

## Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of June 30, 2014

**While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:**

### **Town Manager's Office—Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

We have finalized our grand list and municipal tax rate. Our grand list grew more than expected and is \$20,033,047, which is \$93,047 higher than anticipated at the May budget vote and 1.62% above 2013. The municipal tax rate was estimated to be \$0.57379, an increase of \$0.0098 or 1.73% when the budget was voted on a second time in early May. The increased grand list reduced the municipal tax increase to \$0.074 (3/4's of a cent) or 1.31% over 2013. This means the average property taxpayer of a \$300,000 home will pay an increase of \$22.11 for the coming year. As a point of reference, we projected a town tax rate of \$1.64 cents or a 2.90% increase for an average tax payment of \$49.05 at the March town meeting.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5509.

### **Economic Development Department—Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

Below are some of the initiatives being undertaken by the Economic Development Department.

- Completion of Community Center site assessment and a comprehensive summary of same for the Select Board.
- Finalizing new logo and taglines based upon a presentation of options to the Select Board.
- Working with land owner for infrastructure options at Exit 17.
- Attended the CCTA bus service kick off and finalized marketing material and schedules for residents and businesses.
- Filmed live footage for five Colchester Promotional videos.
- Met with Lake Champlain International.
- Held a Technical Review Committee meeting with a local business that purchased a vacant building in town to determine how we can assist them.
- Participated in Costco pre-trial.
- Met with International Sailing Center.
- Attended Rotary Meeting.
- Met with business looking to purchase a vacant building and move into Colchester.
- Attended the Great Burlington Industrial Corporation's Annual Meeting.
- Attended Vermont Venture Network monthly meeting.
- Finalizing Residential Guide with Leadership Champlain Committee.
- Working with developer on sign regulations.
- Met with utility company on projects for coming year.
- Attended Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation's Press Conference on IBM.
- Working on website and exploring future design, platforms.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

For more information about the Community and Economic Development Office, please visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/CommEconomicDev/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5508.

### **Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director**

The Planning and Zoning Department continues to work with the Manager's Office on delegation from the State of Vermont for Shoreline Regulations. Colchester will likely receive the delegation agreement within the week. We have done everything asked by us from the State and are awaiting a response.

What does this mean for homeowners on the Lake? At this time both the new State rules apply in Colchester as well as our local regulations. Once we receive delegation, things will return to normal and only the local regulations will apply. It is recommended that property owners wait the week or two until Colchester gets delegation to apply for any new permits in the Shoreland.

We will publicize once we have delegation in our newsletter and on our website. Please stay tuned!

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/planningZHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5600.

### **Public Works Department—Bryan Osborne, Director**

- Grading of the Town's 13 miles of gravel roads has been completed including the application of dust control materials.
- Painting of pedestrian crosswalks is approximately 60% complete.
- Roadside mowing is approximately 50% complete.
- Directional boring is underway to install an emergency by-pass for a collapsed sewer line on Rt. 15.
- The Smith Estates Emergency Storm Water Overflow project is now substantially complete. We expect to come in under budget and in advance of the project time line with restoration and clean up remaining.
- A Facility Space Planning Assessment is nearing completion and in final draft form.
- An RFP has been issued for the completion of a comprehensive energy audit of the Town's facilities.
- A Public Hearing will be held on July 8, 2014 at the Colchester Select Board meeting for amendments to the Town's Sewer Ordinance.
- Engineering and design work as well as right-of-way acquisition efforts are continuing on the Fort Ethan Allen sidewalk project, the West Lakeshore Drive multi-use path, the River Road sidewalk, the East Road culvert replacement, and the Malletts Bay Avenue culvert replacement.

For more information about the Public Works Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PublicWorks/Home.shtml> or call (802) 264-5620.

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