

## For the Week of January 30, 2023

### Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

In a little over a month, Town Meeting Day will be here! The Annual Town Meeting will resume in-person this year, and will be held Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Colchester High School Auditorium. The ballot items, to be voted on by Australian Ballot, can be found at the following link, but will also be presented at the Annual Town Meeting:

<https://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>.



Voting by Australian Ballot will take place Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at Colchester High School, but early/absentee voting is also an option. In-person and early/absentee voting information can be accessed here: <https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>

Your Town staff wants you to be informed about what you're voting on, so we will also be sharing details on the ballot items throughout the month. As a new initiative, we wanted to begin by introducing the **Colchester Recreation Center** ballot item:



### What is the Colchester Recreation Center?

The Colchester Recreation Center will be considered by voters on the Town Meeting Day ballot in March 2023. The construction of the Colchester Recreation Center, a 29,427 square foot multi-generational facility, responds to a community need that has been identified over the past 20 years through multiple surveys, community outreach and engagement.

The Colchester Recreation Center will include:

- Full-size, multi-purpose gymnasium
- Elevated walking/running track
- Locker rooms
- Kitchen
- Classrooms and studio space
- Cardio/weight room

**Where will the Colchester Recreation Center be located?**

The Colchester Recreation Center will be located on the town-owned 14-acre parcel, known as the Bayside/Hazelett property, with proposed access on Blakely Road, directly across from Laker Lane. This property was purchased in 2004 with voter approval.



**What will the cost be for the Colchester Recreation Center?**

The project will cost \$15,907,000, which includes site development, building, equipment and solar arrays.

**How will it be paid for?**

This project will be paid entirely from current and future proceeds generated from the existing 1% Local Option Tax (LOT). There is currently \$9,000,000 in available proceeds from the LOT, and to cover the remaining, a \$6,907,000 loan will be repaid from LOT proceeds over a ten-year period. **NO PROPERTY TAXES** will be needed for this project:

**\$9,000,000** in available proceeds from the LOT as of 6/30/2023  
**+\$6,907,000** loan will be paid from LOT proceeds over a ten-year period  
**\$15,907,000** paid entirely from LOT proceeds

**What is the LOT?**

The 1% Local Option Tax is a tax applied to all taxable goods sold in the Town of Colchester and was approved by Colchester voters on Town Meeting Day 2015. LOT proceeds may only be used for voter approved projects.

**How will operating costs be paid for once the Recreation Center is open?**

Membership and facility use fees will cover the operating expenses.

**NO PROPERTY TAXES** will be used for operating costs of the Colchester Recreation Center.



For more information, please contact Glen Cuttitta at [gcuttitta@colchestervt.gov](mailto:gcuttitta@colchestervt.gov) or 802-264-5640 or visit <https://colchestervt.info/Rec-Ctr>.

**Stay Informed on Progress of the Malletts Bay Sewer Project:**

At the January 24, 2023 Selectboard Meeting, [the Selectboard was informed](#) of a new webpage to be added to the Town website that would provide current information regarding the Malletts Bay Sewer Project.



As work on the Malletts Bay Sewer Project is ongoing, with the first phases of construction currently planned for 2024, this informational webpage will be updated as needed over the next 18 to 24 months to keep the community informed on the progress of the project and answer typical questions:

<https://colchestervt.gov/3291/Malletts-Bay-Sewer>

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**Department Updates**

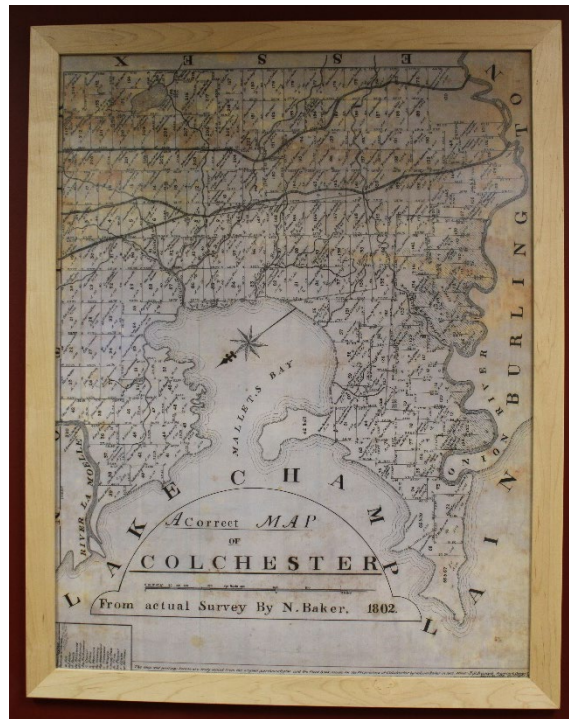


**Parks & Recreation:** Mark your calendars for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival happening from Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 until Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Bracelets for this winter tradition cost \$7.00 and are required by all in attendance over the age of two. Review the full schedule of events here:

<https://colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival>

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**Town Clerk's Office:** The Town Clerk's Office has received a gift of a reproduced 1802 Colchester map, which is still used by surveyors today. Warren Robenstien, a long-time Colchester resident who may have surveyed most of Colchester if not the whole of Chittenden County in his long career, donated the map to the Town. He had it reproduced in large scale and solicited help from another long-time Colchester resident and craftsman to frame it. Thank you Warren!



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## Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, February 14th, 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)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, February 7th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, February 8th, 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](mailto:zmaia@colchestervt.gov) or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, February 16th, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

**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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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)