

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 2/15/2019

- City Offices will be CLOSED on Monday, 2/18 in observance of Presidents' Day -

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Tuesday, Feb. 19	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, Feb. 19	Parks Commission, 6:00 PM, Police Dept. Community Room
Tuesday, Feb. 19	Development Review Board, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, Feb. 19	Energy Advisory Committee, 7 PM, Memorial Room
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Special City Council Meeting, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers
Thursday, Feb. 21	Housing Task Force, 5:15 PM, Council Chambers

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path

Construction on this project remains on schedule. The Transit Center work is well underway, and the fourth floor walls will start to go up next week. Work continues on 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

We continue to put together the information needed to respond to the Act 250 District Commission's recess memo questions. Once we file our responses, other parties will have 15 days 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. The Environmental Court has scheduled a telephone status conference for February 19th.

Recreation Center Feasibility Study

Thank you for your input at last week's Council meeting. Working with Ken Ballard and an architect, City staff will begin putting together a study and proposal for renovating the Montpelier Recreation Center on Barre Street, with design and cost estimates.

Ice Skating Rink

As part of its 200th Anniversary Celebration (Norwich University Day in the Capital City), the NU Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Teams will hold a scrimmage on the City's ice skating rink in front of the State House on Feb. 20th at 3 p.m. Norwich has invited the students from the Montpelier schools to come by and meet the players and watch the scrimmage. Capitol Grounds is providing hot chocolate. Sounds like fun!

Legal -- unchanged

The Environmental Division Court has upheld the Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge permits issued by the Agency of Natural Resources, granting summary judgement to the State and municipalities. The appeal of the discharge permits by the Conservation Law Foundation has been denied.

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 -- unchanged

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

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Facilities

The Police Station Cooling System Upgrade project is nearing completion. On Saturday, January 26, a crane was on site to remove the old chiller from the roof and lift the new air-source heat pump compressors into place. The obsolete satellite dish antenna was removed from the roof at that time. All new interior units are installed and piping and electrical work is almost finished. Controls and testing should be completed within the next few weeks.

Public Works

Water Leaks: See report (memo) to City Manager & City Council dated February 13, 2019. The report with accompanying graphs are posted on the web site at: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/5954/Water-Leaks-Report-and-Graphs?bidId=> Note that another break (hole in pipe) was discovered on Dunpatrick Circle and repaired on the 14th. Boil water notices were delivered to the 11 households affected by the water leak, and water service was restored around 5 o'clock. Water samples have been taken and assuming passing results, DPW anticipates lifting the boil water notice on Saturday afternoon 2/16/19.

DPW Winter Operations: Due to the extreme winter conditions, with multiple snow storms followed by rain and sub-freezing temperatures, a significant amount of ice has accumulated along the street gutters and edges of sidewalks. Attempts to remove the ice with the grader has resulted in damage to the equipment and can be extremely time consuming. Given the volume of snow, we have been concentrating on snow bank removal and have intended to return and remove the ice with our excavator in critical areas to promote drainage flow. Following two consecutive days of snow plowing, we were only able to muster together a small crew to perform snow removal last night in pre-identified crosswalks for safe sight lines, intersections and around catch basins in the downtown area because of the predicted melting temperatures today (Friday), as well as at Union Elementary school to assist with managing snow accumulation because of the use of Park Avenue as the temporary playground. For the week of February 18th, the street division will be focusing entirely on snow removal operations for least two consecutive nights beginning on Monday and Tuesday, and will schedule a third night depending on the availability of rental trucks and production. Day time operations will also be scheduled to the extent we have the staff available.

Potholes: Staff has been undertaking pothole patching as weather allows. The unrelenting pattern of freeze-and-thaw cycles with an overabundance of moisture from the rainfall events is wreaking havoc on paved surfaces, particularly those which were already stressed with alligator and thermal cracking. Cold and wet conditions continue to limit our rate of success for achieving a long lasting patch. As temperatures increase, we hope to be able to address more of the problem areas. On a positive note, the streets experiencing some of the

worst and most numerous pot holes are on the list for resurfacing during the 2019 construction season. Specifically, Stone Cutters Way, Barre Street and Taylor Street. Also of interest regards the Bailey Avenue Bridge deck where the wearing course of pavement is failing extensively and exposing the underlying concrete. We are currently exploring a hot mix asphalt option to patch the asphalt surface and protect the deck from damage because cold mix is not a reliable alternative. We'll schedule this work as soon as possible. The bridge will need a new protective membrane in the near future.

Downtown Street Lights: On January 29th, the lights went out on part of Main St between Barre St & State Street (westerly side). The electricians have been attempting to locate the cause of the electrical failure and believe the circuit crossing under State Street from the bank to Cool Jewels is where the fault is located. During the course of trouble shooting, they replaced multiple deteriorated connectors, eliminating these areas as the possible cause of the failure. It's likely the electrician will need to attempt to replace the wires under State Street, which entails pulling the existing wires out of the conduit and pulling in new wires without the need to excavate. However, if the conduits contain ice, this may prove to be problematic. When the downtown lights are replaced with new LED fixtures, all of the old wiring will be replaced with new smaller gauge wire which will be far less susceptible to damage and redundancy will be restored, providing multiple circuits reducing the extent of failures in the future.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project: Next week the installation of 4th floor walls is scheduled to take place. Also the contractor will begin metal framing in the 1st floor Transit Center.

Shared Use Path Project Granite St – Gallison Hill Road: The contractor will continue with slope stabilization efforts along old Country Club Road next week and construction of the path along Barre Street will also be taking place next week.

Clarendon Avenue Reconstruction Project: Project development and design work continues as we get ready for a spring contact bid release. Soil borings were conducted along Clarendon Ave, Redstone Ave and Bailey Ave on Thursday and Friday. This work was conducted by S.W. Cole. 19 borings were taken, 5 soil samples will be tested for BTEX chemicals and 5 water table monitoring wells were installed. The preliminary results show mainly clay soils and no ledge rock was found within the first 10' of depth.

Community Services

Town Meeting Day and Montpelier Senior Activity Center

Town Meeting Day is quickly approaching, and with it, the need for residents of Montpelier Senior Activity Center's (MSAC) supporting towns to vote "yes" in support of MSAC's funding requests for FY20. These towns are Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Moretown and Worcester, plus Barre City is added this year. 22% of MSAC operating expenses are covered by the City of Montpelier, and MSAC relies on class fees, membership dues, investments, fundraising and help from supporting towns for the rest. Each community has been asked to financially support MSAC in an amount based upon the number of residents of its community served by MSAC programming. Being a resident of a supporting town means that MSAC is able to offer you its programming at a lower cost and with a quicker registration processing time for compared with residents of non-supporting towns. The financial support from supporting towns is critical for MSAC to continue to provide the wide variety of classes, programs and services that MSAC members have come to know, expect and love. MSAC is also in need of member-volunteers to speak up at town meetings and stand outside polls to encourage people to vote "yes." Without voter approval of the funding request, towns will not be supporting towns July 2019-June 2020, and the cost of membership goes up for their residents. Please contact Becca Jordan: bjordan@montpelier-vt.org or 802-262-6284 for more information.

Advance Care Planning with Vermont Ethics Network

Friday, February 22, 1-2:30 pm, at 58 Barre Street

Nina Thompson, the Community Outreach Coordinator for Vermont Ethics Network, will offer a presentation at Montpelier Senior Activity Center about the whys and hows of advance care planning (ACP). ACP is a process to help a person, in advance of injury, serious illness, or catastrophic event to think about and plan for future medical decisions should they become unable to speak for themselves. Advance Directive forms will be provided and there will be ample time for Q& A. Free and open to the public.

Thank You...

To the volunteers of the Montpelier Rotary Club and Montpelier High School's Club Action, who braved snow and ice and wind to share their time at the Montpelier Recreation Department's Parent Child Dance. We are so appreciative of their time and their energy to help our guests have a great evening!

Repair Café

Help prepare food, drinks, and baked goods for neighbors sharing skills at Onion River Time Bank's Repair Café, to be held at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center on March 30th from 12:00-4:00pm. If you enjoy baking, making food, or serving food and supporting neighbors, please consider volunteering for the Repair Café's participants. For more information, or to discuss the event more, please call or email Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org or at 802-225-8694.

FEAST Meals at MSAC seeking volunteers!

The FEAST Meals program at Montpelier Senior Activity Center is seeking volunteers for various positions. Each week, over one hundred community members in Montpelier and Berlin are able to enjoy delicious, healthy meals either at the Senior Activity Center or at their home. Volunteers are always needed to help serve the meals on Tuesdays and Fridays, and to help deliver meals to peoples' homes every weekday from 10:30am-11:30am.

Seeking High School Athletes

Do you know a high school student looking to stay healthy and active during an off – season? Are you a student looking for a way to stay healthy and maybe get some community service hours in? Consider joining our Girls on the Run program as a high school assistant! We are seeking high school students to help lead and inspire a group of elementary and middle school students as they build up their running abilities to complete a 5K June. Volunteers are needed on Monday or Wednesday afternoons any time between 3:00pm-5:00pm.

Montpelier Recreation Now Accepting Applications for 2019 Summer Positions

Montpelier Recreation is now accepting applications for summer employment. Positions include: pool staff, life guards, day camp counselors and seasonal maintenance staff. For more information, please visit: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/869/Employment>. **All applications must be received by Friday, March 29, 2019.**

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UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

Feb 20	City Manager Review CM Council Self-Review	Feb 27	Main/Barre Implementation Plan DPW Charter Change PH - CM Zoning Fixes and PH – P&D Emerald Ash Borer Plan - CM Appointments: ATCM -Tree Board -Conservation Commission -Historic Preservation Commission
Mar 5	Annual City Meeting	Mar 13	Organizational Meeting Open Meeting/Public Records CM Community Indicators – CM
Mar 27	Livable Wage/Min wage ordinances CM Personnel Plan CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D Ordinance review –? ATCM Scooters- ACM/ATCM	Apr 10	



William Fraser
City Manager