

For the Week of January 13, 2020

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Things are moving forward in our local fire service consolidation, initiated by your Town Selectboard in the spring of 2019. We will be operating a single fire service as a Town department beginning July 1, 2020. This service is being planned and budgeted for next year with a combination of professional firefighters, both volunteer and career. We will continue to recruit, train, call up and importantly, honor the nearly 90 current volunteers, as well as past contributors who have provided seventy years of fire coverage in Colchester. This change will bring together our current three fire department's staff and four stations under a single command as a Town department. The Town will continue to support Saint Michael's Fire from a financial perspective and we will incorporate them into the town-wide command structure.

Currently, Colchester receives fire protection services from three organizations: Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company, Malletts Bay Fire Department, and Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue, which is an independent organization under the command structure of Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company. Between the three departments there are nearly 90 volunteers; We intend to have the same 90 volunteers in our town-wide fire department.

The fire chiefs from Colchester Center and Malletts Bay asked the Town Selectboard to add paid firefighters during weekday daytime when we have inadequate coverage to respond to a structure fire. This is a dangerous situation and it needs to be rectified. This made more sense to the Selectboard under a consolidated approach.

The Selectboard provided Fire Districts #2 and #3 with two options to continue receiving Town funding for fire services: 1) merge departments with a single chief and a single fire district board, or 2) transfer fire services to the Town. The fire district prudential committees (boards) of Fire Districts #2 and #3 approved motions to work with the Town on the transfer option last summer. We have also been working with the fire chiefs on the town-wide department. We will maintain a strong volunteer presence in firefighting and honor past individual and departmental contributions as we move forward together.

The Prudential Committees have approved and executed agreements transferring the responsibilities for fire services to the Town effective July 1, 2020. We are working out a contract with Saint Michaels College Fire and Rescue to continue their firefighting service.

I would like to thank CFD#3 Prudential Committee Chair Jay Reidinger; Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company Chief Sandy Ladd; CFD#2 Prudential Committee Chair Mike Whalen and Malletts Bay Fire Department Chief Bourgeois for their hard work and cooperation to improve firefighting services in Colchester.

For more about the Town Manager's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

Economic Development Department Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

- Working with the Surgical Center to remedy a Certificate of Need that limits procedures.
- Attended the annual Allen, Brooks & Martin presentation on commercial real estate in Chittenden County.
- The website relaunch occurred in early December followed by two staff trainings.
- Met with the Intervale Foundation regarding how we can assist them in their mission and an initiative that impacts Colchester.
- Attended the SSTA board meeting with the newly hired Executive Director. I am the Secretary of the Board and on the Executive Committee.
- Continue work with Project Manager on outreach and education on the Exit 16 DDI.
- Co-Chaired Colchester-Milton Rotary Holiday Baskets. These supply food, toys, books and small clothing items to over 100 families in Colchester; they provide food for several weeks to approximately 450 people.

For more visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/econdev> or call (802) 264-5508.

Department of Public Works Bryan Osborne, Director

- Continuing to advance the design for the reconstruction of the Prim and West Lakeshore Drive Intersection project
- Preparing to request bids for the reconstruction of the Blakely Road/Laker Lane Intersection next summer
- Applied for a grant to advance the design of a roundabout at the Bayside intersection
- Continuing the design for stormwater improvements in Shore Acres and the surrounding area to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Continuing on the development of a phosphorus control plan to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Continuing to advance 30% engineering for the replacement of culverts beneath Lower Mt. View Drive

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

For more visit <http://colchestervt.gov/publicworks> or call (802) 264-5620.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. The 1.21.2020 meeting has been *anceled*. Next Meeting: 2/4
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. Next meeting: 2/12
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00am, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 2/12
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 1/20
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 1/16
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. Next meeting: 1/28

(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:

- **Friday, 1/31: Colchester's Got Talent: ALL STARS!** This special, invitation-only show will feature crowd favorites from the past 10 years of Colchester's Got Talent.
- **The 37th Annual Colchester Winter Carnival** is coming up on 1/ 31, 2/1 & 2/2! More details available at: <https://colchestervt.gov/WinterCarnival>.
- **Annual Town Meeting:** Monday, March 2, 2020 7:00 PM. Sign-in begins at 6:30 PM. Community Dinner at Colchester High School cafeteria 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Bring a dessert to share.

Notices:

- The January 21 meeting of the Planning Commission has been **anceled**.
- The Town Offices will be **closed** on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- The Winter 2020 issue of the Colchester Historical Society's newsletter is now available. Find out what's been going on, what's coming up, and how Colchester students may participate in Vermont History Day.
<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5780/Colchester-Historical-Society-Newsletter-Winter-2020?bidId=>



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



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