

For the Week of May 28, 2018

Manager’s Message of the Week

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Causeway Update

The Causeway has been closed since 5/5/18. Mills Point Road to the Cut was reopened 5/7/18. Due to structural damage to the bridge, the path will remain closed from the bridge to the Cut. Preliminary estimates for repair of the path to its previous condition are \$458,000, plus \$105,000 to repair the bridge (\$563,000 for all repairs) but could increase if more damage is found below the current high water level.

We are working with the State of Vermont to request assistance from FEMA. There is a \$1M threshold for statewide damage from this storm for the State to be eligible for FEMA funding. The Governor will need to apply for assistance and the U.S. President will need to approve the application before we know if funding will be available. The best case scenario, based on our 2011 experience with FEMA, would require a 10% match from the Town of \$56,300. Typically, FEMA funding restores a site only to its prior condition. This is not our preference; repeatedly replacing the same damage is not a good use of limited public funds.

The Causeway was built for railroad use from 1899 – 1961. Around 1981 it was altered for bicycle use at **minimal cost**. Gravel and fine material “sure pack” were added to cover the granite base, making it smooth for bicycle riders. But in hindsight, too little attention was paid to the long term viability. We are working hard to design and fund repairs that will be both longer lasting and affordable. Unfortunately this is not something we can do quickly.

We will continue to update our website as more info becomes available. Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/2971/Colchester-Causeway-Path> for details.

Planning and Zoning Department
Sarah Hadd, Director

Hi Neighbors!

Here is an update on Town Plan progress:

- Our first topic meeting will focus on **housing** and the Severance Corners, Severance Road, Mill Pond, and Poor Farm Road neighborhoods. Please join

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

us on June 5th, 7PM at the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Rd. to discuss this very important subject.

- Please take a few minutes to answer our **first quick topic survey** and we will share the results at the June 5th meeting. Find the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColchesterHousing>
- Here is a link to the Kickoff meeting in case you missed it: <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/colchester-visioning-session-2019-town-plan>
- **Don't have time to watch** all the meetings? We will be releasing a podcast of abbreviated versions. We will have them available to you through Apple Music, Spotify, Sound Cloud and our home page. Stay tuned for updates!
- Check our calendar for future meetings. Both July meetings will be held at the Meeting House, 830 Main Street.
- Finally, thank you all again for coming out to the kickoff session! All the results will be taken into account for future sessions. We are working on compiling the lists to share online and they should be available by June 5.
- Thanks again for signing up for our email service. Please share it with your neighbors so we can have a greater community involvement! We look forward to getting your surveys and seeing you at our next meeting.

Regards,
The Town Plan Team

Department of Public Works
Bryan Osborne, Director

NOTICE OF UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURE – EAST ROAD

The Town of Colchester will be replacing a major, failing drainage culvert that is undersized on East Road this July. The project is expected to take 14 days. To ensure the safety of all there will be a temporary road closure that will prohibit thru traffic on East Road for approximately 7-10 consecutive calendar days (local traffic will be permitted). The exact date is to be announced; message boards announcing the closure dates will be installed one week in advance. The road closure will be located 1 mile north of the Route 2A intersection. A detour will be installed via Austin House Road and Middle Road, but we encourage all travelers to use Route 7 during the closure to avoid delays, negative impacts on the residents, and excessive wear to low-traffic, gravel roads. Questions? Contact Kevin McAleer, Public Works Project Manager at 264-5639, or kmcaleer@colchestervt.gov.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. **Next meeting: June 5**

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- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. **Next meeting: June 13**
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00am, Champlain Room, 2nd floor, **Next meeting: June 13**
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. **Next meeting: June 18**
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. **Next meeting: June 12**
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00am at the Town Offices in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor. **Next meeting: June 20**

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

Upcoming events:

- **6th Annual Causeway 5K Race:** Due to storm damage to the Causeway, the Causeway Race will be a 5K only. Saturday, June 2, 8:30am at Airport Park; \$30 per person. Registration is OPEN. Visit <http://bit.ly/causewayrace> for details.
- **34th Annual Colchester Triathlon:** Sunday, July 29, 8:30am at Bayside Park; Visit <https://www.colchestertri.com/> for details. Registration is now open for individuals and teams.

Notices:

Routes 7/2, 2A Intersections Improvement Project:

This week equipment and materials mobilization will begin. Initial work will include minor seeding near the Bay Road intersection, temporary pavement patching along Route 127, and drainage work on Route 2A.

Work will be limited during early morning commuting hours to allow motorists and school buses through the project area without lane closures. Construction that will reduce traffic to alternating, one-lane travel will start at 8:30am. **Plan on delays the rest of the day, especially during the afternoon commute.** Questions? Contact Jill Barrett at 802.272.1248



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