

For the Week of September 19, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



CHS Students: **GET ENGAGED with your Town!**

Town Staff will be in visiting Colchester High School on Wednesday, September 21st, to share information on this opportunity for students who are in grades 10-12 and Colchester residents to join a participating Board or Commission as a youth member for a term of one

year. Students will be mentored by a board / commission member, and may have the option to renew their terms, and participation in the program can count toward the student's volunteer work required for graduation. Stop by our table for more information or visit this link for more details: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/716/Get-Engaged>

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 1, 2022

11 AM – 3 PM

Severance Corners

What a way to spend a Saturday! Get outside and explore, meet your neighbors and local business owners, and join us for a fun day in Colchester!

Enjoy local food trucks and music while having a picnic on the green, participate in kid-friendly Fall activities and crafts, and support your local businesses at Severance Corners on October 1, 2022 from 11 AM to 3 PM.



“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”

Renewable Energy Update:

The Planning Commission in their role as the Energy Committee as defined in this [Selectboard Policy](#) has been updated on completed or ongoing energy projects. Implementation of energy efforts has been assigned to the Town Manager's office. In addition to having access to the entire Town staff to assist in these goals, both Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager have a prior history with and enjoy working on energy projects. Annual reports to the Planning Commission have been given in advance of the Annual Town Reports, and have included an energy section in: [2021](#), [2020](#), and [2019](#). Annual reports to the Energy Committee will continue and progress is certainly being made on the Town's energy projects.



Renae Marshall Deputy Town Manager

Along with continuously researching state and federal grant opportunities to leverage energy investments, this year Town staff have been spending a significant amount of time and financial resources on alternative energy projects:

- 1) Town staff are working to find a replacement solar [site for the one previously proposed](#) adjacent to the industrial park on Hercules Drive, which was [ultimately rejected by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources last year](#), due to their multiple competing environmental goals. Town staff are in the permitting process with a [site off of Mercier Drive](#), for which the [Selectboard approved \\$32,000 for permitting on February 8, 2022](#). This project, if constructed, will bring the Town from producing about 66% of the electricity consumed in the provision of municipal services by local, cost-effective renewables to about 100%. Our two solar farms generate solar energy credits, which are used to offset electric bills from Green Mountain Power. These credits expire if unused for 24 months. As we increase our production of these credits in hopes to offset all our electric energy use, we have put into place a tracking system to be sure that the credits are used as intended.



- 2) The Selectboard transferred \$558,000 to the Capital Equipment and Facilities fund for use on the next permitted solar farm (which may or may not be the above mentioned location) on [July 28th 2022](#).

- 3) Town staff are working to develop the Colchester Recreation Center with a significant solar component. The goals are to produce electricity equivalent to that consumed 1) in the Center; 2) by the three fire stations that were transferred to Town ownership; 3) by the Town's expanded sewer system.



- 4) In addition, Town staff are planning public electric car chargers at the Center and at Town Hall. The Town Hall charger may be completed in the next 12 months and is dependent on supply chain and professional installation. An estimated cost including installation comes to approximately \$16,00. When we've looked into car chargers previously, grant funded options required the Town to give away free electricity to the users. We do not anticipate Town taxpayers would appreciate the Town giving away free "fill-ups," funded by all taxpayers. Instead, we plan to use Town funds, as the budget allows, to purchase car chargers that charge users for electricity actually used.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, September 27th, 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

Conservation Commission: Monday, September 19th, 6:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room.

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.

Recreation Advisory Board: Monday, September 26th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices.



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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