

**For the Week of March 6, 2023
Part 2**

**Letter of Support for the Colchester Recreation Center from the Colchester
Library Board of Trustees:**



Burnham Memorial Library

898 Main Street • Route 2A • Colchester, Vermont • 05446 • 802.264.5660

www.colchestervt.gov

November 21, 2022

Dear Glen Cuttitta and members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,

Thank you for presenting the recreation center plan at our November meeting.

We are excited for and enthusiastically support Colchester's new community space for recreation, exercise, learning, and gathering. Your attention to the many aspects of planning, including thorough consideration of location, fiscal responsibility, and incorporating residents' input, culminated in a plan for a recreation center that will be enjoyed for years to come. We thank everyone involved for their hard work, employees of your department and advisory board members past and present. This facility will be a fantastic addition to our community.

With gratitude for your commitment and service to Colchester residents,
The Burnham Memorial Library Board of Trustees

Toni Josey, Chair

cc: Aaron Frank, Pam Loring, and the Colchester Selectboard

Letter of Support for the Colchester Recreation Center from the Colchester Historical Society:



Colchester Historical Society
828 Main Street
Colchester, VT 05446

February 22, 2023

Dear Colchester Citizens,

The people of the Town of Colchester have enjoyed an amazing history of recreational facilities, programs, and activities and all that they have to offer. These include Airport Park (once an actual airport), Bayside Park (historically Clarey's Bayside Pavilion), Fort Ethan Allen Park (once the parade ground for an active U.S. military facility), the ever-popular Causeway (originally a railroad line), and several more.

Long-time active Historical Society member Inge Schaefer (author of two local history books) has helped establish the Friends of the Colchester Recreation Center. This group is committed to assisting the proposed recreational center to be a viable, low-cost facility serving the recreational needs of all Colchester residents. Another long-time Historical Society volunteer (chairman of the team that saved the historic Log Schoolhouse at Airport Park), has also advocated for this new recreational facility.

The leadership team of the Colchester Historical Society endorses the development of the proposed recreational center at the Bayside-Hazelett site. It is history in the making.

Bonnie L. Potter, President
Colchester Historical Society

Letter of Support for the Colchester Recreation Center from Senator Dick Mazza:

Senator Dick Mazza
777 West Lakeshore Drive
Colchester, VT 05446

To the Colchester Community:

I am writing to encourage your support for the Colchester Recreation Center.


The Colchester Recreation Center has been in the works for over 20 years. The Bayside/Hazlett property is in a central location with access to schools and Bayside Park. Colchester voters approved the purchase of this property in 2004 after surveys and community forums indicated a need for indoor recreation and gathering space.

The Colchester Recreation Center is funded responsibly. Colchester voters approved a 1% Local Option Sales Tax in 2015, to be used only for voter approved capital projects. The existing Local Option Tax—paid mostly by out of town residents—will fund the site development, building and equipment. The Colchester Recreation Center’s operational costs will be funded with user and rental fees. **Your taxes will not increase because of the building or the operations of the recreation center.**

The recreation center will have public events, as well as free and fee-based programming, so that all members of the community can access the Colchester Recreation Center. The recreation center will include a walking/running track, multi-purpose gymnasium, a fitness/cardio facility, and fitness class spaces. The Colchester Recreation Center will also provide space for passive recreation such as games, activities and gatherings.

Colchester has a reputation of being a recreation-based community. Our outdoor facilities are heavily used and well-maintained. Over the last 20 years, many community members have been working hard to create a year-round community recreation facility that meets the need of all residents. I fully endorse the Colchester Recreation Center and hope that you will support it as well by voting YES on March 7.

Respectfully,



Senator Dick Mazza