

For the Week of March 7, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

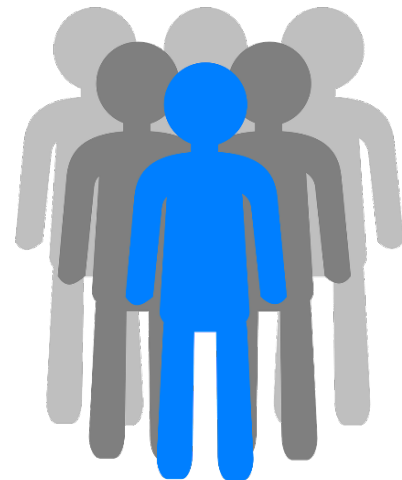
Your Town staff would like to thank everyone who attended and voted at the Annual Town Meetings. It is great to see our residents take an interest in their municipal government.



Thank you to the Colchester High School for hosting, and we would also like to thank our Town Clerks who are our Election Officials; they start work on Election Day at 7 AM and stay until the votes are tabulated and results sent to the Secretary of State. Thank you also to our Justices of the Peace, who are also Election Officials, and our residents who volunteered at the high school gym on Election Day. All of them work together to ensure our honest and fair elections.

Staffing Update: COVID-19, low unemployment, and housing costs/shortages had a significant impact on our staffing levels over the last two years. During this unusual time, we shared our vacancies in newsletters and Selectboard meetings as vacancies have been high enough to significantly impact service delivery. We are happy to report our numbers are normal once again, and we will curtail these updates unless we find ourselves in such an unusual position again. Unfilled positions at this time represent less than 2% of full-time year-round staffing and include:

- Colchester Police Department: one unfilled sworn "officer" position.
- Colchester Recreation Program: one fewer year-round staff than pre-COVID. This is at the Recreation Director's request because the Recreation Program, as a fee funded program, staffs up and down as demand and revenues permit.



Letter from Your Selectboard Chair, Pam Loranger



781 Blakely Road • Colchester, Vermont • 05446 • 802.264.5500

www.colchestervt.gov

March 2, 2022

Dear Colchester Residents:

On behalf of the Selectboard, I would like to extend a sincere thanks and gratitude to you for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Service Budget, the Transportation Capital Plan, the Park Capital Plan, and the Malletts Bay Sewer Project.

The Selectboard worked hard to prepare a municipal service budget that addressed baseline services and growing needs including: library digital collection, advice on public tree threats, Howard Community Outreach, and fire vehicle maintenance. Municipal services must also increase due to slow, steady growth over decades including: library; police; rescue; technical rescue; parks; recreation; street, path and sidewalk maintenance; stormwater maintenance; planning, development regulation and economic development services; and, Town Clerk services from permits to running open and fair elections.

The Malletts Bay Sewer Project, which as part of a multi-faceted process of protecting and cleaning the bay with sewer, stormwater, transportation and zoning, will protect Colchester's gem for generations to come. We are thankful to our federal legislative delegation, Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, and Representative Welch, for making sure that Vermont received at least its fair share of the COVID related federal funding. Again, thank you for your support of the reworked plan—only the financing changed between the 2019 and the present vote—to abate human waste pollution in Malletts Bay in a manner that will not change the pace of development.

We are proud of the work the Town has accomplished and we could not have realized this without the input and help from our residents, businesses, board and commission members, volunteers and employees. We also thank the Town Clerk's office for running an efficient and open election process. The Selectboard and I look forward to continued efforts that will ensure our quality of life, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities, and environmental stewardship both now and for future generations.

Once again, thank you to all of the residents who participated in Town meeting and voted.

Sincerely,



Pam Loranger
Colchester Selectboard Chair

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, March 8, 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 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

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

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:

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

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