

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending February 7, 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

I continue to be amazed by the dedication and expertise of the town employees I work with every day.

Last weekend, our Parks and Recreation Department, along with numerous volunteers, hosted yet another successful Winter Carnival. This event requires a significant amount of effort, but it is well worth it in building community pride.

I also gained a new level of appreciation for the experience, skill, and passion that our Public Works Department employees possess to ensure that our roads are safe and passable. One of our seasoned veterans in the Public Works Department took me on a variety of roads in the Clay Point Road area—private and public. The narrow, curvy, and steep dead-end roads that our folks navigate on a regular basis without incident are astounding. The plow driver knew where every ledge outcrop and overhanging branch was, and his ability to lift his plow, lay sand, watch for traffic, talk to me, and listen to the dispatch communications all at the same time was exceptional.

Our public safety employees, including the fire departments, rescue, and police department have also been busy with a house fire, numerous traffic incidents associated with the storm, and dealing with the results of criminal activities in our area. I am honored to be working with these individuals who take time away from their families and work in the dark hours of the night during storms such as this past week's to keep our taxpayers safe.

I'm sure all of you join me in expressing appreciation to our employees for their dedication, experience, and work ethic.

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

Highlights of the activities of the Economic Development Department this week include the following:

- **CCTA Bus Service**—Continued working with CCTA and landowners on the logistics of the new bus service that will start on June 16, 2014. We will be holding public hearings in March and April for residents and businesses to give their input. We will also be working with CCTA on marketing the schedule and information to our residents when it is finalized.
- **CGI Video**—We are working on the marketing portion of the video that will be coming out in the spring of this year. The business community will be given an opportunity to advertise in the video, and it will be linked to our website and other social media. Even if there are no advertisers, the video will still be

free of cost to the Town. We will be receiving 4–5 videos that will be used to market Colchester as a great place to live and work.

- **Exit 16 Landscape**—We met with the VTrans project supervisor and landscape architect regarding the proposed landscape design after the Diverging Diamond Construction is completed at Exit 16. We believe this is an opportunity to work with VTrans and make this a model for the Town and the State, as this is one of the gateways to our community.
- **Logo and Branding Campaign**—The Selection Committee met and deliberated over the almost twenty logo submissions from residents and students in our community. The winning logo was submitted by resident Lindsay Colburn. We will now be working with students from the Community College of Vermont (CCV) on the final execution of the logo and the next steps in the branding campaign.
- **Community Center Initiative**—We submitted an application to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Corporation (CCPRC) for a grant that would allow CCRPC to perform some studies and analysis on the Town- and school-district-owned properties in the bay that may be suitable for a community center. We have also met with some local companies who have been involved with the Community Center Initiative in the past to review previous analyses and build-out scenarios.
- **Residential Brochure**—Continued working with a committee from the Leadership Champlain program to update and reproduce a residential guide for our community. The guide will be used for existing and new residents and will be available later this year.

Attended the following:

- Act 250 hearing on Exit 16 Diverging Double Diamond
- Selectboard meeting with updates on the logo contest and economic development initiatives
- Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA) board meeting
- Gave presentation to Chittenden County commercial realtors
- Bauer Gravel Farnham Open House

Met with:

- CCDC for the January monthly meeting
- Fairpoint Communications regarding future communication plans
- Vermont Bankers Association
- Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation
- US Small Business Administration
- Vermont Department of Economic Development
- Office 2
- Engineers and architects regarding an Exit 16 property
- Developer regarding potential occupant
- Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Potential new relocation into the town

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

Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director

The Planning and Zoning Department reports the following:

- The department participated in a phone conference with other municipalities regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs and how they might benefit Vermont communities.
- The Colchester Planning Commission voted on January 21 to send the Town Plan to the Colchester Selectboard for its consideration. A first reading will occur on February 11. The commission will be realigning its meetings in February and March to coincide with selectboard meetings on the Town Plan.
- On February 4, the planning commission provided a recommendation for wastewater allocation amounts for the build-out of Exit 16 and Severance Corners and has instructed staff to work with the Public Works Department on providing a formal recommendation for action to the selectboard.
- The Development Review Board met on January 22 and approved all agenda items, including a three-lot subdivision on Middle Road and a firewood business service at 167 Macrae Road.
- The Development Review Board will meet on February 26 to consider a two-lot subdivision at 1086 Braeloch Road, a twenty-two-unit planned residential development comprised of eleven duplexes and a 1,500-foot-long public road and sidewalk between Fox Run and East Lakeshore Drive, and an after-the-fact variance for a home at 171 Marble Island Road.
- The department continues to monitor several pieces of legislation, including H740 relating to transportation improvement districts and State fees for traffic mitigation, H526 relating to shorelands, and H809 relating to growth centers. More information on these bills can be found online at www.leg.state.vt.us.

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

Public Works Department—Bryan Osborne, Director

The Meadow Drive drainage project is now substantially complete. Landscaping work, turf restoration, and general cleanup will be completed in the spring. Financial reconciliation with both VTrans and FEMA is under way to close out the last of the Town's projects under the 2011 federal disaster declaration.

A facility needs assessment is now under way to assess long-term facility needs within the community. The assessment will focus on the Town's library and meeting house and on Airport Park maintenance buildings where problems exist with both inadequate space and functionality.

There are fifteen public buildings throughout the community, including such key facilities as the police station, rescue station, Public Works maintenance facility, Town Offices, and the library. These buildings are valued at approximately \$11 million. Currently, there is no capital replacement plan to address such needs as new roofs, repainting, replacing worn-out carpeting, replacement heating systems, and other key components of the community's public facilities. At Town Meeting in March, voters will be asked to allow the use of funds from the existing Capital Equipment Program for these needs. Future reuse of equipment components, refinements in equipment specifications, and extending the replacement intervals of some equipment will create this opportunity. This change to the Capital Equipment Program will have no effect on the Town's budget or tax rate. This question will be contained in Article 14 on the ballot.

A request for proposals is being developed to conduct a Town-wide energy audit. This will include all assets the Town owns or controls that consume any type of energy. Examples would include buildings, pump

stations, traffic signals, and rolling stock equipment. Efficiency Vermont has provided \$20,000 in incentive rebates for this effort.

Project development—including design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition—are continuing for the following projects (please feel free to contact me at bosborne@colchestervt.gov to learn more):

- Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Project
- River Road Sidewalk Project
- West Lakeshore Drive Multi-Use Path Project
- East Road Culvert Project
- Malletts Bay Avenue Culvert Project
- East Lakeshore Drive Storm Water Outfall Project
- Water Storage Tank Project

For more information about the Public Works Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PublicWorks/Home.shtml> or call (802) 264-5620.