

For the Week of January 16, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

At last week's Selectboard meeting, the Annual Town Meeting Warning was approved. The Annual Town Meeting will be held Monday, March 4, 2024 at the Colchester High School at 7 p.m. Voting by Australian Ballot will take place Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at Colchester High School from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Below you can find the ballot item you will be voting on this year:



ARTICLE 13 - Town Municipal Services Budget

"Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester approve total general fund expenditures of Fifteen Million, Nine Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$15,937,217) of which Thirteen Million, Three Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand, One Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$13,394,194) shall be raised by taxes and Two Million, Five Hundred Forty-Three Thousand, Twenty-Four Dollars (\$2,543,024) by non-tax revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025?"

For more information on the ballot items, please visit:

<https://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>

For more information on the election and voting, please visit the Town Clerk's webpage:

<https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>

Social Media & Town Requests: You are welcome to post on social media, but if you wish for the Town staff or Selectboard to act on or consider something, please contact us directly by phone or email. We may need to obtain more specific information or dialogue with you about the issue to understand and resolve it through more direct communication.



For issues of local concern that you believe should be addressed by your Town government, please contact the Town Staff Directly. The staff directory of phone and email contact information for various Town departments is provided here:

<https://tinyurl.com/Col-Town-Dir>

If you are uncertain who to contact, or what level of government may have responsibility and jurisdiction for an issue (town, regional, state or federal), or are not satisfied with the response from a Town Department, feel free to contact the Town Manager's office at 802-264-5509 or TownManager@colchestervt.gov. The Town Manager generally oversees the Town

departments in their implementation of the Town budgets and capital projects proposed by the Selectboard and approved by the voters.

Your Town Selectboard serves as the legislative and judicial branch of your municipal government, and oversees the Town Manager. If you have something to be shared with them at a Selectboard meeting, you are welcome to send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the upcoming Selectboard meeting and included in the following information packet.

Individual Selectboard member contact information is available here:
<https://www.colchestervt.gov/401/Selectboard>.

Colchester Historical Society: The Colchester Historical Society is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Colchester’s history. They share historical information and hold history-related events within the community. If you’d like to learn more or become a member, please visit:

<https://colchestervt.gov/3050/Member-Application-Form>.

Everyone is welcome at events and to become a member, and membership fees and donations help support their mission in to preserve and share Colchester's wonderful local history.



Colchester Historical Society 2024 Winter Newsletter



William “Gompy” Coates, early 1900s

Winter 2024 Newsletter Now Available: The Winter 2024 Newsletter of the Colchester Historical Society is now available. Find out what's coming up, what's been going on, who was in the news, and see if you can help solve a Colchester history mystery. Click [here!](#)

Department Updates

Town Clerk’s Office: *Attention Colchester dog parent!* It’s time to renew your dog’s annual license.

Fees:

Fixed dog	\$15.00
Non-fixed dog	\$20.00



To avoid an additional \$5.00 fee, license your dog before April 1st.

The state of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed with their town. A current rabies certificate along with proof of spay/neuter and fee is needed to issue the license and tag.

Licensing can be completed online, by mail or in person. For more information go to <https://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> or call 802-264-5520.



Parks & Recreation

The 2024 Winter Brochure is now out! This brochure covers the months of January-May. Register online here:

<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8439/2024-Winter-Brochure>

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Update: In addition to board and commission meeting information, you will now find direct links to each group's latest agenda below. 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.

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 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, January 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, January 18, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C>

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

Development Review Board: Wednesday, February 14, 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. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAgenda>

Colchester Conservation Commission: Monday, February 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=ConservCommssn&path=BOARDS%2CConservCommssn%2C>

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMA02v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov