



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Colchester, VT – March 5, 2018

Colchester Selectboard Announces Selection of New Town Manager

The Colchester Selectboard has unanimously chosen Aaron Frank as the Town's new Town Manager. Current Town Manager Dawn Francis is retiring from her role on April 30, 2018. Aaron has served a dual role as Deputy Town Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the last 4 ½ years. He has worked in partnership with Town Manager Dawn Francis and the Selectboard in their goals of planning infrastructure, improving services, and reducing the tax rate. Town Manager Dawn Francis was tasked by the Selectboard with hiring an assistant to help manage the Town and to possibly one day take on the job of town manager. The Selectboard has seen Aaron's tireless and outstanding work for the Town first hand for the last four years and the entire Board has no doubt that he is the right person for this job.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Tom Mulcahy stated: "Aaron understands the big picture, and how to work with others to turn plans into action. His private sector approach of encouraging efficiency and effectiveness in government has helped Colchester reduce its municipal tax rate to less than it was in 2012."

Aaron's input and involvement in the local option tax policy reduced the tax rate and improved our capacity for future capital investments. He has worked with every department head to realign staffing to take advantage of opportunities to shift resources to frontline service positions such as police, dispatch, public works and rescue.

Selectboard Member Jacki Murphy explained that "Aaron understands the patient, inclusive and collaborative process of government decision making. This is crucial to an organization such as the Town of Colchester, with one board or commission member for every two year round staff members."

Aaron noted, "I have enjoyed working for the community. I appreciate the opportunity to build on and implement projects and improvements outlined in the Heritage Project as supported by the work of Boards and Commissions, the Town staff and volunteers, under the direction of the Selectboard."

Prior to his tenure with the Town, Aaron served as Assistant General Manager of Chittenden County Transportation Authority. He has owned a delivery business, a consultancy, and worked as a researcher at North Carolina State University. Aaron has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson State College and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He resides in Colchester with his wife and 2 children.

As the incoming Town Manager, Aaron will continue to work towards implementing the community goals identified in the Heritage Project, many of which have been developing under Dawn's leadership, as well as being mindful of budgetary constraints and the impact on taxpayers. Aaron will assume his duties as Town Manager on May 1, 2018. Beginning in late April, he will be visiting with boards, commissions, employees, and community groups to prepare for the start of his new role and will work closely with Dawn Francis on a smooth transition.

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