

For the Week of August 29, 2022

Manager’s Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

In observance of Labor Day, the Town Offices and the Burnham Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, September 5th.



Welcome back to our Colchester School District students, from kindergartners at Union Memorial and Porters Point School to seniors at Colchester High School who begin classes on Wednesday, August 31st! Please be careful as everyone adjusts to new habits and traffic patterns with the new school year.

Town News Interviews: Boards and Commissions Edition

Colchester Board of Listers

A few weeks ago, you read about the Assessor’s Office and what services they offer. A Town Board connected to the Assessor’s Office is the Board of Assessment Appeals, also known as the Board of Listers. The Town Assessor and Property/Tax Specialist in the Clerk’s Office work with this board of elected Listers to address appeals to property valuations. Specifically, in early June and after annual the “Grand List” of all property values has been completed, the Board of Listers meet for Assessment Appeal Hearings. These hearings are open to the public to attend and listen in if they would like.



This past June there were five hearings scheduled and conducted on Thursday, June 16th. The hearings included several types of potential appellants including homeowners, a land owner, and a rental/business property owner. During each hearing, the Assessor first introduced the parcel being appealed to everyone in attendance, and then the individual(s) making the appeal had 20

minutes to state their case regarding why and to what value their assessment should be adjusted. After the allotted time the Assessor, Tax/Property Specialist and Listers asked questions before the appellars left and deliberation began. Once the Board came to a decision, a notice was mailed to the parcel owner within 14 days.

Property is generally appraised at its fair market value as of the last town wide re-appraisal. Fair market value is the price that the property is expected to bring in the market when offered for sale and purchased by private, unrelated individuals. Other elements that are considered include availability or location, potential and prospective use, functional deficiencies, and age and condition. If you would like to learn more about the process of tax assessment appeals, the Assessor's Office and their services, or the Board of Listers, please visit the [website](#) or contact Bob Vickery, Town Assessor, at 802-264-5671 or rvickery@colchestervt.gov.



Are you interested in alternatives to the criminal legal system? The Essex Community Justice Center is excited to offer an **Informational Night on Tuesday, September 20th** to connect with community members about the work we do and the opportunities for community involvement. **Join us from 5:30pm-7:30pm** to meet current staff and volunteers and learn more about restorative justice initiatives in the towns we serve: Essex, Milton, Colchester, Underhill, Jericho and Westford. Please see

[this flyer](#) for additional information and how to register

The Essex CJC is committed to creating a volunteer pool that includes people from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, differently abled, and socio-economic backgrounds that better reflect our community and the clients we work with. We are also seeking more people under the age of 25 to diversify the age range of our volunteers and help us work with youth that are referred. The Essex CJC is funded by a State grant and the Towns of Colchester and Essex.

CSWD's New Materials Recovery Facility

WHAT: CSWD is planning a new, municipally owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF—rhymes with “surf”) to replace the outdated and undersized MRF on Avenue C in Williston, built in 1993. CSWD's MRF sorts and prepares 53% of Vermont's “blue-bin” recyclables to be sold into the market to be used in place of virgin resources to make new products.



WHY: The current MRF is at capacity and has no room to expand or upgrade. It is inefficient and limits the amount Vermonters can recycle. Built nearly 30 years ago, the current MRF can no longer keep up with modern packaging and the recycling needs of today. Additionally, the facility provides difficult working conditions for employees.

PROJECT STATS:

Location: CSWD-owned property on Redmond Road in Williston. This MRF serves all of Chittenden County plus roughly 160,000 other northern Vermont residents.

Design Capacity: 50,000 – 70,000 tons annually (current MRF design capacity: 25,000 tons annually; currently processing ~47,000 tons annually).

COST & FUNDING:

Project Capital Cost: \$22-\$26 million

Funding: **This bond will not impact taxes.** CSWD will be asking Chittenden County voters to approve a bond of \$22 million in the November 2022 election. CSWD will repay the bond from operating revenue—sale of recyclables and “tip fees” charged to haulers to drop off recyclables for processing at the MRF.

Payback Period: 25 years.

HOW TO VOTE ON THE MRF BOND:

1. After September 1: Go Vermont’s My Voter Page and request to have the ballot mailed to you.
2. In person at your local Chittenden County voting location on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

More information: https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/220823_05b.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

Questions? Contact: Michele Morris, Dir. of Marketing & Communications mmorris@cswd.net; 802-598-5625 (voice or text)

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, September 13th, 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, September 14th, 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.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, September 14th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices.

Library board of Trustees: Thursday, September 15th, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, September 20th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road for a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering amendments to the Colchester Development Regulations.

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.

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