



Colchester
VERMONT

781 Blakely Road
Colchester, VT 05446
802-264-5500

Explore Your Town
Services

Town News for the Week of July 5, 2021



Thanks to Colchester resident Jeff Rogers for this stunning shot of hot air balloons soaring over Malletts Bay.

What do you want to do today?

Manager's Message

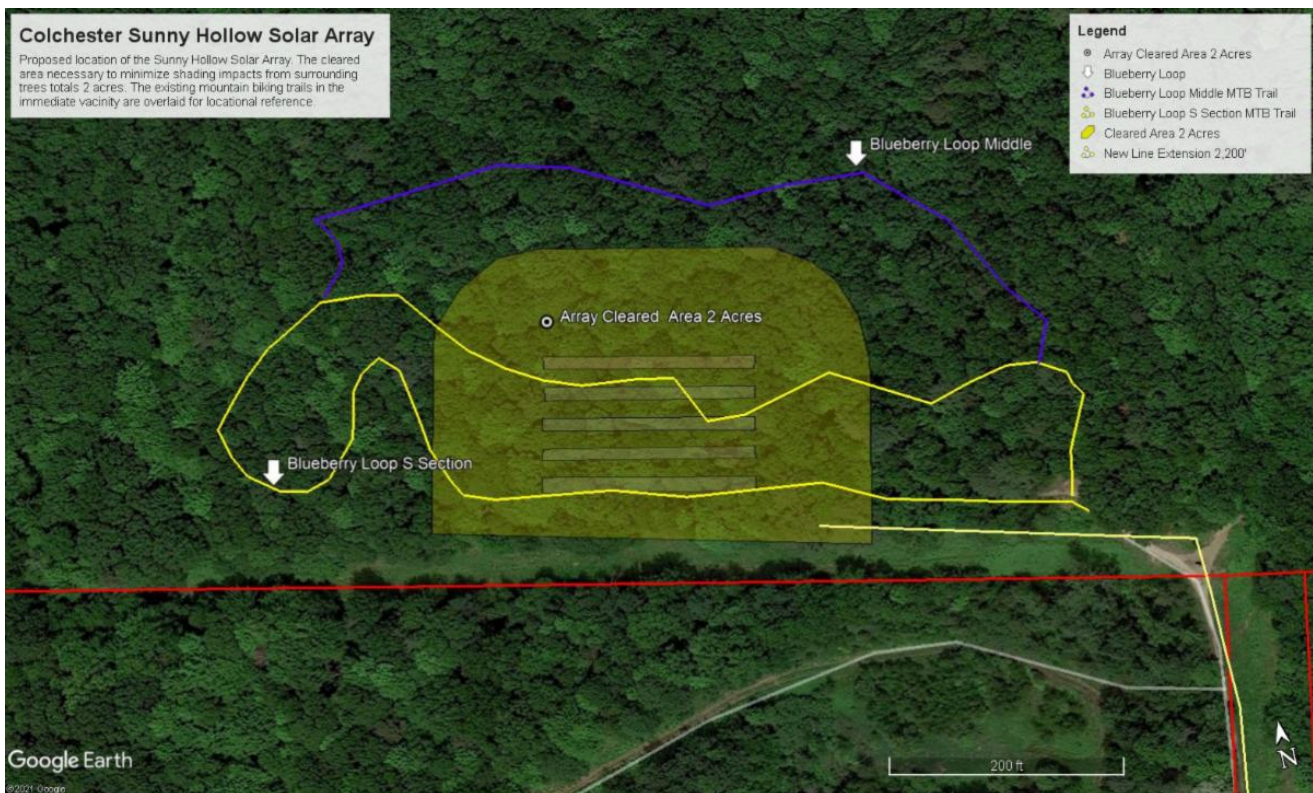
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Sunny Hollow Solar Project



The town is still working diligently on a third solar farm project at Sunny Hollow. This would move us very close to the town's goal of generating 100% of the electrical energy used in the provision of municipal services through local and affordable sources. The first step is to begin permitting the project, but there is some important work to be done with the federal government to obtain appropriate site control. We are working with the US Department of Defense, Bureau of Land Management, and our solar development partner AEGIS Renewable Energy, Inc. We are requesting the DOD eliminate rights to take back a few of the 81 acres they gave the town in the 1970's.

July 31st is the deadline to submit permits or face a penalty and receive a lower price for the electricity produced compared with current market rates, now and in the future. At their last meeting, the Selectboard approved entering into a contract with AEGIS for \$25,000 for the permits, should there be no negative signs with the federal process. Once that is complete and all federal requirements have been met, the town will begin construction on the Sunny Hollow solar farm. The town is excited to get even closer to the energy goals.



Colchester's Virtual World

When Vermont thaws out from its long winters, people begin everything from new homes to summer projects and start filing into the town offices to get permits. Spring of 2020 was somewhat different. Cooped up residents cancelled summer travel plans and began making home improvements. Pools soon sold out for the season and lumber prices soared. Despite all the upheaval and uncertainty from the pandemic, permits flowed through the Planning and Zoning Department.

As the state began to shut down, our online application portal provided the public access to scanned files and the ability to apply for and receive permits

online. Colchester's website became the new front door to the Planning and Zoning office. Dozens of filing cabinets full of old permits remained untouched following 1,300 hours of reviewing, labeling, and gathering files for scanning and digitizing years before, thanks to the help of community volunteers.

Accessible through the [town's website](#), anyone can look up a property to see what is permitted or find documentation for real estate closings.

The Town Assessor also implemented an online interactive map. This map service allows for the search of a property by owner's name, address, or parcel ID as well as abutter searches. Information available includes assessor cards containing a description of the property, estimated acreage, assessed value and the book/ page of the last known deed on the property. Zoning, wetlands, streams, floodplains and E911 numbers are available in the map that also includes street view and orthophotography. The interactive map often serves as a first stop to provide basic information on a property. It can be found [here](#).

The Clerk's Office had also undertaken scanning and indexing minutes of board meetings, ordinances, and agendas. ClerkBase, an internet-based service, hosts the posting of board and commission meeting agendas, minutes, ordinances, and the town charter. The Town Clerk has established a website to make land records available for viewing and printing. Deeds can be researched, read, and printed for a fee as linked [here](#).

Board meetings adapted to a remote platform during the pandemic. With scanned plans and applications, files could be pulled up on shared screens for virtual review. Agendas, staff notes, applications, and minutes were posted online through the Town's ClerkBase website.

While we suggest folks stop by in person or call on the phone for more complex issues, our online services are open 24/7.

COVID-19 Update

Recent Cases: Chittenden County has had 24 new cases in the last 14 days. Read more [here](#).

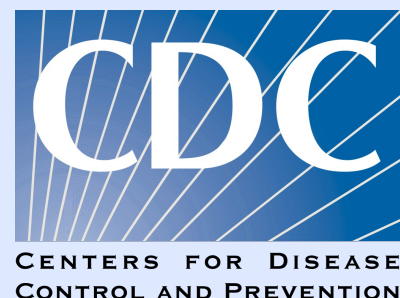


Walk-In Clinics Available

Although 82.2% of Vermont's population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, Governor Phil Scott and the Department of Health are still urging residents to get vaccinated. Walk-in clinics are still being held daily around the state. To find one near you, visit the Dept. of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine [webpage](#).

Eviction Moratorium Extended

The CDC has extended the eviction moratorium set in place at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent the eviction of tenants who are unable to make rental payments. The moratorium that was set to expire on June 30th was extended for another 30 days, and



Department Updates

Planning & Zoning

A reminder on signs: For signs that advertise businesses and other things that are not exempt (signs up for less than two weeks advertising an auction, campaign, drive, or event of a civic, philanthropic, or religious organization), a sign permit must be obtained. An example is sales, for-profit events, or events that are more than two weeks into the future. Signs such as banners or A-frame signs require a sign permit too. A temporary sign permit can be obtained online [here](#).

Upcoming Town Meetings

[Agendas available here](#)

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting TBD
- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: July 14 at 7:00 PM
 - [Live stream](#)
 - Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing (zmaia@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:** Next meeting: July 19, 6:00 p.m.
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: July 15, 4:30 p.m. in person at the Burnham Memorial Library, masks required; or via Zoom: Dial in: (929)205-6099; Meeting ID: 951 5132 1071; Passcode: 761145
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: July 27 at 6:30 PM at 781 Blakely Road in the third floor Outer Bay Room. Attend in person with masks if you are unvaccinated. Masks are optional for fully-vaccinated folks. Alternatively, send a note to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and your 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. Watch the meeting online via live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>

[Selectboard Agenda](#)

[Subscribe to the Town Newsletter](#)

For more information or to comment call 264-5509 or email

More Info



Colchester
VERMONT

Get In
Touch

Address: 781 Blakely Rd
Colchester, VT 05446, USA
Phone: +1 802-264-5500

