

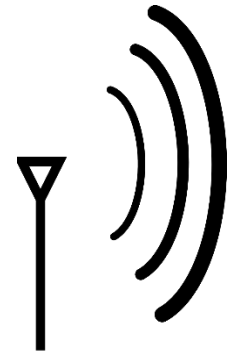
For the Week of July 11, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Broadband Opportunities and Challenges in Colchester

Since Act 71 was signed into law in June 2021, Town staff have been working to identify a method for Colchester to avail itself of the significant amount of federal funds the State is distributing for broadband expansion. Through extensive research and analysis of Act 71, it has become clear that the framework it created for the distribution of funds is not a good fit for many Chittenden County communities, including Colchester. Challenges with Act 71 include 1) a mismatch between the funding allocation formula and the actual costs of broadband deployment in non-rural areas that results in a very small share of federal funding being available to Colchester, 2) a requirement for a Universal Service Plan that makes solving the broadband issue in Colchester nearly impossible for small internet service providers, and 3) a prohibition against providing funding to large internet service providers (like Consolidated Communications), who may offer the most efficient broadband solution, unless a town is a member of a Communications Union District (CUD). Moreover, Act 71 and the associated grant programs for broadband are strongly rooted in the CUD model, which involves at least two towns voting to create a new unit of regional government (a CUD) for the purpose of building communications infrastructure, which requires management, administration, and oversight.



Given the relatively small number of Colchester addresses (under 150) that are deemed unserved or underserved according to the State's definition of broadband, staff have been reluctant to propose the Town join a CUD and take on the ongoing duties of CUD membership. However, it has become clear to staff that it will be virtually impossible for Colchester to access the current allocation of federal funding for broadband that the State is in the process of distributing without joining a CUD. Staff provided the Selectboard with an update on this conclusion at their meeting on June 28th. At that meeting, members of the Selectboard questioned the appropriateness of the CUD model for Colchester and noted the important differences between building broadband infrastructure in Colchester versus in more rural communities. Additionally, members of the Selectboard noted that due to the current funding allocation formula, the amount of federal dollars that would be available to Colchester even if it joined a CUD is quite limited, in the range of only 3.5-6.5% of the total estimated cost to bring broadband infrastructure to Colchester. This relatively small amount of public funding calls into question whether a CUD in Chittenden County could offer a financially viable solution for the broadband issue. By comparison, in more rural communities, State-provided federal

funding for broadband projects can be as high as 60% of the total cost. In these more rural areas, there is clearly a greater alignment between responsibilities of CUD membership and the potential benefits a CUD offers, and it appears in some rural parts of the State, CUDs are finding some early success. At this time, due to the uncertainty about the benefits CUD membership would offer Colchester and concerns about ongoing CUD responsibilities, the Selectboard is not actively pursuing CUD membership. Staff will continue to monitor the CUD discussions in Chittenden County and if a CUD is created, Colchester will evaluate whether membership makes sense at that time. For more information:

https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/220628_05a.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt



Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV): Your Nonprofit Public, Educational and Government Access Media Facility

LCATV not only provides public access to Colchester's public meetings, but also offers 24-hour television programming across three channels and video content on lcatv.org. Programming content varies from governmental coverage, educational topics, and community events. Equipment, training and channel time is provided to interested community members looking to produce their own television programming as well.

LCATV is administered and aided by a volunteer Board of Directors and other community volunteers while being overseen by LCATV staff, and Colchester's board member is Dirk Reith. LCATV is funded with cable television subscriber fees, and having expanded over the years, LCATV's can now be found on [Channels 1075](#) (Public Access, including community events), [Channel 1085](#) (Government Access, including the Colchester Selectboard and Planning Commission meetings) and [Channel 1095](#) (Educational Access, including Colchester school events and board meetings).

Colchester Historical Society



Can you help solve this history mystery? Learn more about these mysterious portraits, as well as what's happening at the Log Schoolhouse this summer, who is having special anniversaries, the Chimney Corners Home Demonstration Club, and Colchester's postal service history. You can read about it all in the Summer 2022 issue of the Colchester Historical Society's Newsletter: <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7511/Summer-2022-Colchester-VT-Historical-Society-Newsletter?bidId=>

Department Updates

Parks & Recreation:

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join us for Colchester's summertime tradition. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinner to Lower Bayside Park for our summer concert series on Thursday evenings. Enjoy great music with the beauty of Malletts Bay as your backdrop! All Concerts begin at 7:00pm, admission is FREE, and parking is available at Bayside Park.



July 14th: Quadra has been around for more than 40 years! These guys are rocking and rolling better than ever. Tight is a good way to describe these two sets of brothers who are known for playing eclectic, epic rock! Nothing makes a band happier than dancers, and they play a lot of dance tunes. From the 70's through the 90's they will take you on a musical journey!

July 21st: The Devon McGarry Band is comprised of four seasoned musicians with common ambitions, and presents an original music endeavor that can't be ignored. In the ever-changing world of rock music, they seek to be refreshing yet accessible. The music is rooted in McGarry's heartfelt lyrics and rhythms, but has been sculpted by his bandmates into a movement of sound. For nearly every catchy hook, Jeff Messina (lead guitar) offers up a blistering guitar solo to follow. Mitch Terricciano (bass guitar) and Rich Armstrong (drums) lock in to provide dynamic rhythms and uplifting grooves. Some songs harken back to the 90's alternative scene, while others break the mold and blend genres.

July 28th: InCahoots is based out of Plattsburgh, New York and has been providing their audiences with a fresh new look at an American tradition: Entertainment with a smile. A four-piece band consisting of John Geno - Fiddle, Guitar, Sax, Keys and Vocals; Kevin Connelly - Guitar, Keys, Harmonica and Vocals, David Long - Drums and Vocals and Ryan Finney – Bass. Playing music from Charlie Daniels to AC/DC and everything in-between, InCahoots entertains with airtight harmonies, instrumentation and a beat you can really stomp your feet to!

36th COLCHESTER TRIATHLON

Sunday, July 31st, 2022, 8:00 AM

Volunteer:

This great event requires many hands in order for it to run smoothly, plus you'll have tons of fun while volunteering! Great energy, excited athletes and you get a volunteer t-shirt.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Packet Pick-Up, Body Marking, Timing Chip Collection, Kayak, Transition Zone 1, Transition Zone 2, EMCEE and Refreshment Tent. To volunteer, please visit <https://www.colchestertri.com/volunteer.html> to submit your name.

Race:

Annual sprint triathlon hosted in the Malletts Bay Area. Swim 500 meters OR Kayak 1.5 miles, 12 miles of biking, 3 miles of running. Limit 400 participants.

For more information and to register: <https://www.colchestertri.com/>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, July 26th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd 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 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

Development Review Board: Wednesday, July 13th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or 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.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 19th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, July 20th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices.

Library board of Trustees: Thursday, July 21st, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

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



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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.

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