

For the Week Ending January 13, 2017

Upcoming Town Meetings*

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 PM
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 PM
- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, January 16, 2016 7:00 PM at Bayside Activity Center
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Wednesday, January 25, 8:00 AM, Colchester Town Offices, Champlain Room 2nd floor.

**All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor unless otherwise noted.*

Upcoming events:

- **Malletts Bay Initiative Stormwater & Transportation Project Informational Public Meeting:** Thursday, January 19 at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road in the Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor. Open House starts at 6:30 PM followed by a presentation at 7:00 PM.

Notices:

- **The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16** in observance of Martin Luther King Day.
- **Burnham Library will be closed on Monday, January 16** in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

The following highlights some Town Departments' activities:

Message of the Week

Malletts Bay Initiative (MBI)
Stormwater & Transportation Project

The Town of Colchester has undertaken a series of projects as part of the Malletts Bay Initiative (MBI) to protect the scenic, recreational, and water resources provided by the Bay. The MBI Stormwater & Transportation Project will:

- 1) Protect the Bay's water quality with a new stormwater management system;
- 2) Transform West Lakeshore Drive to better accommodate all users; and
- 3) Reduce congestion at the Lakeshore Drive and Blakely Road intersection.

Come learn more about this exciting project at our first public meeting on Thursday, January 19th at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road. Open House at 6:30 PM, followed by presentation at 7:00 PM. Questions? Contact Diane at 802.865.1794.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

Read more about this project at: www.ccrpcvt.org/malletts-bay-initiative

**Office of the Town Clerk
Karen Richard**

- The deadline to file a petition to run for office in the upcoming March election is Monday, January 30, 2017 at 5:00 PM. Absentee/Early Voting Ballots will be available by February 15th. You can visit the Clerk's office to vote early, request a ballot to go, or absentee ballots may be requested by phone: 264-5520. You can also access "My Voter Page," a new online resource that allows registered voters request an absentee ballot, track its status, update their voter registration information, find their polling place, view sample ballots, and much more: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>
- The following positions will be on the ballot in March:
 - Selectboard member, 2 Year, currently held by Marc Landry
 - Selectboard member, 3 Year, currently held by Herb Downing
 - Town Clerk/Treasurer, 2 Year, currently held by Karen Richard
 - Moderator, 1 Year, currently held by Scott Barrett
 - School Board, 2 Year, currently held by Curt Taylor
 - School Board, 3 Year, currently held by James Lincoln White
 - Library Trustee, 5 Year, currently held by Betsy Ferry
 - Lister, 3 Year, currently held by Hugh Bemis

We thank these Town officers for their commitment to Colchester, past and future, should they decide to run again.

- To run for any of the offices, above, you need to submit a petition stating the office you wish to run for, the length of the term, and the signatures of 30 registered voters. **We cannot accept petitions that lack the term of office.** If you have questions or would like blank petitions please contact the Town Clerk's office at 264-5520.
- Please remember that both voting districts: District 9-1 and District 9-2 are voting at the Colchester High School Gymnasium for all elections.

Want more info? Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call (802) 264-5520.

**Office of the Deputy Town Manager/CFO
Aaron Frank**

Growth since 2000

- Residential dwellings have increased by 1,279 units or 18%
- Commercial buildings have increased by 93 with a total value of \$114,863,350

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

Service Demands

- Public Works: in the last 20 years our paths & sidewalks have increased by 50%, roads by 21%
- Police: Received 564 more calls than last year (a 4.4% increase) with 13,295 calls total
- Dispatch: 424 more calls than last year (a 1.7% increase); 25,551 calls total
- Library: Outreach visit attendance count increased from 2,945 people in 2015 to 4,029 in 2016
- Planning and Zoning: Permits increased from 385 in 2015 to 579 in 2016

Budget change of 2.4%

- 1.4% \$174,499 to maintain current services
- 1% \$122,566 for additional services

Tax impacts

- Average \$300,000 single family home's taxes will increase by \$10 for the year
- Change in municipal tax rate is 0.62%
- Colchester has the third lowest tax rate per person in inner Chittenden County at \$654

FY 17 Budget Update

Six months into the fiscal year:

- Expenditures are 2% under budget
- Revenues are 2% over budget,
- Revenues are higher than expenses by \$488,588, a net positive of 4%

FY 16 Audit:

- The Town received a clean audit for last year. Mike Moffatt, Lara Alemy, Joe Landry, and Amy Baker in our Finance Department deserve special accolades. Karen Richard, Julie Graeter, Betsy Peacock, and Traci Paquette handle tax, treasury, and tax sale issues in the Clerk's Office. They've done a great job with old tax receivables. Thanks to everyone's ongoing efforts we have another clean audit with no findings.

For more about the Town audits visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=37>
For more about the Finance Dept. visit <http://colchestervt.gov/finance> or call (802) 264-5650.

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