

For the Week of December 19, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Happy Holidays! Your Town staff wishes all residents, businesses, and visitors a happy holiday season, with all the love, warmth, and cheer of spending time with your family and friends.

In observance, there will be adjusted hours:

Town Offices

Friday, December 23rd: 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Monday, December 26th: CLOSED

Library

Friday, December 23rd: CLOSED

Saturday, December 24th: CLOSED

Monday, December 26th: CLOSED

Emergency services, winter snow and ice removal, and other emergency work will be provided as usual. May your days be merry, bright, and safe!



Town News Interviews: Boards and Commissions Edition

Colchester Selectboard

The Colchester Selectboard serves as the Town's elected, legislative body and performs all duties required of a town Selectboard under the laws of the State of Vermont and the Town Charter. Duties include holding at least one meeting a month, enacting ordinances, regulations, and policies, and stewarding Town property. The Selectboard also functions like a board of directors overseeing the Town Manager who implements the voter approved budgets and capital plans which fund town services, capital maintenance and projects. The Selectboard appoints most non-elected local officials, develops items for voter consideration on Town Meeting Day such as the budget, capital items and Charter changes.

Your Town Selectboard is made up of five members: Pam Loranger, Chair; Tom Mulcahy, Vice Chair; Jacki Murphy, Clerk; Charlie Papillo, Member; Maureen P. Dakin, Member. They all have been actively engaged with the Town for many years and recognize their positions in helping to serve the residents of Colchester and strengthen the community.

Some tasks put before the Selectboard are reoccurring, such as licensing approvals, some of which are difficult and emotional, like viscous dog hearings. Others involve months or years of work with Town staff and consideration of Colchester residents’ input regarding larger Town projects, such as the Malletts Bay Sewer Project or the Colchester Recreation Center. Around this time of the year, the Selectboard is busy with the Town Municipal Services Budget, working with Town staff to produce an affordable budget to maintain the current level of services being offered to the public while also responding to other increased costs and resource needs.



When asked what being a part of the Colchester Selectboard means to them, each member admired the Town they represent, those they work with, and the wonderful community they get to be a part of:

“Colchester is blessed to have an exceptional team of talented, dedicated staff and volunteers. I am honored and enriched to work with them. As a Selectboard member, I have the opportunity every day to learn something new about our Town and how we can best serve our community.”
– Selectboard Chair Pam Loranger

“I have been a resident in Colchester for the last 50 year and have had the opportunity to watch our Town grow and prosper during that time. It has been my privilege as one of its representatives to guide it through easy and difficult periods as we progress into our future. In doing so, I have worked beside a very talented group of Town employees, many dedicated volunteers, and countless individuals just interested in participating in our community as we grow together. I would not choose another place to live or raise a family—we are truly blessed to be here.” – Selectboard Vice Chair Tom Mulcahy

“As a member of the Selectboard I am continually impressed with the level of service and professionalism from Town staff. When I was first elected, I was amazed at the number and range of issues that were considered throughout the year, and I had much to learn. The Selectboard works hard to carefully consider the many issues coming before it and to make the decisions that help Colchester to be the best community it can be.” – Selectboard Clerk Jacki Murphy

“Colchester has been my home for more than 30 years. I am honored and happy to give back to and represent my town and its citizens. It is a pleasure to work beside a dedicated, hardworking staff and fellow board members concentrating on making Colchester a great place to live.” – Selectboard Member Charlie Papillo

“Serving as a Town representative is challenging and rewarding. It is challenging in that every decision must be made with the best interest of the entire Town in mind, and rewarding in that we have excellent professionals leading the way. I particularly appreciate when citizens contact me about whatever’s on their mind. Involved citizens are the hallmark of a strong community.” – Selectboard Member Maureen P. Dakin

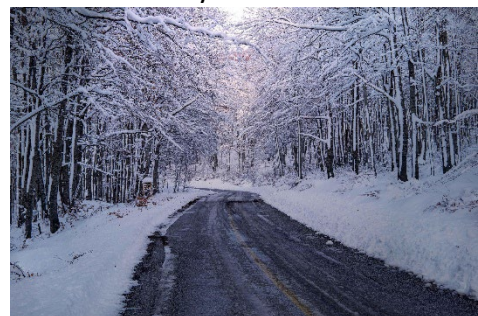
Community members are welcome to attend Selectboard meetings, generally the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 PM with additional meetings as posted. You may also view live or recorded Selectboard meetings on [LCATV](#) or find [upcoming agendas](#) or [past minutes](#) online.

Colchester residents always have the chance to share their comments, questions, or concerns with the Selectboard, either in-person at their monthly meetings during the “Citizens to Be Heard” portion, or via email, either to members directly or by emailing a note of up to 1,000 words to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and name and address in the body of the email. These emails will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to their next meeting and included in the information packet at the following meeting.

Holiday Safety Tips from Colchester Police Department

The holiday season is upon us. We hope that whatever holiday you celebrate, you are able to do so in the comfort of friends and family. Some thoughts for a safe holiday season:

- * Celebrate responsibly – designate a driver or use alternate transportation if drinking.
- * Road conditions change quickly. Plan extra time to get to your destination.
- * Lock your vehicle. Remove valuables.
- * Use caution with telephone solicitations. If you have doubts, hang up and call us at 802-264-5555.



Department Updates



Operation Fire Cuffs

The Colchester Fire Department will be participating in the annual Operation Fire Cuffs toy drive this year. CFD will be teaming up with approximately 30 other agencies from all over Vermont to collect toys and gift cards for the children at the University of Vermont

Children's hospital. **Colchester Fire will have three drop off locations this year:**

- The Malletts Bay Station, 844 Church Road, is available for drop-offs M-F, 8am-4pm
- The Colchester Center Station, 483 Main Street, is available for drop-offs T-Th, 8am-4pm
- A bin in the lobby of the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, is available for donations, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm
- **The Colchester Police Department is also participating and is accepting donations 24/7 at 835 Blakely Road until December 19th.**

(please keep in mind that the first two locations are active firehouses and somebody may not be available to answer the door at all times)

We are looking for donations of new, unwrapped toys or gift cards for children, ranging from infants to teenagers, to be **dropped off any time before Tuesday, December 20th**. That afternoon, all of the participating agencies will send an emergency apparatus filled with toys to the hospital to deliver the toys with Santa Claus.

For more information, or to schedule a specific drop off time please contact Firefighter Cootware via email at tcootware@colchestervt.gov.

Parks & Recreation

The 2023 Winter Brochure is now out! This brochure covers the months of January-May. Register online here: <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/colchester-vt/catalog>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, January 10th, 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).



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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

Conservation Commission: Monday, January 16th, 6:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room.

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.

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Now follow us on Instagram! <https://www.instagram.com/townofcolchestervt/>

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