

## **For the Week of November 2, 2020**

Manager's Message  
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

## **Highlights of the Selectboard Meeting of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- **Colchester High School Students Appointed to Town Boards:**  
Colby Fane-Cushing was appointed to the Development Review Board "Get Engaged" youth seat and Emma McDonald was reappointed to the youth seat of the Recreation Advisory Board.
- **Capital Budget and Plan:** Following public presentations at two Selectboard meetings the Selectboard approved the five-year Capital Plan and the FY 21 Capital Budget expenditures; voters approved the taxation authority in prior public votes. The budget and plan are available at [https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/201027\\_05a.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt-](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/201027_05a.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt-)

## **The Selectboard also approved:**

- Transfer of \$53,447 to assist with transportation capital expenses. These monies came from a grant, and were not tax-payer funded.
- Use of \$63,313 from the Fire Capital Plan to purchase a large vehicle lift so the Town's fire trucks can be maintained by the Public Works Department, which will save on labor costs.

## **Reports presented by the Town Manager noted:**

- 1) Unemployment in Colchester was 3.3% for September, which is very low compared to national figures.
- 2) August tax payments had 1% delinquency which is in the normal range.
- 3) The Town has scheduled all the furloughed employees to come back as of November 1, except for one employee at the library who is on furlough until the end of January as we evolve to digital and curb service.
- 4) Planning for Regional Dispatch continues. Burlington, Colchester, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski are considering capital expenses for upfit for a property owned by the City of South Burlington.
- 5) Welcome to two new DPW Highway employees: Dan Gregory, who comes to us from South Burlington, and Michael Donnachie, who worked in parks maintenance in Colorado. They filled openings left by Jeff Smail, who retired after 41 years with the Town, and Larry St. Peter, who is now Highway Superintendent in Bolton.

---

## COVID Update

**Free masks!** You can pick up packages of 5 cotton reusable masks for no cost at Town Hall, 781 Blakely Road from 7:30 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday.

**Saint Michaels College** will test all students weekly until they leave for the Thanksgiving break. The fall semester will then continue remotely, as was planned this summer. St. Michael's has emphasized to students the crucial importance of prevention by adherence to College COVID policies, including physical distancing, wearing masks at all times when outside dorm rooms, avoidance of gatherings, no guests from off campus, strict observance of all quarantine measures for people who have been identified as contacts, and abiding by all isolation measures for those who have tested positive.

**St. Michaels College Cases** 34 as of 10/30/2020. <https://www.smcvt.edu/return-to-campus/>

**COVID Cases in Colchester:** 111 as of 10/28/2020, inclusive of the Saint Michaels cases. This increased by 34 since last week. This is total known cases not current cases. COVID Cases by town: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/current-activity-vermont>

**COVID 19 information on the Town of Colchester's website:** Public Health Information; Community Guide; Town Role in COVID response; Town Services; Local Services; Resources for those in Need; Mental Health Resources; and Business Information. See <https://www.colchestervt.gov/3193/COVID-19Town-Services>

---

Colchester's Burnham Memorial Library  
Kelly McCagg, Director

- Don't let the shorter days bring you down. We're working hard at the Burnham to provide new reads, new programs, and new opportunities. We've added a new youth/teen browse and borrow cart to our curbside services. Beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be expanding those services to offer pickups on Thursdays from 3-6pm.
- The Friends book sales are winding down, but we are exploring new ways for the community to come together. Our afternoon book discussion group will be meeting November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to discuss *I was Anastasia* by Ariel Lawhon.

Participate in the Global Read Aloud. Ms. Binder and Kelsey are recording themselves reading alternating sections of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi. A new section is available every week.

- Are you a parent looking for help for your child in school (and maybe a short break in your day)? Free tutoring with qualified students from the local Albany College of Pharmacy (ACPHS) is available for the fall semester. Families will meet with the tutor online via a secure Zoom account. Call the library or fill out this [form](#) to sign up for a session.

We understand how important library services are to many in our community. We are taking steps to ensure that we continue to offer them in a manner that is safe for the community, patrons, and staff. We appreciate your patience during this unprecedented time as we all navigate through this pandemic.

Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

---

Office of the Town Clerk | Treasurer  
Julie Graeter

The Vermont General Election on Tuesday, November 3rd is upon us. In-person voting for both districts 9-1 and 9-2 will be held at Colchester High School from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Be on the lookout for the new entrance at the side door closest to the Auditorium (Performing Arts Center or PAC).

Remember that the Clerk's Office at Town Hall on Blakely Road will be **CLOSED** on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To deliver a voted ballot that you received in the mail on Election Day take it to the polling place at the High School. There will be a drop box just inside the entrance for voted ballots sealed in completed certificate envelopes.

Mandated COVID measures and reminders for the polling place:

- Masks will be required.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet will be required.
- Please be patient; there will be fewer voting booths available due to required distancing.
- If you want to vote in-person and received a ballot in the mail, it will be helpful to bring it with you.

- Be prepared for lines and dress for the weather in case the line ends up outdoors.
- Questions? Call 264-5520 or email [townclerk@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townclerk@colchestervt.gov).

Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call 264-5520.

---

Assessor  
Robert Vickery

- The Assessor's Office is open to public access from 7:30 to 12:00. From noon to 4:30 the Assessor and Property/Tax Specialist are available to answer your questions by phone (264-5670 or 264-5671) or email us at [colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov](mailto:colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov)
  - Find parcel data online at <https://www.colchestervt.gov/149/Assessor>
  - We are reviewing all Certificates of Occupancy that have been issued since April 1, 2020
  - Conducting our annual travel trailer review
  - Inspecting new construction that was unfinished as of April 1, 2020
- 

## Upcoming Town Meetings

Agendas available at: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting: TBA
- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: November 18 at 7:00 PM via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Webinar ID: 935 984 6003
  - **Live stream:** <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
  - Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing ([Iriddle@colchestervt.gov](mailto:Iriddle@colchestervt.gov) or Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446) or participate at public comment periods during the zoom meeting.
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Next meeting: TBA
- **Conservation Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Next meeting: November 16 6:30 PM in the Kirker Room at the Colchester Police Department.



## Colchester Town News

VERMONT

*Colchester – What do you want to do today?*

- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM. Next meeting November 19 via Zoom. Dial in: (929) 205 6099. Meeting ID: 987 2676 0728. Passcode: 477087.
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 PM. Third Floor Outer Bay Room, 781 Blakely Road
  - Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard we ask that you **SHARE YOUR ADDRESS**. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.
  - Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
  - Selectboard Agenda: [bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:** <https://www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx>

For more information or comment: 802.264.5509 or [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)