

**For the Week of:
September 18, 2017**

**Manager's Message of the Week
Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

Private Roads Winter Maintenance

The Selectboard held a meeting last Monday to obtain public comment on the Town's practice of providing winter maintenance on some, but not all of the community's private road system. The Selectboard is considering the issue in advance of preparing a formal policy based upon concerns raised from residents about the fairness and equity of plowing some private roads and not others, advice of legal counsel and the recommendations of the Governance Committee who requested the Town establish a formal policy per the Town's Charter. The legal issues include whether the Town has the authority to provide this service on private property; whether it violates the Vermont Constitution because private users receive a tax dollar benefit greater than what other taxpayers receive, the liability and risk of the Town operating equipment on private property as well as unfair competition with the private sector.

The public comments at the meeting and from emails/phone calls to date, fall under the following general themes.

- The Town has a legal and/or moral obligation to continue plowing private roads.
- It is unfair for the Town to be plowing some private roads and not others.
- The plowing of private roads is necessary for public health and safety (emergency access).
- The Town's minimum roadway standards should be reduced to allow public acceptance of private roads.
- Alternate methods of plowing private roads such as public private partnerships and Town managed contracts should be explored.
- Property owners should receive tax rebates if plowing of private roads is discontinued.
- Taxpayers should not be paying for service on private property.
- General confusion over why the Town permits additional development on private roads.
- Buyers purchased property on private roads with the assumption that plowing would continue.
- Lack of availability of private snow removal contractors especially if a decision is made before this winter season.

- Unclear definition of a private road and its effect on future costs to expand private road plowing.
- The Selectboard should take their time and consider public input in deciding this issue, be transparent about their deliberations and consider the difficulty in finding contractors.

Comments received before and after the meeting (up to Friday afternoon on September 15) have been uploaded to the Town website. You will find these at www.colchestervt.gov (scroll down the main page to *Popular Links* and click on *Private Roads*). We continue to compile emails that arrived after Friday's update. If you provided input after Friday afternoon your comments **will** be included with the Selectboard packet for the Selectboard's special meeting/work session on Monday, September 18. There are other topics on that agenda and we expect to take up the private roads discussion at 5:00 p.m. The Board has also scheduled time at the regular meetings on September 26 and October 10 to consider the issue further and respond to questions and comments raised. Website updates will be made within 5 days of these meetings.

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

Economic Development Department
Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

Engaging. Educating. Expanding. The Town's Social Media Campaign

Part of my job as Economic Development Director is to coordinate communication. We value the time of our citizens, volunteers, and businesses so many different venues are used to keep our business community and residents informed.

I hope you've noticed we've expanded our social media presence in the last few weeks in hopes of educating everyone about Colchester's plans and projects, and engaging more of you in various activities in Town. We have a comprehensive plan for our social media marketing and will be continually upgrading and updating the plan as new partnerships and opportunities arise.

When you see a Facebook post that you like, please "share" it or "like" it so we can reach as many people as possible. If you have any specific questions or would like to become involved with our social media campaign, please contact me at koreilly@colchestervt.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

Colchester...What do you want to do today?

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

For more about Economic Development, visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/econdev> or call (802) 264-5508.

Planning and Zoning Department
Sarah Hadd, Director

The Colchester Development Review Board met on September 13 and approved:

- 1) A preliminary plat application of Severance Corners Village Center, LLC to create a new .45 acre parcel and construct a 3 story, 30,128 sq. ft., 33 unit residential building with underground parking at 2588 Blakely Road, tax map 08, Parcel 37-1
- 2) Final plat and site plan applications of Ireland Industries to extend the project timeline for build-out of a Planned Unit Development for 206 residential units, 12,400 sq. ft. of retail space, 34,040 sq. ft. of office/commercial space, 4,050 sq. ft. of restaurant space and 4,050 sq. ft. of daycare space and also boundary line adjustments and setback waivers to create a new lot on which building #4 will be located at 242 Severance Road, tax map 4, parcels 30-1, 30-2, 30-3, 30-5, 30-6, 30-7, 30-8, 30-9, 30-10, 30-11, 30-12, 30-13 and 32
- 3) A site plan application from Michael and Barbara Barford for the construction of approximately 78' of large dimensional stone to reinforce existing failing concrete seawall 10' high with stone fill above seawall to create gentler slope to top of bank and removal 3 of 8 trees and replanting 1 tree to meet the 25% limit of cutting at 50 Bluff Road, tax map 30, parcel 2, unit 19.

The Planning Commission will meet on September 19th to continue its review of the Subdivision Regulations. The Commission will also consider a request to allow event facilities in the R5 District. A summary of the proposed subdivision changes is available on the Town's Planning and Zoning Department website at colchestervt.gov. The Commission may warn a public hearing for the changes in October.

For more information visit <http://colchestervt.gov/planningz> or call (802) 264-5600.

Department of Public Works
Bryan Osborne, Director

- Current maintenance includes gravel road grading, mowing, sweeping, patching, and miscellaneous drainage repairs.
- Preparing for winter: hauling winter sand, marking drainage structures and preparing snow removal equipment.
- Contract has been awarded for sidewalk construction on West View Road. Project to be completed this year.

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- Sidewalk project is complete at Fort Ethan Allen, including complete restoration of approximately 1,000 of historic blue stone slate walkways
- A presentation of all of the alternatives for the Malletts Bay Scoping Study will be presented to the public at the Selectboard's meeting of September 26, 2017.
- **Sample** stormwater utility bills have been distributed to all commercial properties prior to the planned January billing; meeting with them to discuss possible eligibility for credits under the utility.
- Working with the State's Clean Water Board on possible future Clean Water funding for stormwater and/or wastewater improvements.
- Completing a Town-wide technical assessment of all paved Town roadways to update the Capital Paving Program.
- Developing options for the upgrade of the HVAC system at the Library
- Working with Colchester Fire District #2 on the development of a municipal sewer system for Malletts Bay.
- Providing technical support to the Selectboard in their deliberations over a possible policy on the plowing of private roads.
- Developing the FY19 operating budgets for the six divisions of Public Works
- Developing the FY19-FY24 Capital Budget Program for the Town.

Want to know more? <http://colchestervt.gov/publicworks> or call (802) 264-5620.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 PM
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 PM

(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.)

Traffic Notices:

- **I-89 Colchester – Swanton for the week of 09/18/2017:** Monday thru Friday Daytime: Shoulder work and general clean-up throughout the project limits. One lane of travel will be maintained within the construction zone. Motorists should plan for minimal delays. Questions? Contact Stephanie Barrett at 802-862-6085.
- **Routes 7/2, 2A & 127 Week of 09/18/2017:** There will be daily single-lane closures and alternating one-way travel throughout the project area, with travel through the Route 7/2 and Bay Road intersection slowed by rough road surface conditions. The contractor will maintain as smooth a surface as possible for travelers. Plan travel to anticipate delays, especially during the peak AM and PM hours. Access to businesses will remain OPEN at all times. Questions? Contact Jill Barrett at 802-272-1248



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