

For the Week of January 27, 2020

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

The Colchester Selectboard has created a town-wide fire department which will begin service on July 1, 2020. This new department will bring together the three organizations that currently provide fire protection services: Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company, Malletts Bay Fire Department, and Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue. Fire protection expenses for vehicles, equipment, buildings and volunteer stipends have been and will continue to be paid for with funding from property taxes.

The two volunteer departments began fire services in the early 50's in the two separate population centers, the Bay and the Village. In 1951, the Town levied a property tax for fire protection and made 1% of total taxes available to each Fire department. From 1951 to 2020, annual contracted fire expenses rose from 2% of total property taxes to 9.5%, making it the third largest of 25 service groups in Colchester Town government with expenses of \$1,009,651. While separate fire departments made sense in 1951, since then Colchester has grown together. We owe it to our citizens to consolidate our fire service to provide better coverage and to ensure we are making the best use of precious taxpayer resources.

Between the three departments there are nearly 90 volunteers. It is the Town's hope and intention that all volunteers will remain active in the new department. The Town will continue to recruit, train, call up, and importantly, honor the 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 departments' staff** and four stations under a single command as a Town department.

The Selectboard will provide an update on the town-wide fire protection changes at their regular scheduled Selectboard meeting on Tuesday January 28th at Colchester Town Hall, 781 Blakely Road which begins at 6:30PM.

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

Planning and Zoning Department
Sarah Hadd, Director

The Planning Commission will meet on February 4th and 18th to begin its review of the zoning within the East Lakeshore Drive area as called for in the 2019 Town Plan: "The zoning on East Lakeshore Drive and similar areas should be examined within

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two years of adoption of this plan to address view preservation as rebuilds along the Shoreline continue.” Future public forums are anticipated.

The Development Review Board will meet on February 12th and consider the following applications:

- 1) Re-approval of preliminary and final plat applications of the Wilcox / Singer eight lot subdivision at 42 Clay Point Rd., parcel 16-032000 that expired due to the mylar not being recorded within 180 days of approval
- 2) Continued appeal of Mountaha Handy Trust of a notice of violation for an increase in camp sites without site plan approval at 88 Malletts Bay Campground, parcel 65-001002
- 3) Final plat application of Malcolm Severance for a two lot subdivision at 2179 Roosevelt Highway, parcel 08-032003
- 4) Final plat application of Ryan Gardner for a four lot subdivision with an existing single-family house at 340 Watkins Rd., parcel 14-020040
- 5) Site plan application of Steven Shapiro, Ricky & Lucille Miller, and Sean & Courtney Collins for a seawall at 426, 432 & 446 Broadlake Rd., parcels 34-088002, 34-087002, and 34-086002
- 6) Site plan application of Rupert’s Castle Trust for slope restoration work in the Shoreland District at 219 and O Orchard Shore Road parcels 78-008030 and 78-009010
- 7) Sketch plan application of Alanson and Karen Clark for a two lot subdivision with an existing single-family residence at 1257 East Road, parcel 12-020000.

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

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads
Scott Crady, Rescue Chief

- We would like to congratulate Emily Fitzpatrick on her new position with the Colchester Police Department. Emily started at Colchester Rescue as a volunteer. A few years later she became a full-time employee, holding the position of Captain. We wish Emily the best of luck and look forward to working with her closely in her new position at CPD.
- We are currently in the process of evaluating new applicants to fill our full-time position vacancy.
- We would like to welcome aboard these new volunteers members:
 - Caitlin Hunt
 - Hannah Gould
 - Lindsey Booth
 - Nolan Joyce
 - Tucker Avonda

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- There were 152 emergency medical calls in the last 30 days, compared to 143 calls last year this time.

For more about Colchester Rescue, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/rescue> or call (802) 264-5990.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. 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: 2/17
 - **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 2/20
 - **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. Next meeting: 2/11
- 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:

- **The 37th Annual Colchester Winter Carnival** is Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2020. The event kicks off with a special edition of Colchester's Got Talent – the ALL STARS show!
- **Full Carnival schedule** can be found at <https://colchestervt.gov/WinterCarnival>. Read our column in the 1/23 edition of the Colchester Sun for a full schedule of events and details on where to buy admission bracelets
- **Registration for the 8th Annual Colchester Causeway 5K/10K/15K Race and the 36th Annual Colchester Triathlon** will open at midnight on February 1, 2020 online at Active.com. Official registration links will be posted to our website the week of January 27.
- **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 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>



Colchester Town News
VERMONT

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