

For the Week of February 14, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



Annual Town Meeting Election March 1, 2022 at Colchester High School 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

In just a few weeks Town Meeting Day will be here, and your Town Staff wants you to be informed about when, where, and how to vote and what you are voting on! In-person and absentee/early voting will be available, and we encourage Colchester voters to request an absentee/early ballot ahead of time to be mailed or picked up at Town Hall.

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE IN-PERSON: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Colchester High School Gymnasium, Laker Lane.

WHEN, WHERE, & HOW TO COMPLETE ABSENTEE/EARLY BALLOT VOTING:

- Visit My Voter Page, <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> to set up your personal voter account to request an absentee ballot to be sent. There you can track your ballot until it is received and counted.
- Call 802-264-5500 to have your absentee ballot sent by US Postal Mail. Return by mail using the provided return envelope, and **be sure to allow time for postal transit!**
- Come in to the Town Clerk's Counter M-F 7:30 AM-4:30 PM to request an absentee ballot.
- Colchester Election Early/Absentee Ballot Drop Box is located at 781 Blakely Rd. between the Town Hall and Police Dept. buildings.

NOTE: The latest a ballot can be requested in Colchester is February 28, 2022 by 12:00 PM.

NOTE: Voting of absentee ballots will not be allowed within Town Hall due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

NOTE: Please be sure to put your voted ballot into the Certificate Envelope and complete the signature section before you drop into the drop box. The deadline to drop into the box is February 28 at 4:30 pm. These voted ballots sealed in completed Certificate Envelopes can also be dropped off at the polling

location (Colchester High School) on Election Day until 7:00 pm. There will be a drop box at the Help Desk in the center of the gym.

WHAT ARE THE BALLOT ITEMS?

Watch an Interview from your Town Staff and Selectboard reviewing the Ballot Items here: <https://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>

Town Municipal Services Budget (Article 4)

“Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester approve total general fund expenditures of Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred Eighty Thousand, Two Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$13,880,217) of which Eleven Million, Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$11,750,230) shall be raised by taxes and Two Million, One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$2,129,987) by non-tax revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023?”

- Estimated to increase the municipal service tax rate by 2.5 %
- Maintains current level of municipal services and addresses needs of the library digital collection, threats to public trees, Howard Community Outreach workers, employee safety and training, and fire vehicle maintenance
- Residential Property Value Impact: For a property valued at \$300,000, the increase would be \$42/year or 81 cents/week
- Summary of the Proposed FY23 Budget: <https://bit.ly/fy23budget>
- Budget Document Page (Budget Presentation, Revenues, Expenses, and Budget by Area of Expenditure): <https://bit.ly/budgetdocs>

Town Park Capital Plan (Article 5)

“Shall the Town of Colchester reauthorize the Selectboard to maintain a reserve fund accumulating annually through the continuation of the existing tax rate in the amount of \$0.005 (one-half cent) per one hundred dollars of assessed property value, for a period of six years, for the purpose of financing the Park Capital Plan?”

- Re-authorized at same rate as present
- Will be used to improve amenities at and conditions of Bayside Park and Skatepark, Airport Park, Fort Ethan Allen, Sunny Hollow Parking Area, and Rossetti Natural Area
- Explanation of plan: <https://bit.ly/capitalplan5>

Town Transportation Capital Plan (Article 6)

“Shall the Town of Colchester reauthorize the Selectboard to maintain a reserve fund accumulating annually through the continuation of the existing tax rate in the amount of \$0.023 (two and one-third cents) per one hundred dollars of assessed property value, for a period of six years, for the purpose of financing the Capital Transportation Program?”

- Re-authorized at same rate as present
- Will be used to continue design of Bayside Intersection Single Lane Roundabout and sidewalks on Malletts Bay Avenue and East Lakeshore Drive, and the paving of roadways, approximately 21 miles
- Explanation of plan: <https://bit.ly/capitalplan6>

Malletts Bay Sewer Project (Article 7)

“Shall revenue bonds or notes of the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$11,500,000.00 be issued under Chapter 101 and Subchapter 2 of Chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable only from available grants-in-aid and net revenues derived from the Town’s public sewer system over a period not to exceed thirty years, for improvements with a total estimated cost of \$16,700,000.00 to the Town’s public sewer system, specifically the construction of a sewer system in the Malletts Bay area?”

- Funded by grants and sewer user fees only
- No impact on the tax rate
- Will preserve and protect the bay for future generations by removing human waste bacteria -from the bay
- Explanation of project: <https://bit.ly/sewerproject>
- If you have any questions please contact Bryan Osborne, Director Public Works at bosborne@colchestervt.gov or by phone at 802-264-5625.

Whether in-person or early/absentee, we hope you take part in your Town Government and make your vote count on Town Meeting Day! For more information, refer to our website under Town Clerk, Elections and Voter Information or under Government, Town Manager, Town Meeting & Budget, Ballot Items.

Colchester Historical Society Update:

Reminder: Vermont History Day Registration Deadline is March 8th.

Every April, hundreds of Vermont students share their learning at the annual Vermont History Day state contest, and the Colchester Historical Society is hoping some local students will participate this year. As students create their projects, they develop research and historical thinking skills. They explore content and gain life skills through project-based learning and the study of history. Students who win at the state contest qualify for National History Day in June.



The 2022 theme is "Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." But don't let that big title scare you -- there is plenty of help available. Vermont students in Grades 5-12 and homeschool students, ages 10-18, may compete in Vermont History Day. Students exercise their voices and choices by selecting a topic related to the annual theme and presenting their research as an exhibit, website, documentary, performance, or paper. Working individually or in small groups (up to 5), students can explore a topic related to Vermont history, U.S. history, or world history.

Students explore change, continuity, and context as they conduct research online and in libraries, museums, and historical societies. Using evidence from primary sources and interviews with experts, students examine multiple perspectives and draw conclusions. At the state contest, students present their projects to local historians, educators, and other professionals who participate as judges. In recent years, a few members of the Colchester Historical Society have served as volunteer judges for this amazing competition.

Visit <https://vermonthistory.org/historyday> for details about Vermont History Day and the registration form. For added incentive, be sure to check out the list of special prizes. Remember, the registration deadline for students is March 8th.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are

required. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words 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>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Development Review Board: Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 PM at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. The Development Review Board will likely be participating remotely. Members of the public will have the option to choose either remote or in-person attendance. Masks are required for in-person attendance. Public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to zmaia@colchestervt.gov or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Alternatively, participate in the public comment periods during the hybrid meeting.

- Participate by Phone: 1-929-205-6099
- Meeting ID: 871 3561 5437 (US – New York)
- Link to meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87135615437>
- Watch Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt/?docId=DRBAgenda&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAgenda%2C

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, February 17, 4:30 PM. This will be a fully remote Zoom meeting. The public may join by dialing (929) 205-6099. Enter Meeting ID: 835 3713 1958 and passcode: 206902
Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/LibBoard.htm#_CPA1

Conservation Commission: Monday, February 21, at 6:00 PM in the Bayside Activity Center. Masks are required during the meeting with adequate space between seats.

Recreation Advisory Board: A meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 AM at the Colchester Town Offices.

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<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>



Colchester Town News
VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email
townmanager@colchestervt.gov