

For the Week Ending
March 17, 2017

Upcoming Town Meetings*

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 PM
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 PM

*All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Conference Room. 3rd floor, unless otherwise noted

Notices:

- **Dog Licenses due April 3**

Message of the Week
March 17, 2017

Selectboard Considers Stormwater Utility

Colchester has a long tradition of preserving and protecting its water resources for future generations. In 2013, the Town completed a four year \$1.5 million study funded by the U.S. EPA. A key recommendation was to create a stormwater utility. Over the past eighteen months, the Town staff has worked with a Colchester citizen group known as the Stormwater Advisory Committee to develop this utility for consideration by the Colchester Selectboard. This committee represented a broad range of interests including home owners, businesses, institutions, and environmental groups. The Stormwater Utility under consideration is another positive step toward addressing the phosphorus and sediment levels in our lakes, ponds, and streams, and preserving and protecting our water resources for future generations.

The proposed Stormwater Utility would function like any other utility such as water, sewer, power, gas, where a fee for service is collected. There are over 2,000 stormwater utilities throughout the United States, including three in Chittenden County. The Town will benefit from this approach by improving its position to preserve and protect our water resources, address inadequate and failing stormwater systems, receive state and federal funding for these improvements, and have a more fair and equitable method for distributing stormwater costs throughout the community.

The Town's current stormwater program is paid for through property taxes, which are based upon the assessed value of each property. The problem is that there is really no relationship between stormwater runoff and the value of a property. There are also a significant number of

properties in Colchester that are exempt from property taxes and therefore do not currently contribute towards the community's water quality needs. If the Town's current stormwater program were funded largely through the collection of stormwater fees instead of property taxes, the Town would be able to significantly reduce the tax rate to be set in June of this year.

Working with the Stormwater Advisory Committee, Town staff has developed a number of educational materials to inform and educate our residents about the proposed Stormwater Utility under consideration. All of this information, including proposed ordinances and a searchable user cost database can be viewed at the following web address.

<http://colchestervt.gov/213/Managing-Stormwater>

Planning and Zoning Department
Sarah Hadd, Director

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Department reports the following for the week of March 13, 2017:

- The Colchester Development Review Board met on March 8th and approved the following applications: 1) Conditional use application of Karl and Erika Currier for the enlargement of a residential structure that increases the degree of encroachment into the Shoreland District at 1235 East Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map 69, Parcel 1, Unit 1; 2) Conditional use application of Mary Marchelewiz for the enlargement of a residential structure that increases the degree of encroachment into the Shoreland District at 1245 East Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map 69, Parcel 1, Unit 2; 3) Final plat amendment of R.E.M. Development Company, LLC to amend a nine lot planned unit development subdivision on 59.87 acres with the amendment consisting of Lot 8 to be developed with a single family residence instead of a duplex with access from Lot 2 and amending the landscaping plan to relocate evergreen trees at 1114 Bay Road, Tax Map 8, Parcel 021023; and 4) Preliminary plat application of Jacques Bailly and Leslyn Hall for a three (3) lot Planned Unit Development to subdivide a 29 acre parcel with Lot #1 to be 11.5 acres developed with a single family home, Lot #2 to be 10.4 acres to be developed with a single family residence, and Lot #3 to be 8.0 acres to be developed with a single family residence with all lots to be served by a private driveway approximately 1,800 feet in

length at 1173 Grandview Road, Tax Map 74, Parcel 1. The Development Review Board will meet again on April 12th.

- The Planning Commission met on March 7th to continue its review of the Subdivision Regulations as they relate specifically to open amenity requirements. The Commission will continue its review of the Subdivision Regulations at its March 21st meeting with a focus on planned unit development buffers and waivers.

For more information visit <http://colchestervt.gov/planningz> or call (802) 264-5600.

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