

For the Week of March 11, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



Your Town staff would like to thank everyone who attended and voted at the Annual Town Meeting and voted on Town elections and ballot items. It is great to see our residents participate in municipal government.

Thank you to the Colchester High School for hosting the Town Meeting. We would also like to acknowledge the Town Clerk's office, who as our election officials, start work on Election Day at 6:30 a.m. and stay until the votes are tabulated and preliminary results sent to the Secretary of State. Thank you also to our Justices of the Peace, who are also election officials, and our residents who volunteered at the high school gym on Election Day. In addition, we thank Julie Hulburd, Rachel Stringer, and Mark Hoppman for coordinating and hosting our state legislative delegation and community at the first Legislators Town Hall event.

Letter from Your Colchester Selectboard:

March 6, 2024

Dear Colchester Residents:

Your Colchester Selectboard would like to sincerely thank you for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2025 Municipal Services Budget.

We, as your Selectboard, collaborated with Town staff to prepare a municipal services budget that maintains the current level of services, while also addressing certain additional resource needs in response to Colchester's growth and changing needs. This year we devoted several budgetary changes to our public safety resources in order to continue our support of the departments that provide these essential services, including Police, Fire, and Rescue. Additionally, changes in Human Resources will help respond to the sustained higher rate of employee turnover due to societal changes, especially in public safety, which makes up more than half of our employee base. An Information Technology Manager will support public safety and other departments with regard to cybersecurity threats, departmental specific software and network connectivity. Even when attending to increased municipal needs, we have and will continue to direct staff to make the most of the non-property tax revenues and prioritize fiscal sustainability for the years to come.

All the Town's work and its accomplishments would not be possible without the input and help from our residents, businesses, board and commission members, volunteers and employees, so we are truly appreciative of all of you.

We send special thanks to the Town Clerk's Office and our volunteer election officials for running an efficient and open election process. The Selectboard is proud and grateful to serve this community, and we look forward to continued efforts that will ensure our quality of life, public safety, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship, both now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Your Colchester Selectboard



Pam Loranger, Chair



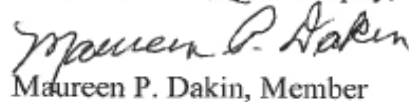
Tom Mulcahy, Vice Chair



Jacki Murphy, Clerk



Charlie Papillo, Member



Maureen P. Dakin, Member



Champlain Water District

The Champlain Water District (CWD) Income Survey

#2: CWD, an independent, special-purpose government, which provides water to much of Colchester, is trying to collect income data in an effort

to obtain state and federal funding, to which we all contribute through our state and federal taxes. If CWD succeeds with such funding, it will help keep the price of water down. This is CWD's second attempt at collecting income survey responses. A sample of water customers will receive a survey in the mail notifying them of the survey. CWD encourages participants to complete the survey online, but participants may also elect to complete the printed form and mail it back to CWD in the provided postage-paid envelope within two weeks of receipt.

CWD understands that being asked about your income is intrusive. CWD assures you that your answers are completely confidential and will only be used to calculate an average of income in our community. As a reward for participating in the survey, you will be eligible for one of five \$50 gift cards and a new grand prize \$200 gift card. If you have questions, please contact CWD at 802-864-7454.

Department Updates

Planning & Zoning: At the [February 13, 2024 meeting](#), the Selectboard approved to warn a **Public Hearing for March 12, 2024 at 6:35 p.m.** for the **proposed amendments to the**

Development Regulations. There are three main categories of changes being proposed: 1) to meet new state legislative mandates from 2023; 2) to reduce some permit requirements for Colchester property and homeowners; 3) to clarify regulations identified as unclear by staff or gathered from public commentary.

The first category of changes is in response to state legislation mandating requirements related to density, parking, dimensional standards, housing and emergency shelters. The Planning Commission worked quickly to incorporate language where required after the Vermont Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone (HOME) Act (S.100) was signed by the Governor on June 5, 2023, with many of its legislative requirements taking effect on July 1, 2023. The next category includes changes that work to make certain regulations more resident-friendly and to remove some barriers around permit review, such as clarifying if permits are required for projects like short fences or at-grade patios. The final set of changes include minor edits, like cleaning up language, definitions, and formatting, after being identified as confusing by staff or customers.



Copies of the adopted and proposed regulations can be viewed at the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road and the Burnham Memorial Library, 898 Main Street Colchester, or you can review them [here](#). To participate in the hearing, you may 1) attend in person or 2) send written comment to the Colchester Selectboard via USPS at the address herein or via email to Planning and Zoning Director Cathyann LaRose, clarose@colchestervt.gov. If approved on March 12, 2024, this set of amendments will go into effect on April 2, 2024.

This set of amendments was compiled by the Colchester Planning Commission and Planning and Zoning staff after several meetings and outreach sessions from March through November 2023. To learn more about the Planning Commission and their processes, please visit this [link](#).

Clerk's Office: Colchester Property Taxes

The third installment is **due March 15th**. For more information, please visit this [link](#). For more information on ways to pay taxes and office hours, please click [here](#). If you have any questions or need the amount due, please contact us at townclerk@colchestervt.gov or 802-264-5520.





Parks & Recreation:

A.C.E. Before and After School Child Care Registration for the School Year 2024-2025 **opens March 18, 2023 (in-person)**. Current A.C.E. families have **until March 14 to reregister**. Online registration is not available. Click here for [2024-25 A.C.E. Registration Form](#). The [Summer Brochure](#) is also now available.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 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

Colchester Conservation Commission: Monday, March 11, 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>

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, March 13, 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, March 13, 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>

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, March 21, 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>

Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 2, 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>



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