

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
12/13	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/13	Recreation Advisory Board Meeting	5:30 PM	58 Barre Street Senior Center	Agenda
12/14	ADA Committee Meeting	10:00 AM	Memorial Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/14	Community Advisory Board	5:00 PM	Memorial Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/14	Historic Preservation Special Meeting	7:00 PM	Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/15	Conservation Commission	6:30 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/15	Social and Economic Justice Committee Meeting	8:00 AM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/15	Homelessness Task Force Meeting	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link

12/15	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/17	Community Fund Board	1:00 PM	Memorial Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Improve Public Health and Safety

COVID-19 Response- Updated

New: The Montpelier City Council adopted a mask mandate at their meeting last night, December 8th, 2021. The mandate went into effect immediately after adoption. The full order is available to read here: https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7950/CITY-OFMONTPELIER_City-Mask-Mandate_Emergency-Order-Adopted-12082021.

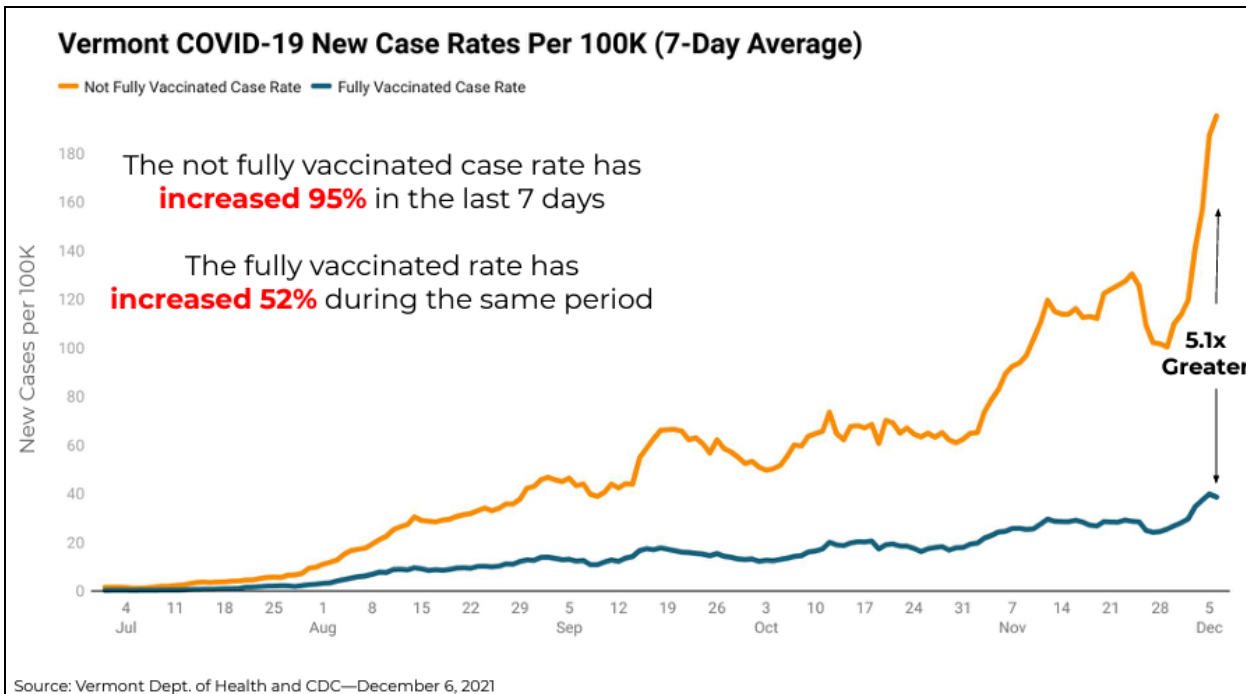
In general, the mandate states that all employees, customers, and visitors must wear masks indoors in any building that is open to the public, regardless of vaccination status. The mandate also states that all buildings that are open to the public must post a sign stating that “Visitors are required to wear face coverings by order of the Montpelier City Council”.

There are limited exceptions for children 2 and under, and for people with medical conditions that prevent mask wearing. Masks may also be removed on a limited basis if the mask “frustrates the primary purpose of the business”. This means that masks can be removed for services such as actively eating/drinking in a restaurant, while getting a beard trim at a barber shop, or other similar scenarios. Masks should be worn while not actively engaged in these activities.

Members of the public may report noncompliance with this order to the City. The City will aim to confirm reports of noncompliance and will issue offenders up to three (3) warnings. If warnings are unheeded, then the City will publish a list of businesses not in compliance on the City’s website.

New: The State has issued an [emergency regulation through the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation](#) requiring health insurers to cover the costs of COVID-19 antigen at-home tests (commonly referred to as “rapid” tests).

Updates: The State has released their updated [Covid-19 Modeling report for this week](#). The report continues to show that COVID-19 cases are continuing to **INCREASE** in our communities: **Vermont cases have increased 54% over last 7 days!**



COVID-19 Reminders:

- COVID-19 vaccination appointments are open for children ages 5 to 11! Appointments for school-based and state-run clinics can be made at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vaccines-children> or by calling 855-722-7878.
- **Update:** Anyone can now get a booster shot of vaccine- visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) to make a vaccination appointment!

Winter Shelter Reminder

Good Samaritan Haven has opened their Emergency Overflow Shelter at the Christ Church on Monday November 15th. The shelter opens at 8pm nightly.



Practice Good Environmental Stewardship

No Reports



Responsible and Engaged Government

2ND PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING REGULATIONS THIS MONDAY (DEC 13). This is a reminder for anyone who missed the hearing on November 29th that the Planning Commission is taking comment on ten sets of zoning changes. They include:

- changes to the zoning map on Harrison Ave, Heaton Street, and Northfield Street;
- changes to side setbacks is residential 900 zoning district and changes to rail setbacks in Eastern Gateway;
- new Planned Unit Development rules and amendments to existing ones,
- removal of residential density requirements in Riverfront and Residential 1500 zoning districts;
- some technical fixes including definitions, signs, fencing, and how we regulate shading of neighboring properties with new buildings; and
- making the interim River Hazard Area regulations permanent.

This second hearing will begin at 5:30PM. Anyone interested in participating in the hearing can connect to the remote zoom meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88281265386?pwd=c2d6MkduWk1kTTEvVVFxVHliTFF6QT09>

For those without access to the internet, there will be a public access terminal at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Copies of the full set of changes can be found at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1112/2021-Zoning-and-River-Hazard-Regulations>. The link can also be found on the front page of the City Website at the bottom of the page on the left. Please contact Mike Miller, Planning Director with any questions or comments on the hearing or the proposed regulations at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org

Pending Legal

Ferry, et al v. City of Montpelier. Filing of multiple parties seeking to invalidate the City's non-citizen voting charter amendment. The City is represented by Attorneys Michael Tarrant, Stephen Coteus, and Kimberly Devine. City's motion to dismiss was filed today.

Appeal of Zoning Permit. Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case but taking no position in the proceedings.

General Business Follow Up:

None this week.



Improve Community Prosperity

Community Services Department- Updates/New

Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations

Montpelier Community Services Divisions (Parks & Trees, Recreation & Senior Activity Center): To find information about our facilities, services and programs, visit the following linked websites/pages:

[Parks & Trees](#), [Recreation](#), [Senior Activity Center \(MSAC\)](#), [News and Announcements](#), [Special Events](#), [Hubbard Park Expansion Project](#), [Capital Kids Afterschool Childcare Program](#), [Facility Rentals](#), [FEAST Senior Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals](#), [FEAST Farm](#), [MSAC at Home services](#), [Adult/Teen Winter Classes](#). To subscribe to the MSAC e-letter/newsletter, email a request to msac@montpelier-vt.org. To subscribe to the Parks/Farm Volunteer e-list, email a request to jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org. Facebook pages for the divisions are: [Parks & Trees](#), [Recreation](#), [MSAC](#), (and [FEAST Senior Meals](#)).

Montpelier Parks & Trees Division updates/events

Upcoming Event: Animal Signs Walk

Saturday, December 18, 10:00am (rain/snow date, 12/19) | Free | all ages

Meet at the new Shelter in Hubbard Park for an easy walk. Join Naturalist Gail Johnson and learn how to attune your eyes to find animal signs: foodscraps, woodpecker, insect and mammal holes,

nests, feathers, fur, tracks, scat! (animal droppings), and the animals themselves (silhouettes or good views). Animal signs are fun to find and they tell a story. In addition, Gail will have animal signs in her pack to share. No need to register; just show up!

One more week! Want to Raise \$100 for the Hubbard Park Expansion? DIY Walk/Run through the New Parcels Continues through December 17th!

Dozens of local folks have enthusiastically come out in the winter wonderland for this opportunity in the past week (see [Parks Facebook](#) for photos!), and there's still seven more days to participate! Montpelier Parks partnered with [Onion River Outdoors](#) to set up a ~2.5 mile DIY run/walk route flagged on the new land through mid-December! The route starts and ends at the New Shelter, where there is a banner on display at the kiosk. An anonymous donor is donating \$100 for everyone who walks the flagged route that goes through the new properties. Here's how you can participate:

1. Run or Walk the route (follow the signs!).
2. Snap a photo in front of our banner at the New Shelter Kiosk.
3. Post it to Facebook or Instagram and tag [@onionriveroutdoors](#), or email aellsworth@montpelier-vt.org.
4. Earn \$100 dollars for the [Project](#) from an anonymous donor!

December 17th Benefit at Onion River Outdoors for Park Expansion: 5% Day and Raffle

[Onion River Outdoors](#) is doing a benefit for the [Hubbard Park Expansion Project](#) in which **5% of all sales** on 12/17 will be donated. **BONUS:** ORO is now selling tickets for a **RAFFLE**, too! Buy \$5 tickets (5 for \$20) between now and 12/17 for chances to win bundles of awesome ORO gear, a tent and other goodies from Patagonia, Marmot and Darn Tough, plus a 16" kids bike from Batch! Check out all the awesome selection at www.onionriver.com, and shop for your holiday gift list and your own needs and wishes on the 5% day, to support the [Project](#)!

Montpelier Recreation Division updates/events

Successful re-opening of Open Gym for Basketball Wed/Fri nights

Basketball Open Gym for youth/adults restarted on Wednesday and Friday evenings last week (12/3) for the first time since the pandemic began! We are grateful to our gym supervisor and to community members who waited patiently and are cooperating with COVID guidelines to make this limited schedule possible. More details and schedule [here](#).

Downtown Skating Rink to Return this Winter

The State of Vermont / Capitol Complex have granted permission to install Montpelier Recreation's portable skating rink on the lawn of the State House again this winter. Logistics and timing of the complex installation are still in the works, and we will announce more when details are firmed up.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Division updates/events

December 15 is New Deadline for Donating Small Holiday Gifts for Meals on Wheels Recipients!

Help the MSAC/FEAST team bring extra cheer to Meals on Wheels recipients by donating small items to include in holiday gift boxes that Westview Meadows has offered to wrap up. We're looking for things like: small craft items, warm winter hats/scarves, small puzzles, pens/pencils, small gift cards, boxes of tea, decks of cards, small bottles of lotion/sanitizer, soaps, or whatever else strikes your fancy. Bring to MSAC at 58 Barre Street (not to Westview!) by **Wednesday, December 15, 4pm. Thank you!**

Daily Hot Meal Distribution Re-starting for FEAST Senior Meals; Volunteers Invited!

FEAST Senior Meals is delighted to announce that with our Chef in place and our kitchen re-opened, we're shifting back to daily hot meal delivery on Monday Dec. 13th. Curbside meals, now hot, are still

available for pickup on Tuesdays and Fridays. Visit our [website](#) for more information. If you or someone you know is interested in helping bring nutritious, delicious meals to seniors who need them, please call or email us: 802-262-6288, feast@montpelier-vt.org. We are seeking the following: Kitchen volunteers, Dishwashers and Meals on Wheels drivers.



Employment and Personnel Announcements

Municipal Job Openings

Visit the City website for more information: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx>

- **Police Department- Patrol Officers:** The Patrol Officer is responsible for the efficient performance of required duties in conformance with the laws and the Department's rules, regulations and policies. Duties shall consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, a number of general police responsibilities necessarily necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email recruiting@montpelier-vt.org. **We have two more open officer positions.**
- **Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk:** This full-time career position involves the appropriate call handling of both emergency and non-emergency requests for police, fire, and emergency medical services, and determining the nature and urgency of those calls. For more information click [here](#). **There is one vacant position.**



Reminders

Social Worker Available to Residents

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at: susan.lemere@wcmhs.org or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

ORCA MEDIA

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to see City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>
- Or stream via ORCA's YouTube channel during meetings here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/orcamedia>

City-wide Reappraisal Property Inspections Have Begun!

We have begun the process of a city-wide reappraisal of all real property. Representatives from the New England Municipal Consultants will visit each property in the city to gather data. The inspection process will start in late 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023. NEMC will mail notices to property owners in advance of conducting inspections.

Stump Dump:

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps, and branches? The City Stump Dump is open! Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call the City Garage at 802-223-9510 before going to dump to approve of your items!

Trash Receptacles:

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup? Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic). Please do not place receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (**TENTATIVE**)

12/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Budget Workshop ONLY	12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Budget ReviewInvite Legislative DelegationAudit Report
1/5/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Budget Workshop ONLY	1/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">First PH on BudgetFirst PH on WarningFirst PH on Bonds
1/20/22 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2nd PH/Budget Adoption2nd PH on Warning/AdoptionConsideration of PetitionsBond Necessity ResolutionsMask Mandate extension	2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CJC IntroductionPolice Committee Follow UpCity Manager Review and Contract
2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2nd PH on Bonds		

? = Date is tentative, may shift to a different date

CURRENT PENDING ITEMS

Conduit Policy

Housing Task Force Report follow up

Zoning revisions – likely in March

City Master Plan

12-16 Main St. site planning

From Strategic Plan for future agendas:

Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization

Workforce Development program

City Committee recruitment/stipends (also with budget)

✓ Coordination with CAN –11/17

Equity Action Plan recommendations

Planning Department exercises

✓ PFAS Alternatives – 11/17

Stormwater Utility

Homelessness Plan

✓ Police Review Committee recommendations - started on 11/10, 2/9

Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin

Update Barriers to Housing Study

From Strategic Plan for Budget Discussion:

Confluence Park Funding

Dam Removal Study

Early Childcare Feasibility Study

Economic Development Funding

Website improvement/Communications platforms

Fund ADA transition plan items

Fully Staff city departments

Housing Trust Fund

Housing and Services Hub

Net Zero Plan recommendations

Implementing Green Print

Construct Public Restrooms

Recreation Building

Fund Capital Plan

Maintain 70 PCI on streets

Expand Peer Support and Social Worker capacity

Implement CIT program

Implement Police Review recommendations

Implement Televate communications infrastructure plan

From Strategic Plan for Staff Action:

Rec & Parks as Economic Driver

Expand hours of childcare program

Work with developers for more housing

Support Christ Church housing project

2022 VHCB grant application for housing and services hub

Complete projects included in budget

Expand CJC support to MPD

Protect Berlin Pond Watershed