

## **Colchester's Weekly Town News**

For the Week of July 28, 2014

**While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:**

### **Town Manager's Office—Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

The Colchester Parks and Recreation Department and Triathlon Committee attempted to host their 30th annual triathlon this past Sunday. For the first time in 30 years, the triathlon was canceled after a rain delay and potentially dangerous weather; a disappointment to all. However, the feedback we're receiving from the athletes remains positive, as they express their gratitude to the volunteers for their guidance before the race, during the delay and eventual cancellation, as well as during the thunderstorm flurry. The triathlon attracts around 450 participants. It involves 100 volunteers, our emergency protection services and several days of set-up and take-down. Given the circumstances, I dare say even more effort and time was put into our race due to the cancellation. We all should be proud of our performance in keeping athletes, spectators and fellow volunteers safe and, furthermore, that no accidents or injuries occurred. We are deeply appreciative of all the individuals involved and the committee and the staff who all work so very hard every year on this popular event.

We have experienced two armed robberies in our community in recent weeks. Thank you to our Colchester Police Department for their hard work in keeping our community safe.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5509.

### **Economic Development Department—Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

**Below are some of the initiatives the Economic Development Department is currently working on:**

- Presentation of Community Center Comprehensive summary to the Select Board
- Presentation of logo and taglines revisions to Select Board
- Reviewing and editing draft Colchester Promotional videos
- Met with local business regarding concerns over new State initiatives
- Met with new local company to discuss our services and their needs for a new office space
- Met with State on the Growth Center status
- Finalizing Residential Guide with Leadership Champlain Committee
- Continue working with developer on sign regulation and attended Planning Commission meeting to discuss the issue
- Met with developer on Town Center designation
- Met with local banker regarding business opportunities
- Continue working on website and exploring future design, platforms
- Met with major employer to discuss their companies and services we could provide

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

- Continue working with various out of town prospects on vacant space in town
- Met with small local business to discuss their needs and our services
- Met with local manufacturer regarding Revolving Loan Fund
- Met with Vermont PBS
- Met with local business to discuss their plans and needs and our services

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

### **Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director**

The Department of Planning and Zoning is pleased to announce that we have entered into a Delegation Agreement with the State of Vermont for administration of the new State Shoreland Regulations. As of July 22nd, the Town entered into an agreement with the Agency of Natural Resources that requires the Town to administer all permits for the Shoreland as well as report construction to the State annually. As the Town's regulations were found to be "functionally equivalent" to the State's regulations, Colchester will only need apply its existing regulations. What this means is those persons applying for a permit to construct within 250 feet of Lake Champlain now need to obtain a permit from the Town of Colchester only, the same as prior to July 1st. We are happy to be the first delegated community in the State.

The Planning Commission met on July 15th and forwarded Supplement 35 of the Zoning Regulations to the Select Board for consideration at a first reading in August. These proposed changes originated with a request from a property owner that larger signage be allowed for the Water Tower Hill Business Park. Several other minor housekeeping changes are proposed as well to allow for entertainment such as pool tables in bars. For the full text of the proposed changes please visit our website.

The Development Review Board met on July 23rd and approved:

- 1) a site plan and conditional use application of Neil Gardner to convert the residence at 76 West Lakeshore Drive to a three unit extended stay hotel
- 2) a variance application of Ronald Roberge to raise the existing dwelling at 2081 Colchester Point Road out of the Floodplain
- 3) a two-lot subdivision of Burlington Hotel Propco LLC at 38 Lower Mountain View Drive (Hampton Inn site)
- 4) a site plan and conditional use application of Myers/William Rathe Road Lot 2B LLC for 69,200 sq. ft. of mini-storage and outside storage on an undeveloped lot on Rathe Road. The Board also considered a sketch plan of Elizabeth Mack and Elizabeth Collins for a seven unit Planned Unit Development on an undeveloped lot on Roosevelt Highway (Munson flats area). The next Board meeting will be August 27th.

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/planningZHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5600.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

## Public Works Department—Bryan Osborne, Director

Here are some highlights of work performed by the Public Works Department:

- Repaired catch basins throughout the community
- Repaired the pump in the Buckingham Drive storm water pump station
- Performed mowing around the Fort Ethan Allen Storm Water Pond
- Completed drainage project on Camp Kinya Road
- Constructed an asphalt berm along East Lakeshore Drive to facilitate drainage
- Patched potholes along East Lakeshore Drive and Bay Road in preparation of Triathlon
- Completed line striping program on the roadways. Awaiting State to perform center line striping on Class II roads
- Re-graded 13 miles of gravel roads after heavy rains caused minor damage
- Removed downed trees from the roadway caused from recent storms
- Investigated broken sewer line on Rt. 7 at Exit 16
- Gained approval for amendments and updates to the Town's Sewer Ordinance
- Completed and presented the Municipal Facility Space Needs Assessment to the Select Board
- Completed evaluation of several proposals for an energy audit of the Town's buildings
- Conducted steering committee meeting for evaluating a possible park and ride facility at Exit 16
- Directional bore and connections of a bypass sewer on Rt. 15 have been completed
- Evaluating options to restore the stone abutments at the Colchester Pond Road bridge
- Developing a prioritization methodology for the repair of existing concrete sidewalks
- Developing a warrant analysis for the installation of Rapid Flashing Beacons at pedestrian crosswalks
- Capital Paving Program is ready to bid. East Lakeshore Drive, Colchester Point Road and a section of Williams Road will be paved this year
- Right-of-way acquisition is continuing on the River Road sidewalk project
- Design work is continuing on the Morehouse Brook box culvert replacement project
- Design work is continuing on the East Road culvert replacement project
- Completed the Smith Estates emergency storm water overflow project
- Working with the VTrans and the State Historic Preservation Office on the replacement of sidewalks in Fort Ethan Allen
- Initiated execution of the grant agreement with the State for the design and construction of sidewalks on Water Tower Hill
- Design work is continuing on the West Lakeshore Drive multi-use path project
- Developing the FY16 operating budget as well as the five year capital plan for transportation, equipment and facilities
- Working on amendments to the inter-municipal agreement between Colchester and South Burlington for wastewater treatment
- Developing Flow Restoration Plans for the Sunderland Brook watershed as required by permit
- Providing design and right-of-way assistance to VTrans for the Exit 16 interchange project and the RT 2-RT 7/Creek Road intersection project

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