

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 2/22/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

- Monday, Feb. 25 Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers
- Wednesday, Feb. 27 City Council Meeting, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers**
- Thursday, Feb. 28 **Special City Council Meeting: Councilors' Self-Evaluation, 7 PM, City Manager's Conference Room**

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 are going up. 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 plan to have all our information needed to respond to the Act 250 District Commission's recess memo questions compiled and ready to go Monday. 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.

A status conference concerning the appeal of the DRB permit by the group of, now, 17 people was held on Tuesday the 19th. Filing deadlines were set for April 1st. The parties are tentatively scheduling a meeting during the week of March 4-8 to discuss the possibilities of resolution.

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 with Julia Novak for April 15, 16 & 17. Details to come.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Fire

The Montpelier Fire Department would like to announce the retirement of Lieutenant Dana Huoppi. Dana served the city as a Firefighter for 33 years. We all thank him for his service, and wish him and his wife all the best.

Public Works

Water Leaks: Thankfully, no new water leaks this last week. The water / sewer division has been busy working to resolve a couple of sewer system issues while also attending to deferred routine maintenance and restocking supplies following the recent rash of water system problems. Cost estimates have been obtained for water system alterations discussed with City Council and we will be moving forward with the work as funding is secured through a prioritization approach.

DPW Winter Operations: Given the extreme volume of snow, the street division has been committed to snow bank removal operations throughout the week. The snow storm on Wednesday night was not significant but required reassignments to address plowing de-icing needs. Through Thursday of this week, approximately 4,400 cubic yards of snow was removed and trucked to the departments stump dump facility. On this date, snow removal operations are taking place within the so-called “meadow neighborhood”.

Potholes: Staff has been undertaking pothole patching as weather allows. The unrelenting pattern of freeze / 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 were able to locate the cause of the electrical failure which was found to be wires crossing under State Street from the bank to Cool Jewels is where the fault is located. As with other sections of our aging light system, they were able to re-wire the circuit to bypass the fault. The good news is, the lights should be back on tonight. The bad news is, two of the three circuits had to be eliminated so we now only have one working circuit left. The original wiring design provided two circuits for street lights and one for the pole mounted outlets. This allowed for at least every other light to be operational if one circuit failed and for power to the outlets whether the lights were on or not. The loss of the fail-safe redundancy is an on-going concern for our downtown lights and we question how much longer this lighting system will last. Since the conduits are full of ice, we'll need to wait until summer to investigate whether replacement wires can be pulled through the existing conduits.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project: The new conduits for the proposed garage were installed under the retaining wall where the bike path is being constructed. DPW was asked to shut off the water service to the new building because of concerns about freezing. The poly enclosure of the building was damaged as a result of heavy winds last week but repairs have been made and work has resumed.

Shared Use Path Project (Granite St – Gallison Hill Road): The contractor is nearing completion of the slope modifications along old Country Club Road. Next week, work is planned in the Gallison Hill Road area. The contractor will take advantage of school vacation to work on some drainage system modifications and slope work which are necessary for the road widening portion of the project. One lane travel conditions in the work zone will be managed by traffic control flaggers. Other drainage work will take place between Gallison Hill Road and Country Club Road where the path has an off-road alignment and minimal impacts to traffic flow will be required. Utility pole work will also be taking place next week along Barre Street where relocations are required to accommodate the path and retaining wall. GMP will set the new poles and each of the utility companies

occupying the poles will then begin their transfer work.

Clarendon Avenue Reconstruction Project: Soil borings were conducted along Clarendon Ave, Redstone Ave and Bailey Ave last week which is now complete. In addition to soil and ledge rock test borings, five monitoring wells were installed to determine the water table elevation which staff will be checking periodically. In-house design work is progressing on schedule. Staff will begin work next week to develop bid documents to obtain the HDPE water pipe which we intend to purchase in advance outside of the construction contract because of the lengthy lead time to secure delivery.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO): Long Term Control Plan (LTCP): As required by state regulations, a public hearing is required for the development of the LTCP. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 28th @ 5:30 pm in The City Council Chambers. Staff will make a brief presentation on the plan development progress, the current status of CSOs, control & elimination options being considered moving forward and will receive public input.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

Feb 27	Charter Change PH - CM Zoning Fixes – P&D Emerald Ash Borer Plan – CM Parklet Clarification – ATCM Accessory Dwelling Unit Program – P&D 105 State St LLC Land Sale – CM Garage Appeal (Exec. Sess.) - CM Appointments: ATCM -Tree Board -Conservation Commission -Public Art Commission	Feb 28	City Council Self-evaluation
Mar 5	Annual City Meeting	Mar 13	Organizational Meeting -Ethics -Rules of Procedure -Officers -Strategic Planning -Committee Reps Open Meeting Law/Public Records VLCT Zoning PH?
Mar 27	Personnel Plan? CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D Ordinance review →? ATCM Scooters- ACM/ATCM	Apr 10	Tax Stabilization



William Fraser
City Manager