

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 1/4/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, January 7	Design Review Committee, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, Jan. 8	Historic Preservation, 6:30 PM, City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, January 9	City Council Meeting, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers
Thursday, January 10	Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee, 6:00 PM, Memorial Room
Thursday, January 10	Conservation Commission, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path

Much of the Transit Center portion of the site has been covered to allow for work during inclement weather. Construction continues. Timeframe for 1 Taylor Street project:

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

Budget

I have sent out a revised worksheet based on your choices this week. I will have an update presentation for the public hearing which reflects these new numbers.

Ice Rink

The ice rink on the State House lawn is officially open (you might have noticed skaters taking advantage of the rink prior to its official opening, which was fine). This opening is two weeks earlier than last year, and the rink is getting frequent use – last night there were about eight skaters still on the ice as the sun set. We are very pleased, and hope the rink continues to be popular.

Use of Area on the East Side of the North Branch

I am convening my work group next week to discuss options for this area. The group will create the full process but I expect that it will include a public forum to get broad input and comment on this topic.

Public Parking Garage

Our team continues to focus on meeting the conditions of the DRB approval and prepare for our Act 250 (abbreviated version for a designated downtown) hearing on Jan. 16. We are pushing forward with our schedule since extended delays could add costs which might make either the hotel or garage less financially feasible.

French Block

Mayor Watson, several Council members, myself and City staff, and many community members attended the ribbon cutting an open house celebrating the opening of the French Block housing on Main Street. It was standing room only for the press conference, with the crowd spilling out of Council chambers and into the hall. It will be great to see lights on in the upstairs of that building for the first time in over 70 years.

https://www.timesargus.com/news/local/lights-stay-on-at-french-block/article_6629a535-1e78-545c-bc2b-ecf0abaad8f0.html

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.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Fire Department

Over the next 8 – 12 months the Fire Department will be completing a comprehensive evaluation of our equipment and staffing needs. This evaluation of our current equipment and staff, along with a review of calls for service will allow us to better prioritize future needs of the Fire Department. I would encourage anyone that would like to comment to please respond to Fire Chief Robert Gowans at rgowans@montpelier-vt.org, or call the Chief at either 229-4913 or 371-9633.

Facilities

The Montpelier Foundation has offered to pay to replace the lights at the base of the City Hall flag poles. Weather permitting, the work should be done next week.

Public Works

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project:

Continue work on the bridge abutments. There is a minor delay on the steel delivery but nothing of significance. The contractor will be preparing for the concrete slab and deck placement at the transit center / apartment building and expects to begin framing next week.

Shared Use Path Project Granite St – Gallison Hill Road:

The water main relocation work on Barre Street previously planned for next week has been postponed. Work next week will consist of:

Monday: flaggers will be on Barre Street and the contractor plans to dig out and place cold patch in the water line test excavation that they previously filled with millings to cap it better until they pave it permanently after water line installation (and prior to the forecasted storm Tuesday).

Monday – Friday: Contractor will continue to install headwalls and culvert crossings on Old Country Club Road and will continue to excavate, place stone, and grade the area east of the box culvert. They may not work Tuesday depending on the latest storm forecast as of Monday. They will make the call on that Monday.

Provided the environmental remediation contractor completes their work, the shared use path contractor will follow with the razing of the old Coniff home on Old Country Club Road.

DPW Winter Operations:

The street division has completed the majority of clean-up work following the recent rain / icing event followed by the heavier than anticipated snow fall received Thursday night. All divisions are now preparing are preparing for the significant snow fall predicted for early next week and all equipment is operational at this time with no significant malfunctions at this time.

Community Services

Insights into Conflict: Community Workshop Open to All Adults

Presented by Yvonne Byrd and Judy Gibson of Montpelier Community Justice Center | 3 Wednesdays, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6 | 10:30 am—12:30 pm | City Hall Memorial Room | \$10 MSAC members/ \$25 public / Financial Aid available | Ages 21+

This class, presented in three parts, will help you become more competent at understanding the conflicts inherent in daily living. You will be guided to explore your typical style and relationship with conflict as you consider the benefits and limitations of a variety of approaches. Together, we will study thinking and strategies for turning a conflict into an opportunity for deepening relationships and creating positive outcomes. We will introduce you to specific techniques for having difficult conversations.

Winter Classes and Drop-in Activities Getting Underway!

Dozens of classes at Montpelier Senior Activity Center in all categories still have space! Please stop by the MSAC office ASAP or go online to register for your favorites and new ones if you've been procrastinating. Consider the following, for example, but request our forms for full details or go online to www.montpelier-vt.org/msac : Bone Builders, Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, Chair Yoga and other Yoga classes, Feldenkrais Movement (chairs/standing), Somatic Movement Series, Rockin' and Rollin Singin' Songs of the 50s and 60s, Drawing, Film Appreciation, and Insights into Conflict. There are also dozens of hours of weekly, free, drop-in activities at the senior center. Every first Friday there's a Community Potluck, and every second Friday, there is Folk Dancing! Inquire at the office or stop in for more information about any of these! 223-2518.

Therapeutic Communication Group for Stroke Survivors

Starts January 11, most Fridays, 12:30-2:00 pm

This new group will be a safe space for individuals who've experienced a stroke to develop their communication skills and strategies. With the support of a speech therapist, all members will identify a communication goal to address over time. Each week, the group will explore and learn multimodal strategies (visuals, writing, technology, etc.) to target specific communication challenges. The group is appropriate for any individual who has experienced a stroke, regardless of when or the type of stroke. A local speech therapist (Leah Sophrin) will lead and support the group. There will be a maximum of 8 participants and you need to register in advance. Sliding scale: \$25-\$35 per session, and if cost is a barrier, there is flexibility. *Please note that while this program is being held at MSAC, it is not an MSAC program. Registration and payment will go through instructor. Contact Leah Sophrin at (802) 498-3343 or leah.sophrin@gmail.com for more information.

New Art Exhibit: Masks by Janice Walrafen

January 3, 2019—February 20, 2019 in MSAC's Community Room

This exhibit just went up, and is not to be missed! From the artist, who is also a drawing instructor at MSAC: "I love masks. I make them for community pageantry of papermaché, 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."

Rescheduled! Securing Your Estate and Your Independence: An Attorney's Recommendations

Tuesday, January 8, 6:30-8:00 pm (FREE)

Snow date: Tuesday, January 22, 6:30—8:00 pm

Rescheduled after weather prevented the November presentation! Montpelier Attorney Claudia I. Pringles

presents an overview of some of the key questions and concerns seniors need to keep in mind as they plan for their own futures and for the transfer of responsibility to their loved ones. Attorney Pringles also identifies estate planning errors that can have disastrous consequences as well as how to avoid such problems. (Please note: the information provided in this class is general information, and not client or case specific. For advice concerning your individual situation, you should consult an attorney.) RSVP in the MSAC office by Monday, January 7 or by calling (802) 223-2518.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

Jan 9	Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Riverfront Access plan P&D Community Indicators CM Investment Policy Finance Parking Ordinance DPW Social & Economic Justice Charge CM	Feb 13	Restructure revolving loan funds P&D Complete Ordinance review – 1 st , ATCM City Manager Review CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D Tax Stabilization CM North Branch East plan
Jan 24 (Thurs)	Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Charter Public hearing CM Bond public hearing/necessity res. CM Approve warning CM Scooters ATCM Audit Report – Finance State's Attorney presentation Main/Barre Corridor Study DPW Committee appts: ATCM -Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee -Investment Committee -Tree Board -Solid Waste Management Committee	Mar 13	Organizational Meeting Livable Wage/Min wage ordinances CM Personnel Plan Open Meeting/Public Records
Feb 27	Main/Barre Implementation Plan DPW Ordinance review – 2 nd reading ATCM Sabin's Pasture Plan? CM		



William Fraser
City Manager