

For the Week of June 17, 2019

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

The Town is contemplating the future of fire protection services. The Town of Colchester currently receives fire protection services from three different fire organizations which we fund through contracts. Colchester's three fire departments have about 90 volunteers (roughly 30 at each: Colchester Center, Malletts Bay, and Saint Michaels).

One of the recommendations of the Governance Committee [a group established to optimize accountability, transparency, effectiveness of costs of Town services] was for another group to further consider fire/water services.

Following the fire chiefs making the case that we need paid firefighters for weekday daytime fire response, the Selectboard has been engaged in the issue of how to provide fire protection services more efficiently and effectively.

We are incredibly thankful for our volunteers. But the nature of regional employment and firefighter availability during weekday daytime is not adequate to respond to a structure fire. We are seeking grant funding to initiate a program of paid firefighters for weekday daytime. When the three year grant program ends, we will have approximately \$250,000 in annual costs to fund the firefighters.

The Selectboard has come up with two options: 1) for two of the three departments to merge, or 2) for the two of the three departments to transfer responsibly of fire services to the Town. In either option, Saint Michaels College Fire and Rescue, which is primarily self-supported financially, would remain independent and under contract.

Some benefits of a combined department include: command and control; training; capital planning, engine and equipment purchases; station upkeep; standard procedures; one vs. three dispatch systems; and cost control opportunities.

The Selectboard has held meetings with the Prudential Committees who oversee the fire departments. We are working together to provide the best fire protection services to the community with our available resources.

For more information: https://clerkshq.com/content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/190611_05a.pdf

For more about the Town Manager's Office, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager>.

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

Economic Development Department
Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

- Assisting existing local business owner in the purchase of an additional site in town. I worked with the prospective owner and the Brownfields Committee to acquire state money to assist with the first phase of the cleanup process of the contaminated site
- Met with food manufacturer and the Small Business Development Center to identify various free resources to assist with their current business and developing plans for the future
- Continue working with the Green Mountain Surgical Center on final certifications and monitoring possible legislation
- Assisting Assessor and Planning & Zoning Department on commercial data for our GIS mapping. It will eventually be available on our website

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

Planning and Zoning Department
Sarah Hadd, Director

The **Planning Commission** continues its work on the Malletts Bay Initiative and solutions for wastewater pollution in the Inner Bay. On June 18th the Commission will hold a work session on land conservation as a means to improve wastewater pollution. Future meetings on July 2nd and 30th will consider community septic and sewer. Please visit tinyurl.com/ColchesterMBI for more information.

The **Development Review Board** met on June 12, 2019 and approved:

- A variance and site plan application of Kim Scofield and Clark and June Sweeny to remove Mill Pond Dam and restore Indian Brook at 1378 and 878 Mill Pond Road, tax map 23, parcel 6 and tax map 8, parcel 13
- Preliminary and final plat applications of Ronald Wilcox and Elicia Singer for an eight (8) lot conventional subdivision of a 5.51 acre parcel located at 42 Clay Point Road, tax map 16, parcel 32
- A site plan application of Peter and Mae Worthington and HVL of Vermont, LLV for the construction of approximately 70' long dimensional stone seawall located at 254 White Cap Road, tax map 30, parcel 2, unit 23
- The Board also heard a sketch plan application of Ireland Industries, Inc. for a Planned Unit Development to subdivide a 33.7 acre parcel into 40 lots in size from .13 acres to 8.86 acres to be comprised of mixed uses to include office commercial space, restaurant space, daycare space, retail space and residential units to be served by public streets located at 242 Severance Road, tax map 4, parcel 30-1

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

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

Department of Public Works
Bryan Osborne, Director

- The contractor is making very good progress on the West Lakeshore Drive Shared-Use Path Project. The contract completion is set for the end of August, 2019, however the work will likely be completed early
- This summer's paving program is ongoing. Sections of West and East Lakeshore Drive have been completed and Blakely Road is currently underway. Once the West Lakeshore Drive Shared-Use Path is completed, West Lakeshore Drive from Prim Road to Church Road and then all of Church Road will be paved
- We are continuing to advance the design for the reconstruction of the Prim and West Lakeshore Drive Intersection project
- Discussions with the CCRPC and VTrans are continuing to advance the design of a roundabout at the Bayside intersection
- We are continuing the design for stormwater improvements in Shore Acres and the surrounding area to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Work is continuing on the development of a phosphorus control plan to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Bids have been received for the replacement of a large drainage culvert under Hercules Drive that has failed. Work on this project is expected to begin in July-August of this year
- A grant has been obtained to perform 30% engineering for the replacement of culverts beneath Lower Mt. View Drive. This work is underway
- Street sweeping and gravel road maintenance are now substantially complete

For more information about DPW visit <http://colchestervt.gov/publicworks> or call (802) 264-5620.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 PM. July meetings: 7/2 & 7/16.
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM. July meeting: 7/10
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 AM. Champlain Room, 2nd floor. July meeting: 7/10
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. July meeting: 7/15
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30 PM. Next meeting: 6/25
- **Colchester Cemetery Advisory Committee:** 8:00 AM in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 6/27
- **Library Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30-5:30 PM at Burnham Memorial Library. Next meeting: 6/20

(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.)

Upcoming events:

- **Book Sale at Colchester High School:** Friday, 6/28, 4-8 PM, Saturday, 6/29, 8 AM – 4 PM and Sunday, 6/30, 10 AM – 2:30 PM. Help support the library! Don't miss our collection of gently used books and more at bargain prices! We have a wide range of fiction and non-fiction hardcovers and paperbacks in many genres: CDs, and DVDs, too. Located at the Colchester High School (131 Laker Lane).
- **49th Annual 4th of July Celebration:** Thursday, 7/4. See full schedule at: <http://colchestervt.gov/363/4th-of-July-Celebration>
- **Summer Concert Series:** Thursdays, 7/11 – 8/1, 7:00 PM at Lower Bayside. Full schedule at: <http://colchestervt.gov/551/Summer-Concert-Series> 7/25: Satin & Steel
- **35th Annual Colchester Triathlon:** Sunday, 7/28, Bayside Park. Race begins at 8:30 AM. Registration is OPEN! Visit <http://www.colchestertri.com/> for details.

Notices:

- The **Colchester Stormwater Utility** still has spots available in our new pilot program that provides one-time financial rebates to residential property owners who install stormwater measures on their property in the summer of 2019. Signups will be accepted until June 30th. If you are interested in this program visit <http://tinyurl.com/BLUEcvt> and fill out the form to schedule an evaluation.



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