

## Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of May 10, 2013

**Preamble:** "Colchester, Vermont, located on Lake Champlain's Malletts Bay, is a diverse, civic-minded community endowed with a rich heritage of commercial, agricultural, recreational, and educational gifts. Proud of the quality of life already enjoyed here, the people of Colchester seek to build upon this foundation to ensure economic prosperity, recreational opportunity, and an entrepreneurial spirit for future generations" – Vision Statement, Heritage Project, 2012.

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

### **Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk**

Thanks to all of the voters that participated in the election this week. There were 1,959 voters with 231 choosing to vote early. The budget passed with 1,041 yes votes, and 918 opposed.

The next election will be on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It is a bond vote for sewer improvements to the Windemere Mobile Home Park which provides 83 affordable mobile home lots adjacent to the new Campus Connector Road near St. Michael's College. If approved, the Town will apply for the bond and loan the proceeds to Housing Foundation Inc. (HFI) who will make bond payments repaying the bond debt. This money comes from a State revolving loan fund, which can only be borrowed by a municipal government. A bank loan would come at a higher interest rate and therefore, the Selectboard agreed to warn a bond vote and if successful, the funds will pass through the Town to HFI. The Board is exploring mechanisms to limit the town's liability in the unlikely possibility that HFI defaults. If this bond vote is successful, it will not add to Colchester's property tax or wastewater user costs as HFI will be responsible for repayment. The CPA audited statements for Housing Foundation show that they have the financial ability to service the loan. Finally, the town's bonded indebtedness rating is within accepted ranges and averages. The publically warned bond vote is planned for June 4, 2013 by Australian ballot at the Town Meeting House and the Colchester High School. An informational meeting about this bond vote and the project will be held Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting House. You may watch a LCATV Straight Talk program regarding this issue on-line by clicking here:

<http://www.lcatv.org/program/straight-talk-0> or visiting their website at [www.lcatv.org](http://www.lcatv.org).

The Town's website will also have information on the issue.

### **Burnham Memorial Library: Hannah Peacock, Assistant Director**

In addition to our usual schedule, the library has been busy with interviews for the position of library director. On Tuesday and Thursday, our finalists made short presentations on the topic of Libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and took questions. Our thanks to the members of the public who attended. On Saturday (May 11), we'll have our Perennial Plant Swap at 10 am in the

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

Library courtyard. Bring a plant in a labeled container and see what your neighbors bring to exchange! Swapping starts precisely at 10:00 am. Please, no Orange Daylilies/Ditch Lilies.

### **IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department**

This week we began advertising the sale of some of our surplus equipment. This includes older computers that have been replaced in the last few months. Time was also spent assessing our network equipment for our future technology needs. Helpdesk and hardware repairs were completed this week. We also prepared laptops used by the Town Clerk's office for the May 7 school vote.

### **Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief**

Rescue responded to 19 EMS calls, and transported 12 people to the hospital. During this time we turned one call over while on another call. The Technical Rescue Team assisted the Malletts Bay Fire Department with a brush fire that was difficult to access. Boats were needed to gain access to parts of the fire.

### **Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director**

In the Recreation Division, programming staff has been working on improvements to our summer employee handbook. The staff is using technology to enhance the training of summer staff to better educate them when working with children and parents. Assistant Director, Derek Mitchell, was busy planning the “Touch A Truck” event which takes place at the Colchester High School on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am. Colchester Youth Lacrosse games are in full swing this weekend with players in the U11, U13, U15 and U15 Girls taking part in games all around Chittenden County. Good Luck to all our Colchester Teams!

In the Parks Division, work continues on preparing athletic fields for spring teams. Staff worked on the stairs to the beach and repairs to the slope at Lower Bayside is almost complete. The curbs that were on the lower tennis court at Bayside were removed and the mesh on the tennis court fence at Airport Park was replaced.

### **Police – Chuck Kirker, Chief**

Nothing to report.

### **Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director**

- Met with the DEC to review permit renewal requirements associated with expired permits in Colchester.
- Continued work on easement acquisition for the repairs to the Meadow Drive ditch.
- Design review meeting for the construction of sidewalks on River Road.
- Received \$147,000 grant for a bike path along West Lakeshore Drive, from Prim Road to Church Road. Grant funds received to date for this project total approximately \$530,000. An RFO has been issued for preliminary engineering services for this project.
- Design review meeting with property managers for the expansion of the water storage tank on Water Tower Hill.

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

- Continuing work on Exit 16 sidewalk project, Fort Ethan Allen sidewalk project, Capital Paving Program.
- Final report for the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan is being developed.
- The department's safety manual is undergoing a major update involving all maintenance divisions.
- Gravel road grading is continuing in preparation of chloride application with about 50% of the roads complete.

### **Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director**

On May 7<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission held an informational meeting on re-zonings along the Heineberg / Prim Road corridor. In April, the Development Review Board approved 89 additional residences in two buildings at Severance Corners. We recently received a preliminary plat application for the subdivision of Camp Holy Cross which will tentatively be heard at the June 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. In other news, a building permit was recently issued for road improvements in the Spalding West area that will help facilitate the conversion of camps to year-round residences in that area. It promises to be a busy summer with many construction projects underway and others soon to begin. Please check to see if you need a permit before beginning the work and submit your permit application at least two weeks ahead of when you need the permit issued.

### **Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor**

Nothing to report.

### **Finance – Joan Boehm (Asst. Town Manager/CFO)**

We are now only 2 months from the end of the fiscal year. At this time of year we begin to evaluate what revenues and expenses we can expect for the rest of the year. We want to make sure we have enough money to complete the fiscal year within the budget. Our philosophy is not to spend more than necessary if there is money available at the end of the year.

### **Town Manager's Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager**

This Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM, I will be relinquishing my office and duties as the Town Manager of Colchester. I began my career here on April 15, 2000 as the Assistant Town Manager, became the Interim Town Manager on January 1, 2001, and Town Manager on July 1, 2001. These thirteen years have been very interesting, challenging and rewarding. I am very appreciative of the Selectboard(s) and townspeople for allowing me to serve this community. As I leave, many problems remain unresolved but hopefully, the Town is better for my service.

If a departing Town Manager can have one last wish, I would ask that townspeople on both sides of the pending litigation before the Supreme Court come together, whatever that decision maybe, as friends once again to work with the Town to agreeably implement the decision of the Court. With both parties composing a part of the Town, we all, regarding of our roles or positions need to both accommodate and assure one another that the Town will move forward amicably and stronger as one community again.

With deep appreciation to all those who have helped me manage and lead this wonderful

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

community over the past thirteen years, I am indebted to each of you for your service and friendship. My fondest thoughts and admiration will be with the Town of Colchester wishing all good health, success, and happiness.

With best regards, Al Voegele, Town Manager

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.