

Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

92 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
info@munjoyhill.org
November 22, 2021



Proudly serving Portland's Munjoy Hill neighborhood since 1979.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
FROM THE

MUNJOY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION!



WE HATE TO SAY IT, BUT WINTER IS COMING ALL TOO SOON.



Volunteers Needed to Shovel Snow for Elderly Neighbors This Winter

Help an elderly neighbor in need this winter! The MHNO, in collaboration with the Age-Friendly Portland Steering Committee, is looking for volunteers willing to shovel snow for an elderly neighbor this winter.

MHNO works with City Neighborhood volunteer coordinators to help match Portland residents aged 65+ with local volunteer groups and individuals willing to help. Contact Linda Weare, Portland Office of Elder Affairs with any questions or to sign up: agefriendlycommunity@portlandmaine.gov, or 207-541-6620.

Or, better yet, contact MHNO's own Coordinator of the Snow Shovel Squad, Karen Snyder, directly at k.snyder@munjoyhill.org. Unfortunately, several of last year's volunteers have moved out of the neighborhood. New volunteers are needed to replace them. You are likely to be paired with one elderly neighbor for the season.

Last winter MHNO volunteers assisted approximately 12 frail elders by clearing sidewalks and making sure that pathways were open for Meals on Wheels Deliveries, access by in-home support providers, and similar services.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS



DISTRICT MEETING FOR MUNJOY HILL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021 AT 6:30 PM

The annual City-sponsored District 1 meeting will be held on December 1st at 6:30 pm using Zoom. The host, retiring Councilor Belinda Ray, will be joined by an assortment of City staff and perhaps by other new and at-large Councilors.

This is your chance to raise concerns and ask questions. Want to find out what the City is planning for the neighborhood? What is happening with ReCode 2? Want to meet the acting City Manager and Department Heads? Want to provide feedback on City services, sewer projects, and permits? Have concerns about noise, incompatible uses, adequacy of notices for development reviews or demolitions, affordable housing strategies?

To join, at 6:30 pm on 12/1, go to:

<https://portlandmaine.gov/1355/Annual-District-Meetings>

Scroll down to District 1 meeting and click where it says "click here to join".

Best Wishes to Retiring District One City Councilor Belinda Ray, Stepping Down After Serving 6 years as Our Representative. Hosting the December 1st District Meeting is likely to be one of her last official acts in that capacity.



FALL 2021 CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 27TH

Good News! Public Works has extended the time for curbside leaf collection. If you have your biodegradable leaf bags out at your curb by **Saturday**,

November 27th, they will be collected. The crews will make a last run through their routes early the following week to collect bagged leaves. They will be doing multiple routes per day so collection will NOT be on your normal trash day.



City's Charter Commission Continues its Work

The Charter Commission is continuing its work to examine the City's Charter to decide what changes, if any, to recommend. They are scheduled to make a preliminary recommendation to the City Council by March 8, 2022 and a final report by June 8, 2022, but extensions may be granted for up to an additional year if more time is needed.

The final recommended charter revision will go to the voters of Portland for a majority vote to accept or reject. It is unclear whether there will be a single proposal or whether it will be divided into multiple free-standing parts with each to be voted upon separately. (To be controlling, the election turnout has to equal at least 30% of the votes cast in Portland in the previous gubernatorial election.)

The Commission's subcommittees (Governance, Education, Elections, Procedures, and Departments) are each looking at multiple issues. They include the appropriate balance of power between the Mayor, City Manager and City Council; the makeup of the City Council (e.g. number of councilors, district vs. at-large representatives, etc.); and many other issues.

Different people and groups, including the MHNO, are trying to monitor the ongoing work of the Charter Commission and its multiple Committees by watching each Committee and full Commission meeting. But due to a lack of detailed minutes, publicly posted agendas, and draft documents, it is not easy to follow. For the past couple of month there have been approximately two or three Charter Commission subcommittee meetings per week. You can find scheduled meetings and Zoom links on the City's Agenda Center: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes>. Other sources for a little more information are the City's

webpage: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2665/Charter-Commission-2020-2022> and the League of Women Voters of Maine Portland Charter Commission
site: <https://www.lwvme.org/CharterCommission>.

The entire Charter Commission is next scheduled to meet on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 6:00. It will be remote via Zoom. While the discussion at the October 27th meeting was not entirely clear, it is likely that this December 22nd meeting will just be a "check in" or informational meeting for committees to report on their work.

Committees continue to meet in the meantime. These subcommittees are in the process of trying to finalize the substance of their recommendations to the Commission as a whole, and to draft the actual legal language the committee will be proposing to include in a charter revision.

Chair Kebede stated that his intent is that each committee's proposed language will be posted for public viewing at least two weeks prior to any full Charter Commission meeting. At that meeting they would have a public hearing and full Charter Commission discussion. If a committee has a final product to post by December 8, 2021 it is possible that recommendation would be taken up for a public hearing on December 22nd. Public hearings on committee recommendations not in order for hearing by the full Commission on December 22nd will be scheduled for January 2022 or beyond.

Thinking About Contesting your Real Estate Tax Revaluation?

Anybody thinking about contesting their real estate tax revaluation may find MHNO Board Member, neighbor and attorney Peter Murray's presentation particularly useful. A recording of MHNO's September 2021 Tax Revaluation program is available on YouTube, clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOPFMDO-kDw>

Background, Why Revaluation Now and Legal Parameters, MHNO President Wayne Valzania, Chris Huff, Tax Assessor, Mayor Snyder, Councilor Ray, minutes 0:00 to 19:00;

How Portland's Revaluation Was Conducted, Chris Huff, Tax Assessor Gynt Grube & John Valente, Tyler Technologies, minutes 19:00 to 37:30;

Contesting Your Tax Assessment: The Formal Appeal Process, Attorney Peter Murray, 37:30 to 1:02:00;

Possible Real Estate Tax Relief Programs (with a footnote on Rent Control), Chris Huff, Tax Assessor, Mayor Snyder, Councilor Ray, Barbara Vestal, 1:04:00 to 1:23:00;

Questions from the Public: 1:23:00 to 1:42:00.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

MHNO continues to be a vibrant, community-based organization. We could never have anticipated the great changes this past year and a half has brought. But these have only reinforced our mission. We are here for the people who live on or have businesses on Munjoy Hill. To do this, we need your help. Please join us, stay involved, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Change is not only good -- it's essential. We embrace new members, and welcome their thoughts, ideas and involvement. Please visit us at www.munjoyhill.org.

The next monthly business meeting of the 13-members of the Board of Directors of the MHNO will be held on Monday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. Monthly meetings are held remotely using Zoom. If you are a member of the MHNO and are interested in sitting in on the Board of Director's meeting, please send an email to info@munjoyhill.org and request that you be emailed a link to the MHNO Board of Director's meeting.

Wayne Valzania,
w.valzania@munjoyhill.org
President

Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization | 92 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by w.valzania@munjoyhill.org