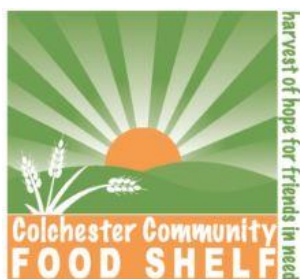


**For the Week of July 24, 2023**

## **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



The Colchester Community Food Shelf will be holding an Open House on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 245 Main St. Stop by to learn what the Colchester Community Food Shelf is all about and swap your donation of Non-Perishable food items (or a cash donation) (All proceeds go to the Colchester Community Food Shelf) for grilled burgers and hot dogs provided by the Lions Club of Colchester!



## **Colchester Recreational Water Quality Testing:**

Colchester conducted an additional test at Delta Park/Windemere on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> that indicated the E. Coli levels had lowered to 95.8 CFU/100ml, which is below the state threshold for unsafe swimming. The State of Vermont requires posting public beaches as unsafe to swim in when E. Coli levels exceed 235 CFU/100 ml. However, due to the recent sewage discharge into the Winooski River by the City of Burlington's broken sewer pipe, state standards also require the posting of public beaches as no swimming until at least 48 hours after Burlington is no longer leaking untreated sewage into the river.

In addition to the state requirement, Colchester will also consider our own testing in our decision to remove the no swimming signs.

The signs were provided by the City of Burlington but it was Colchester's decision to post the no swimming signs from the Heineberg Fish Access to Delta Park/Windemere to the west side of the Causeway at Colchester Point.

## Town News Interviews: Boards and Commissions Edition

### Colchester Development Review Board

#### ***What is the Colchester Development Review Board and what do they do?***

Have you ever wondered how a new neighborhood gets built? Or how a new commercial building gets permitted? These projects are regulated locally under the Colchester Development Regulations, and one of the first steps in that process for larger projects is the Development Review Process. The Colchester Development Review Board is a group of 6 volunteers (5 members and 1 alternate) who are appointed by the Selectboard to hold public hearings and issue decisions on subdivision, site plan, conditional use, variance, and appeal applications under the Colchester Development Regulations. The Board is quasi-judicial, which means that the meetings are similar to a court proceeding, where applications are submitted by property owners, evidence and testimony is provided to the Board, and the Board considers the application and all supporting evidence and testimony in rendering a written decision. The Board is tasked with determining whether or not an application meets the requirements of the Development Regulations, but they hold public hearings to provide an opportunity for neighbors and other residents to ask questions, provide information, and state any concerns they may have about projects in town.



The Development Review Board is tasked with applying the Development Regulations to proposed projects, whereas the Planning Commission reviews and modifies the Development Regulations. Usually once per year, both boards will meet to review how the Regulations are being applied.

#### ***What does a Board meeting look like?***

The Development Review Board generally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Town Offices. Occasionally, they will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month under certain circumstances. A meeting of the Development Review Board is usually very straightforward. The agenda lists the applications to be reviewed. The chair of the Board will read the application into the record, and the applicant will present on the project. The Board will ask questions of the applicant, and Town Staff may

also provide input and discuss the project. After hearing from the applicant, the Board will open the hearing for comment from the public. At this time, members of the public can step forward and address the Board with any questions or comments about the project. Once the Board has heard from the applicant, the public, and staff, they have an option to close the hearing on the application.

Once a hearing is closed, the Board cannot take in any new information. At this point, they need to review all of the application materials, additional



evidence, and testimony from the hearing to provide a written decision. They review these materials in a non-public, deliberative session. The deliberations may take place over the course of 45 days from the hearing, but usually the Board issues a decision within a week or two.” Applicants and members of the public who

participate in the hearing will be provided a copy of the written decision via first-class mail.

### ***What are the responsibilities of a Board Member?***

All members of the Colchester Development Review Board are responsible for reviewing the application materials and Staff-provided review comments ahead of the hearings. During the hearings, members are responsible for gathering enough evidence and testimony to make a decision on the application. This includes asking questions of the applicant to clear up any discrepancies flagged by Staff, but also directing appropriate and relevant questions or comments from the public to the applicant so that they can be addressed. Board members are responsible for ensuring that members of the public are provided the opportunity to be heard, and also provide transparency to the Development Review process.

### ***Why and how did current members begin volunteering with the DRB?***

“The Town and DRB Chair reached out to me in 2019 about potentially serving on the Board. I grew up in Colchester and have lived here most of my adult life, so I was excited about the opportunity to serve on a Town board. I was familiar with development review and permitting through my work as a

consulting hydrologist, so it was a good fit to serve on the DRB.” – Evan Fitzgerald, Vice Chair

“After 23 years of being a resident of Colchester and a recent empty nester, I decided it was time to volunteer my time and give back to my community. Having worked in the housing industry, I was drawn to the Development Review Board.” – Kathy Cawley, Alternate Member

### ***What do current members enjoy about volunteering?***

“I enjoy working with the other volunteers on the DRB and the Town Zoning Staff to interpret the regulations and review applications in a consistent manner. It has been nice getting to know the other volunteers. I also enjoy seeing how new development fits into our community and how this is shaped by the Planning Commission’s work.” – Evan Fitzgerald, Vice Chair

“I enjoy bringing effective solutions to the residents of Colchester and implementing the checks and balances the Town has put in place to protect the longevity of the future of Colchester.” – Kathy Cawley, Alternate Member

### ***How can you get involved?***

With the exception of deliberative sessions, all meetings of the Development Review Board are open to the public. You can attend in-person, [watch live](#), or catch up on [recordings](#) on LCATV. You can keep up to date with the pending applications by reviewing agendas on Clerkbase (<https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>), or by reviewing the legal ads posted in the Seven Days newspaper. If a property adjoining yours is proposed to be developed in some way, you may receive a notice in the mail notifying you of a hearing before the Development Review Board. We encourage adjoining property owners to review the application materials online, through the Clerkbase agenda, and by attending the meeting to learn more or ask questions about the project. The Board values your input ahead of issuing decisions!



As members are appointed, there may be a point in time where a vacancy occurs on the Board. If you are interested in joining the Development Review Board, please keep an eye on the Town Newsletter for posting of open positions.



If you have any questions about the Development Review Board process, please contact Zachary Maia at [zmaia@colchestervt.gov](mailto:zmaia@colchestervt.gov) or by phone at 802-264-5604. Feel free to stop by the Town Offices to chat!

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## Department Updates

### Parks and Recreation:

#### ***2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Lower Bayside Park (Beachside)***

All Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.  
Admission is FREE  
Parking available at Bayside Park



Join us for Colchester's summertime tradition. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinner to Lower Bayside Park for our summer concert series on Thursday evenings. Enjoy great music with the beauty of Malletts Bay as your backdrop!

### July 27: The Outcrops



From the woods of Northern New Jersey, The Outcrops present original blues-infused rock'n'roll. The four-piece band was formed in 2016 by lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist Cassidy Rain and lead guitarist Bryan Schroeder. As a singer, Cassidy has been compared to Bonnie Raitt and Susan Tedeschi, but her raw sensibility as front person could as easily

bring comparisons to blues legends like Howlin' Wolf or Muddy Waters. Bryan's playing falls somewhere between Duane Allman and Derek Trucks, as many fans have pointed out. Bryan has also noted Jerry Garcia as a major influence. His long flowing lead lines throughout songs intertwine with Cassidy's vocal phrases to create a very melodic sound that sets the tone for The Outcrops. The rhythm section of the band includes Jason Casanovas on bass and Max Adler on drums. Both Max and Jason bring a funk and soul feel that melds beautifully with Cassidy and Bryan, creating their band tag: Rock & Roll, Blues & Soul.

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**Burnham Memorial Library: Upcoming Adult/Senior Programs for Summer**

**Mah Jongg**

Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Whether you're new to the game or have played for years, you're more than welcome to join us at the Meeting House!



**Smartphone Photography Basics**

Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Learn from a pro how to take the best pictures on your smartphone! Please bring your phone to the session.

**Adult Craft: Needle felting Farm Animals**

Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Join us to needlefelt a little farm animal! The library will provide materials, but participants are also encouraged to bring in their own. This activity will involve fine-detail work.

**Nature Walk Meetups for Adults**

Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Gather by the Ledges trailhead at Niquette Bay State Park to walk the Poetry Trail. Wear comfortable shoes and insect repellent and bring plenty of water.

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## Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, July 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Agendas available:** <http://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

**Note:** Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.



# Colchester Town News

VERMONT

*Colchester – What do you want to do today?*

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email  
[townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)