

**For the Week of February 22, 2022**

**Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**THANK YOU COLCHESTER LIONS CLUB!**

Your Town Staff would like to recognize the Colchester Lions Club for their generous donation to the Colchester Fire Department. We appreciate the support we've received from our community and the Colchester Lions Club regarding the new combined Department.

In a letter to the Fire Department Colchester Lions Club Treasurer, Michael Cabral, thanked the Department and all first line responders for their dedicated and professional response efforts provided to the Colchester community and beyond throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of appreciation and on behalf of the Colchester Community, the Colchester Lions Club provided \$250 Costco Gift Cards to each Fire Battalion to put toward food purchases for their volunteer and career Firefighters to enjoy during future trainings and meetings.



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**Letter about Malletts Bay Sewer Project from volunteer Planning Commission Chair, Rich Paquette**

Dear Colchester Community,

With the Malletts Bay Sewer project on the ballot this year, I wanted to provide some background regarding the role of the Colchester Planning Commission in making the recommendation to bring this project forward.

After the narrow defeat of the Malletts Bay Sewer project in 2019, the Selectboard asked the Planning Commission to review and analyze options to address the lack of effective wastewater disposal capacity for the 289 properties in inner Malletts Bay and report back the findings.

The Planning Commission began this project by reviewing past reports and studies such as the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWRMP) and learning about wastewater regulations in

Vermont. The Commission understood its charge was to identify solutions for the same geographic area and to solicit community involvement in the process.

After considerable community outreach and participation through public forums, surveys, online polls, workshops and various discussions, and with all alternatives open for consideration within this area, the Commission identified four possible solutions: 1) land conservation; 2) community septic; 3) sewer; or, 4) no action (maintain the status quo).

The Planning Commission then evaluated each of these possible solutions based on the following criteria: 1) Ability to maintain and/or improve water quality for both current and future land use and site conditions; 2) efficiency, cost-effectiveness and reliability; 3) impact on the character of the neighborhood; 4) impact on property values and taxes

After this seven-month process, with considerable efforts made to gather public input, the Colchester Planning Commission identified sewer as the most effective and cost-efficient option to address human waste pollution in the Inner Bay. You can find the full report by the Planning Commission on the town website at the following link: [Malletts Bay Initiative Wastewater Project Report](#)

Meanwhile, the Planning Commission has begun work on re-evaluating the zoning on East Lakeshore Drive and welcomes public participation in that process. If you would like to take part in this discussion, please contact Cathyann LaRose, Director of Planning & Zoning, at 264-5602 or via email at [CLaRose@colchestervt.gov](mailto:CLaRose@colchestervt.gov).

Sincerely,

Rich Paquette  
Chair of the Colchester Planning Commission

### **Letter regarding Malletts Bay Sewer Project from volunteer Recreation Advisory Committee Chair, Adriane Martin**

Dear Colchester Community,

As chair of the Colchester Recreation Advisory Board, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the Malletts Bay Sewer Project and also respond to a February 17 post in the Letters To The Editor section of the Colchester Sun, regarding utilizing a town-owned 14-acre parcel on East Lakeshore Dr. to build a community septic system for inner Malletts Bay.

In March of 2004, Colchester voters approved a \$1.1 million bond to purchase this 14-acre parcel on East Lakeshore Drive with lake frontage near Bayside Park, and in close proximity to Colchester schools, for public use. Prior to this approval, the Colchester Planning Commission conducted surveys and public meetings to understand the community's vision regarding the best use of this property. After this public engagement process, it was gleaned that the most popular use for this property was a community center; specifically, a multi-generational recreation facility to serve as the anchor for this important area of town.

In an effort to bring this community vision to reality, the Colchester Selectboard approved the design of a 23,000 sq. ft. recreation center on the Bayside-Hazelett parcel at their meeting on March 9, 2021.

A community recreation center and future enhancements of the Bayside-Hazelett property, will allow the Town of Colchester to provide year-round recreational opportunities for all residents. There is a demand and need for more recreational facilities and group gathering space as we have a younger and more active demographic in Colchester than ever before. Increased recreation opportunities are important for a community’s health, economy and social fabric.

As I compared the site plan for the recreational facility with the drawings of the community septic option, referenced by the author of this most recent letter to the editor, and provided to the Colchester Planning Commission at their August 20, 2019 meeting, it became clear there would be considerable conflict with the community recreation center as indicated in the images below.



I feel we have a responsibility to utilize this property for the purpose that voters approved its purchase back in 2004 - to build a multi-generational recreation facility. We have begun the work to bring this community vision to fruition that will provide year-round recreational opportunities for generations to come.

**Please join me in voting YES to the Malletts Bay Sewer** project as this will provide the most effective and cost-efficient option to address human waste pollution in inner Malletts Bay AND allow for work to continue to bring the community’s vision of building a multi-generational recreation facility on the 14-acre town owned parcel located on East Lakeshore Drive, near Bayside Park.

Adriane Martin  
Chair of the Colchester Recreation Advisory Board

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**Updates from the Town Clerk’s Office:**

**Dog Licensing:**



***Attention Colchester dog parent!  
It's time to renew your dog's annual license.***

The state of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed with their town, 20 V.S.A. § 3581.

Fees:  
Fixed dog \$15.00  
Non-fixed dog \$20.00  
To avoid an additional \$5.00 fee, license your dog before April 1st.

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.

Town of Colchester  
781 Blakely Rd  
Colchester, VT 05446



For more information go to <https://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> or call 802-264-5520.

### **Attention Taxpayers:**

The State may help homeowners with some delinquent balances through their Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP). This program provides aid for homeowners who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 after January 21, 2020. Homeowners may be eligible if they have an income equal to or less than 150% of the area median income, have a primary residence located in Vermont, and have experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic after January 21, 2020, including job loss, a reduction in income, or increased costs due to illness or the need to care for a family member. Eligible Vermonters may be awarded with VT HAP funds to prevent home foreclosure and homeowner displacement and alleviate overdue mortgage payments, homeowners' association fees, property taxes, and/or utilities.

The VT HAP program is accepting applications. You can find out more information by calling 833-221-4208 or visiting the website where you can also apply: <https://vermonthap.vhfa.org/>.

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### **Upcoming Town Meetings**

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required.



## Colchester Town News

VERMONT

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

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)

### **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)