

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending May 9, 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 met with department heads regarding ongoing cost reduction efforts, with a focus on laying the groundwork for sustainable budgets in future years.
- I worked with Town departments to reduce by half the sedans used by Town Office employees from four to two. These were recycled police cruisers, so it will not save a lot in capital costs given mileage reimbursement for employees on Town business, but it will save on insurance and maintenance costs in future years' operating budgets.
- I received a presentation on a conceptual new Town logo following resident design contest and donated time from Community College of Vermont staff and students.
- I worked with the owner of the Windemere Mobile Home Park, Housing Finance Inc., and the Vermont Bond Bank to reduce the term of the Town wastewater bond for the Windemere sewer project from nine to seven years. This eliminated the interest costs for two years at no cost to the Town or project.

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 working on:

Business expansions and relocations

- I met with an existing business looking to expand and relocate within Colchester. I am working with them on possible alternative financing for their new facility.
- I met with an existing company regarding possible financing for equipment and manufacturing efficiencies.
- I met with an existing company regarding possible expansion.
- I continue to support and assist new businesses with possible alternatives to existing issues and finalizing some construction initiatives.
- I am working with a real estate developer on expansion of an existing business.
- I continue support of a manufacturing company.
- I am working with an existing hospitality business on new initiatives.
- I informed local businesses of possible expansion/renovations that could impact their companies.
- I am working with an existing company on relocation within our community.
- I am working with a developer on regulations for signage and further development in our community.
- I am working with an existing business on their expansion and issues that may impede the process.
- I continue to support and work with a new manufacturing business and look for areas to help with marketing and other initiatives.

Relocations to Colchester

- I am currently working with several companies representing various industries concerning possible relocation into our community. These businesses vary in size, number of employees, and location within Colchester.

Projects

I continue to work on the following projects and initiatives:

- Logo branding
- CCTA bus service
- Residential guide
- Exit 16 construction
- Energy parks
- Town promotional videos

Partnerships

I am continuing outreach to various organizations with which we can partner to assist our business community. In the last month, I have met with the following:

- VT Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- SCORE

Meetings

I will continue to market and attend meetings and functions that will assist in marketing and establishing relationships to assist our business community, including:

- Realtors regarding prospective companies and prospective vacancies
- Chamber functions at local businesses

For more information about the Economic Development Department, please e-mail Kathi Walker O'Reilly at koreilly@colchestervt.gov, or call (802) 264-5508.

Public Works Department—Bryan Osborne, Director

The Public Works Department reports the following for the week ending May 9, 2014:

- Year to date, the department has secured \$250,000 in grants for the repair and improvements to the community's public infrastructure. \$175,000 was received to help fund the replacement of a large stormwater culvert on Malletts Bay Avenue. The total project cost is projected to be approximately \$500,000. Another \$75,000 was received to perform the necessary engineering to construct sidewalks on Water Tower Hill.
- Competitive bids are expected this month for the Smith Estates emergency stormwater overflow project. This project has been developed to avoid flooding conditions and property damage along East Lakeshore Drive during major rain events. The project is scheduled to be completed by midsummer.
- Bid results have been received for the replacement of the southernmost water storage tank on Water Tower Hill. The bid results came in significantly under the original estimate. The cost of this regional tank will be shared by Colchester Fire District #3, the Champlain Water District, the Town of Essex, and the City of Winooski. This project is critically important to the ongoing development of the Severance Corners Growth Center. The project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2014.

- The Meadow Drive drainage project is now substantially complete. This is the last of the major repair projects associated with the 2011 federal damage declaration. The \$750,000 project was funded largely with federal assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- Recently, small amounts of asbestos were identified in the basement of the Colchester Historical Society. An asbestos abatement project is currently under way and is expected to be completed later this week.
- Engineering and design continue for the River Road sidewalk project, the West Lakeshore Drive multiuse path project, the Fort Ethan Allen sidewalk project, and a large culvert repair project on East Road. The East Road project is expected to proceed to construction late this summer.
- A request for proposals is being finalized to perform a detailed energy audit of the Town's facilities. The assessment is expected to identify opportunities for energy savings and efficiencies as well as projected return on investment. A \$25,000 grant was secured through Efficiency Vermont to perform this work.
- A facility-needs assessment is expected to be completed by midsummer. The study is intended to identify how the Town can use its existing facilities and resources to meet future needs.
- The 2014 capital paving program is currently under development. The severe winter caused significant damage to many of Colchester's roadways. As a result, the previously planned program for this summer is being reevaluated and will likely require adjustments.
- The sweeping of Colchester's roadways is now substantially complete. Maintenance crews are focusing on the patching of potholes and the repair of other roadway damage. Work has also begun on the grading of gravel roads.

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

Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Department reports the following for the week ending May 9, 2014:

- The department recently issued permits for a 7,500-square-foot addition to Spare Time at 215 Lower Mountain View Drive and a seasonal outdoor display area for plants for Costco at 218 Lower Mountain View Drive. Construction of the new CVS Pharmacy has already begun on Upper Mountain View Drive.
- The Development Review Board met on April 9 and 23 and approved the following projects:
 - a five-lot subdivision of John Chastenay resulting in three new homes at 538 Bean Road
 - a two-lot subdivision of Carol and Clinton Reichard at 5770 Roosevelt Highway
 - a site plan of Millie Armstrong for a new 1,500-square-foot veterinary clinic at 5770 Roosevelt Highway
 - a conditional use application of Kelly Myers at 788 Red Rock Road for an 8-foot-high deer fence.
- The Development Review Board will meet on May 28 to consider the following projects:
 - a sketch plan for the Hampton Inn at Exit 16 to demolish the existing house and replace it with a 6,000-square-foot shopping center on its own lot
 - a site plan for Redpath Holdings for a new a 9,900-square-foot office/warehouse on Lot One at Brentwood Park
 - a variance application of Joe Bauer for an addition to a seasonal home at 19 Irish Cove Road
 - conditional use and site plan applications of Neil Gardner for a three-unit, extended-stay hotel at 76 West Lakeshore Drive.

- The Planning Commission met on May 6 to hear a request for changes to the sign regulations to allow for larger monument signs for the Water Tower Hill business park. The commission will consider this issue and will take up shorelands and floodplain zoning at the May 20 and summer meetings. The statewide shoreland bill, H.526, is due to be signed into law, and the commission will consider the impacts of this bill on the Town.
- **A reminder that all temporary signs need to be renewed on or before July 1.**

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