

For the Week of September 27, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

A [resolution](#) acknowledging Police Chief Doug Allen's retirement and honoring his 39 years of service to the Town of Colchester was shared at last night's Selectboard meeting.

Additionally, Lieutenant Pete Hull has been named interim Police Chief until a Police Chief is identified and onboarded. Lieutenant Hull has been with the Town for 33 years, has served as a Lieutenant for the past five years, and has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Champlain College.



Colchester voters approved the Colchester Recreation Center on Town Meeting Day 2023. The vote followed 90 public meetings over 22 years, including a prior vote to purchase the land for the Recreation Center in 2004.

Town staff put the project out to bid first to qualify contractors and then to receive bids from qualified contractors. Three firms were asked to be qualified, and two were: ReArch and Engelberth. Two bids were received, and Engleberth was the lower bidder. On September 26th the [Selectboard voted](#) to enter into a contract with Engleberth as a general contractor. This was an expected step towards construction and opening the Colchester Recreation Center by Spring of 2025.

Want to get involved in your Town? Consider volunteering on a Town Board or Commission!

See below for more information, and to complete an application, please visit and apply **no later than October 6th**: <https://colchestervt.gov/369/Boards-Commissions>

Cemetery Advisory Committee– Up to 3 Open Adult Member Seats

Julie Graeter, Town Clerk & Treasurer, jgraeter@colchestervt.gov

Theresa Carroll, Chair, tcarroll110@gmail.com

Meets once every three months at the Town Offices or per the agenda.

The Cemetery Advisory Committee advises the Town Staff and Selectboard on the proper operation of the Town's cemeteries, activities and properties. Members serve in an advisory role with no fiduciary responsibilities, providing non-binding strategic advice to the Selectboard and Staff on the following:

- Status and maintenance of the Town's six cemeteries: Champlain, Fort Ethan Allen, Malletts Bay, Old Methodist Church, Munson, and Village
- Modifications of rules and regulations governing the Town-owned cemeteries, including costs of interment and plots, and recommendations for expansion and landscaping
- Recommendations for which capital improvements should be made to the cemeteries and their relative priority
- Long-term planning for how to respond to future demands for cemetery services

Conservation Commission – 1 Open Adult Member Seat

Theresa Carroll, Chair, tcarroll110@gmail.com

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd floor, or per agenda.

The Conservation Commission is concerned with the public awareness, education, and preservation of Colchester's natural areas; water quality of rivers, ponds, and Lake Champlain; wildlife habitats; and beautification of the Town. Annual activities include:

- Green Up Day coordination
- Colchester Blooms! to raise funds for planting flowerbeds at high-traffic sites
- Maintenance of the rain garden on Holy Cross Road
- Site visits to Town natural areas to plan future projects and assess natural resources for reports to Lake Champlain Land Trust
- Attention to water quality, stream protection, conservation and related areas and responds to special project requests from Town officials
- Completed projects include: Care of the Urban Forest Project through the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program. This program assists with master tree planning and tree inventory. It also provides volunteer training in the maintenance and care of Town trees; as well as hosting the Rain Barrel Workshop
- What CCC Values: Creative thinking and new ideas regarding ways to address conservation in Colchester

Planning Commission – 1 Open Adult Member Seat & 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Cathyann Larose, Director of Planning and Zoning, 802-264-5602

Richard Paquette, Chair, Paquette12@comcast.net

Meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Town Offices at 7:00 p.m., Outer Bay Room, 3rd floor.

Currently the Planning Commission is finalizing several amendments to the Development Regulations and will likely soon begin a review of design in the Town's Growth Center (Severance Corners). The Commission also:

- Oversees revisions to the Town Zoning Regulations

- Undertakes planning studies for the long-term growth of Colchester (updating the open space plan is possible during this term)
- Updates the Town Plan (will kick off in 2024)

Development Review Board – 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Zachary Maia, Development Manager, 802-264-5604

Matthew Gamage, Chair, matthew.gamage@gmail.com

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, Outer Bay Room, 3rd floor.

The Colchester Development Review Board processes and approves:

- Commercial and residential site plans
- Subdivision applications
- Conditional use and variance applications
- Appeals of the Zoning Administrator's determinations

Recreation Advisory Board –1 Open Youth Member Seat

Glen Cuttitta, Director of Parks and Recreation, 802-264-5641

Adriane Martin, Chair, Adriane.schubert@gmail.com

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Town Offices at 7:00 a.m., 3rd floor, Outer Bay Room.

Members work with the Director of Parks and Recreation on the development and management of recreational facilities and programs to serve the citizens. In addition, they help coordinate and volunteer at Parks and Rec events such as:

- Winter Carnival
- Touch- a-Truck
- Fourth of July events

Board of Library Trustees – 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Kelly McCagg, Library Director, 802-264-5661

Toni Josey, Chair, tjosey@colchestervt.gov

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Burnham Library.

The Library Trustees work with the Library Director to determine policies to govern library operations, and programs; recruit, interview, and consider candidates for the position of Library Director along with the Town Manager; maintain an ongoing performance appraisal for the Director with the Town Manager; secure adequate funding; assist in the annual budget presentation at budget hearings; and attend Selectboard meetings as necessary. In addition, the Library Trustees ensure and advocate:

- Collection development

- Long-range library planning
- An active marketing program
- Local, state, and federal library laws and stay informed on pending library legislation
- Accurate record keeping at the library and compliance with Freedom of Information regulations

Department Updates

Burnham Memorial Library: Free Covid Tests

Thanks to the Vermont Department of Health, Burnham Memorial Library has free Covid tests available. Their expiration date has been extended to December 19, 2023. To make sure we have enough for everyone, please only take what you need.



Colchester Parks and Recreation: Fall Concert

Join us on **Friday, September 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Bayside Park Pavilion** to hear “The Hitmen” pump out classic 70’s and 80’s party rock and roll! Frank’s Dogs food truck will be in attendance as well!

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, October 10, 6:15 p.m. (Public portion beginning at 6:30 p.m.) at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to 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

Planning Commission: Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Development Review Board: Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to zmaia@colchestervt.gov or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446.



Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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.

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