

**For the Week of June 27, 2022**

## **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

In observance of Independence Day, the Town Offices will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.



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## **Town News Interviews: Boards and Commissions Edition**

### **Colchester Planning Commission**

#### ***What is the Colchester Planning Commission?***

The Colchester Planning Commission is a five-member board of Colchester citizens who are appointed by the Selectboard. The Commission is tasked with updating the Town Plan as needed or required by statute, undertaking planning studies, participating in regional planning issues, and overseeing revisions to the Colchester Development Regulations. The Commission may also prepare and present to the Selectboard on these issues. Colchester's Planning



Commission develops plans, policy and regulations related to land use. Actual development projects are considered by a separate board, the Development Review board, utilizing the Planning Commission's regulations. Recently, the Commission has been working towards amendments to the zoning regulations for East Lakeshore Drive.

Planning Commission meetings are generally held scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM at the Colchester Town Offices and are open to the public. Meetings may be added or rescheduled as needed. Meetings typically average one to two hours in duration. The Planning Commission works with the Director of Planning and Zoning who attends each meeting and provides general staffing. The Commission's agenda is generally set by staff at the direction of the Commission and in consultation with the Commission Chair and Selectboard.

#### ***What are the responsibilities of a Commissioner?***

Ahead of the meeting, each planning commissioner is responsible for downloading their meeting packet that includes an agenda, staff notes, and other enclosures prepared by the Director, usually with recommendations for action. Packets generally require one to three

hours' worth of review prior to the meeting. Commissioners are often required to think through a variety of policy, legal, and community impacts of any Commission decision. Familiarity with local and state land use regulations, building design, or natural resources is helpful, but not required.



The Commission follows Roberts Rules of Order, but tries to be as informal when possible. All meetings are recorded, public, and can be seen on Channel 17 or found here <https://lcatv.org/colchester-planning>. Interaction is required with other commissioners, staff, and members of the community.

***Why and how did current members begin volunteering with the Planning Commission?***

“I started volunteering on different Town boards to be able to give back to the community where I live and work, and when I was asked to give the Planning Commission a try, I agreed, as I was looking to join a board that has a positive impact in moving Colchester forward.”

-Rich Paquette, Planning Commission Chair

“I had always been interested in land use and how decisions were made involving a combination of State regulations (Act 250), local laws/ordinances, and best practices to determine how land would be developed within the Town’s boundaries. As a property owner (since 1993) and a citizen of Colchester, I have always been interested in local politics as well as following any new initiatives that past and present Selectboard’s have proposed for future growth and development. Once I moved to Colchester permanently in 2015, I decided to become more involved in the community. Eventually there was an opening on the Colchester Planning Commission and I decided to apply and was grateful to be appointed by the Selectboard.”

-Sarita Austin, Planning Commission member

***What do current members enjoy about volunteering?***

“I like how the Planning Commission gets to work on projects that help out every part of Colchester, and I enjoy seeing the projects that we were a part of come to life when I’m driving around Town.”

-Rich Paquette, Planning Commission Chair

“I enjoy working with the other members of the Commission and fulfilling our roles and responsibilities in implementing the Actions as outlined in the Heritage Project and the 2019 Town Plan. I am also enjoying working with our new Director of Planning and Zoning, Cathyann LaRose. Currently, the Planning Commission is working on the rezoning along East Lakeshore Drive. This was a specific action that was identified in the 2019 Town Plan to take up.

Unfortunately, due to COVID there has been a two-year delay in the Commission taking this up, but thanks to Cathyann’s ability to hit the ground running, we have been able to gather input from community members that will help to inform the direction of this initiative.”

-Sarita Austin, Planning Commission member

***How do I get involved?***

Interested citizens are required to attend at least one meeting of the Commission prior to consideration by the Selectboard. Questions regarding the Planning Commission should be directed to Cathyann LaRose, Director of Planning and Zoning, at 802-264-5602 or via email to [clarose@colchestervt.gov](mailto:clarose@colchestervt.gov).



**VERMONT 211  
LAUNCHES NEW  
WEBSITE**



Vermont 211, a confidential 24/7 helpline that connects Vermonters with community, health, and human services, has launched a new website at <https://vermont211.org/>.

Visitors can search in the Community Resource Directory for over 3,000 programs including afterschool programs, food pantries, tax preparation, subsidized housing, veterans’ resources, disability services, debt counseling, mental health services, bus information and much more. Service providers can also apply to add their agency to the database or update their existing information.

**You could win a \$50 gas card in a Scavenger Hunt to celebrate the launch!** Explore the website to answer questions in the entry form: <https://tinyurl.com/5fphzrx3>. If you get the correct answers, you'll be entered into a random drawing to select a winner. The drawing will be on July 15th. Winner and links to answers will be announced on the website and in the August newsletter.

**More information:** Vermont 211 is a free, information and referral program of the United Ways of Vermont, a statewide nonprofit. The mission of the United Ways of Vermont (UWsVT) is to provide a forum for mutual support and training for local United Ways. UWsVT keeps a broad, statewide perspective and supports each local United Way by encouraging collaboration and providing support. The majority of funding for 211 comes from the State of Vermont

## Department Updates

### Parks and Recreation

#### 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

**MONDAY, JULY 4, 2022**

##### 4th of July Parade

The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. at Colchester High School

Parade Route: The parade will process from Colchester High School, down Blakely Road, and end at Lavigne Road. Road closure is expected to be approx. one hour.



##### 5K Fun Run

**\$5.00 per participant**

**7:30am - 8:00am:** Fun Run Registration at Union Memorial School

**8:15am:** 5K Race Begins - Middle Road

##### Bayside Beach

Lifeguards will not be on duty on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

##### Bayside Park

6:45pm to 8:45pm: Music Entertainment: **THE HITMEN**

The Hitmen are: Jim Cheney (Bass and Vocals), Bob Young (Guitar and Vocals), Brian Donnelly (Drums and Vocals), and Bob Boedecker (Keys and Vocals). Their musical style includes 1970s- and 1980s-party rock & roll, featuring hot guitar, organ, and impressive vocal harmonies! The Hitmen play anything from John Mellencamp to Santana, The Atlanta Rhythm Section to Steely Dan - don't miss this fantastic group!

##### Fireworks

Fireworks will take place at dusk from the Bayside Softball Field. Please stay behind the safety fence. Parking available at Colchester High School, Colchester Middle School, and the Malletts Bay School.

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### Colchester School District

The Colchester School District (CSD) will be providing free breakfast and lunch to children throughout town from June through August 12. The program will run Monday through Friday, and the meals are free to all children ages 18-years-old and younger. There is no sign-up required and all meals are first come, first served.

Menus and meal times are available here: [www.csdmeals.org](http://www.csdmeals.org). There will be no meal service on Monday, July 4. The meal locations are included below:

Location offering both eat-in and to-go options:

- Colchester Middle School, 425 Blakely Road

Locations offering only a to-go option (both breakfast and lunch will be included):

- Winchester Place at the Front Office, 7 Douglas Drive
- Outside of Porters Point School, 490 Porters Point Road
- Outside of Union Memorial School, 253 Main Street



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## Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, June 28th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Agendas available:** <http://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

**Note:** Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.

**Town Employment?** The Town of Colchester is currently offering jobs ranging from lifeguard, to seasonal parks staff, to summer camp counselor, to library associate, to public works customer service. The following link explores current career opportunities:

<https://colchestervt.gov/321/Human-Resources>

**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](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)