

For the Week of April 1, 2019

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Selectboard Request: The Colchester Selectboard has requested that the Planning Commission review and analyze options to address the lack of effective wastewater disposal capacity for properties on inner Malletts Bay. The problem of inadequate human waste disposal in this concentrated area remains unsolved and affects those that live along the Bay, as well as the larger community that enjoys recreation opportunities the Bay offers. The Planning Commission will begin by listening to and considering community concerns. Over the summer solutions will be explored with the intent of presenting findings to the community in early fall. Please stay tuned in the coming weeks for additional information as the Planning Commission begins this process.

Solar Update: At the last Selectboard meeting, Aegis Renewable Energy presented options for installation of solar carports and solar pavilion roofs at Airport Park. These proposals were for a third renewable energy project for the Town, behind the Pumpkin Patch and Roosevelt Highway arrays that went live earlier this year. These existing projects produce electricity equal to 70% of the electricity consumed in the provision of services to the community, and after payback of capital and operating costs, will save the Town nearly \$1 Million in electricity costs.

Unfortunately, due to materials cost, lending costs, and the type of solar facilities proposed, the proposed Airport Park projects do not pay back their capital costs in a reasonable timeframe, as do our other two projects. The manager's office did not recommend and the Selectboard did not approve the project. The Town continues to examine possibilities to reduce consumption of energy and to implement additional cost effective solar projects. We would like to thank Nils Behn and Chris Lamonica of Aegis RE for all of their hard work putting together proposals for us to consider, as well as their excellent installation services for our two successful projects.

Town Plan Recognitions: I would like to acknowledge the hard work and passion by the Planning Commission and Selectboard, working together with our community of residents, property owners, business people, Colchester Schools, and Town staff to create a new Town Plan to implement our vision for Colchester. The Plan also provides the Town with authority to provide input to the State Public Utilities Commission on large scale renewable energy projects. A record number of public informational and feedback sessions were held all around town; surveys and podcast allowed more public input.

Special thanks to the Colchester Planning Commission: Pam Loranger, Chair; Rich Paquette, Vice Chair; Nicholas Longo, Secretary; Robert Scheck: Sarita Austin; Rebecca Arnold; Mark Tarinelli; and Zachary Goad, Student Member. Kudos to our Department of Planning and Zoning: Sarah Hadd, Director; Sean Cannon, Coordinator; and Zachary Maia, Intern.

https://issuu.com/colchestervt/docs/2019_town_plan

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

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 PM. April meetings: 4/2 and 4/16
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM. April meeting: 4/10
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 AM. Champlain Room, 2nd floor. April meeting: 4/10
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 4/15
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. April meetings: 4/9 and 4/23
- **Colchester Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Next meeting: Thursday, April 11, 8:00 AM in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor.
- **Library Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30-5:30 PM at Burnham Memorial Library. April meeting: 4/18.

(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:

- **Legislative Hours:** Come meet with Colchester Legislators to ask questions or share your thoughts and suggestions. Three dates, two locations:
 - **Town Meeting House:** Sunday, 5/19, 2-3 PM
 - **Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd floor:** Monday, 4/8 & 5/6, 12-1 PM
- **Green Up Day:** Saturday, May 4, 7:30 AM – 2PM. Pick up bags at Colchester Police Department from 8 AM to noon. Hot dog barbecue at the PD from noon to 1 PM.
- **12th Annual Touch-A-Truck:** Saturday, May 4, 9:00 – 10:30 AM (Quiet Time, No Sirens), 10:30 – 11:00 AM (Sirens may be used) Colchester High School Parking Lot; Rain or Shine. FREE!




Colchester Town News

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