuss the work they do, the City services they manage, recent successes, and emerging challenges in our capitol city. City leaders will be on hand at the FEAST meals at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center on Tuesdays August 8, 15, and 29 from 12-1pm. On August 8, join Bob Gowans, Fire Chief. On August 15, join Bill Fraser, Montpelier City Manager. On August 29, join Geoff Beyer, Parks Director and Tree Warden. Bring any questions you have about city government, facilities, goals, and more. All are welcome for the delicious lunch and conversation. Reservations for lunch are appreciated at 262-6288. Lunch is \$7 for anyone under age 60, and a \$5 suggested donation for anyone 60 or older.

Parks Department & Tree Board

We have done many hours of work on tree damage and hazard tree removal following the micro burst storm earlier this month but we still have more work to do.

Last weekend, Montpelier Parks and the Community Services Department organized the first-ever HOWL Family Arts Festival in Hubbard Park. Attendees enjoyed music, games, nature

walks, wellness activities, overnight camping, and more. We hope that even more participants will join us next year for this new annual tradition! Special thanks to event organizers Alec Ellsworth and Emily Markstein, to all our volunteers, and to event sponsors National Life Group, Ben & Jerry's, Hunger Mountain Co-op, Community Bank, N.A., Vermont Mutual Insurance Group, Community National Bank, VT, and North Country Savings Bank!

A group of eight International volunteers have been working with for the last three weeks. They have been a HUGE help with tree and trail work, invasive removal, and especially the HOWL festival. The volunteers helped build a stage (Tuning Fork Stage) that has now been turned into the Tuning Fork Shelter on the field below the Old Shelter. The name Tuning Fork is a play on words, honoring the beautiful forks in the timber frame tree supports of the shelter, and the music that was played in the shelter during the HOWL festival. There is some more work to be done on the roof of the New Shelter, but a tarp has made it functional.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

August 9	NO MEETING
August 23	Parklet Ordinance - 1 st Reading Dog Ordinance 1 st Reading Caledonia Spirits Tax Stabilization 1 st Hearing Police Department Security Briefing Zoning Council/Manager evaluation process Recreation Facility RFP? Economic Development Goal
September 13	Zoning Parklet Ordinance – 2 nd Reading Dog Ordinance 2 nd Reading Caledonia Spirits Tax Stabilization 2 nd Hearing Parking/Team Bridges Sprinkler Ordinance discussion Gender Neutral Bathroom policy DID Budget
September 27	Zoning Budget Process Asset Management update Revolving Loan Fund recommendation Housing Goal

October 11

Zoning
Five Year Budget projection
Local Options Tax discussion
Wayfinding Signs Presentation

October 28

Zoning
TIF Update
Quality of Life Goal



William J. Fraser
City Manager

July 27, 2017

Dear Historic Property Owner:

The Montpelier Historic Preservation Commission recently completed a long standing project to update the City's National Register Historic District and is seeking public comments. The update amends the historic district to include an additional thirty-six historic resources. The thirty-six resources included in the amended boundary include properties located in the Monsignor Crosby Avenue area (Downing Street, Monsignor Crosby Avenue, and Wilder Street), the Franklin Street Area (Franklin Street, Peck Place, and Cross Street), and the Hubbard Park Observation Tower. The project also re-evaluated the number, integrity, and level of documentation of the previously recorded historic properties within the district and documented new construction.

The Montpelier Historic District, originally nominated and accepted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and subsequently amended in 1989, is comprised of over 600 historic resources and encompasses much of the downtown and adjacent residential neighborhoods. Administered by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Listing in the National Register offers recognition that your property is historically significant, but does not, in and of itself, protect a historic property. Owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that no Federal monies or permits are involved.

The Montpelier Historic Preservation Commission is hosting a public input meeting on the amended National Register historic district on **Tuesday August 8th at 6:30 PM** in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 39 Main Street. The Historic Preservation Commission will provide an overview of the historic district, nomination process, and answer questions. An electronic copy of the amended boundary, including an architectural description of historic properties within the district, can be found online at: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/426/Historic-Preservation-Commission>.

The Montpelier Historic Preservation Commission will also be offering free guided walking tours of the historic district throughout the morning of Saturday, August 5th. Walking tours will be focused on the downtown area and will be offered between 9:00 am-noon. Interested participants should meet in front of the information booth on State Street.

Commission members will be available to discuss the historic district, the National Register program, and answer questions.

Should you have any questions or are interested in the activities of the Commission, I encourage you to contact Sarah McShane at 262-6270 or smcshane@montpelier-vt.org for more information.

Please consider joining us on a historic walking tour and the public input meeting. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Gilbertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Eric Gilbertson, Chair

Frequently Asked Questions about the National Register of Historic Places



1. What is the National Register of Historic Places?

Administered by the National Park Service, the National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community state, or the nation. Nominations for listing historic properties come from State Historic Preservation Officers, from Federal Preservation Officers for properties owned or controlled by the United States Government, and from Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for properties on Tribal lands. Private individuals and organizations, local governments, and American Indian tribes often initiate this process and prepare the necessary documentation. A professional review board in each state considers each property proposed for listing and makes a recommendation on its eligibility. The National Register program in Vermont is administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

2. What are the results of listing?

In addition to honorific recognition, listing in the National Register has the following results for historic properties:

- Consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed, and Federally assisted projects: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register. The Advisory Council oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal Planning process.
- Eligibility for certain tax provisions: Owners of properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental residential buildings. This credit can be combined with a straight-line depreciation period of 27.5 years for residential property and 31.5 years for nonresidential property for the depreciable basis of the rehabilitated building reduced by the amount of the tax credit claimed. Federal tax deductions are also available for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.
- Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation, when funds are available. Owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that no Federal monies are involved.

3. How does the National Register of Historic Places protect my property?

Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is, first and foremost, an honorific designation that documents and celebrates the historic significance of your property. Listing provides a degree of protection from Federally assisted, licensed and/or permitted undertakings that might adversely affect a listed property or jeopardize the property's environment. Being listed does not, in and of itself, protect a historic property.

4. What are the restrictions, rules, and regulations for historic property owners?

From the Federal perspective (the National Register of Historic Places is part of the National Park Service), a property owner can do whatever they want with their property as long as there are no Federal monies attached to the property. Before this occurs, however, you should contact the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP). The VDHP is the state agency that oversees historic preservation efforts in Vermont. There may be state or local preservation laws that you should be aware of before undertaking a project involving a historic property.

5. Can I modify, remodel, or renovate my historic house?

Yes. From the Federal perspective (the National Register of Historic Places is part of the National Park Service), a property owner can do whatever they want with their property as long as there are no Federal monies attached to the property. Before this occurs, however, you should contact the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP). The VDHP is the state agency that oversees historic preservation efforts in Vermont. There may be state or local preservation laws that you should be aware of before undertaking a project involving a historic property.

6. Does National Register listing restrict the use of my property or place any legal restrictions on the property?

No. Listing in the National Register is not a regulatory action, and you are free to make alterations to your property with private funds. National Register listing only regulates the use of Federal funds that may affect the property and does not impose any legal requirements on the property owner.

7. How do I apply for grant money or tax credits?

The National Register of Historic Places itself does not have a grant program. However, Technical Preservation Services (a division of the National Park Service) has a Tax Incentive Program that may be of assistance to owners of historic properties. The website for the Tax Incentive Program is: <http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>. Additionally, Vermont has tax credit and grant programs for owners of historic properties. The website for state grants and financial incentives is: <http://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits>.

8. Must I open my property to the public if it is listed in the National Register?

No. There are no public visitation or access requirements associated with National Register listing.

9. Does National Register listing mean that the State or Federal Government wants to buy my property?

No. Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is, first and foremost, an honorific designation that documents and celebrates the historic significance of your property. Listing provides a degree of protection from Federally assisted, licensed and/or permitted undertakings that might adversely affect a listed property or jeopardize the property's environment.

10. What is a National Register Historic District?

A historic district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district can range in size from a small complex of farm buildings to a large downtown commercial area.

11. If there is a National Register Historic District in a town, are there restrictions on what the town can do with its local tax money?

No. As is the case with a private owner of a listed property, the National Register has no control over actions taken with local tax revenue or private funds.

12. Will listing in the National Register affect local property taxes, zoning, or the ability of local government to control these matters?

No. The National Register has no bearing on any of these strictly local concerns.

*** For additional information including a full-size map of the Montpelier National Register Historic District, please visit <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/426/Historic-Preservation-Commission> ***