

For the Week of March 13, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



Your Town staff would like to thank everyone who attended and voted at the Annual Town Meetings and voted on Town elections and ballot items. It is great to see our residents participate in municipal government.

Thank you to the Colchester High School for hosting the Town Meeting. We would also like to acknowledge the Town Clerk's office, who as our election officials; they start work on Election Day at 6:30AM and stay until the votes are tabulated and preliminary results sent to the Secretary of State. Thank you also to our Justices of the Peace, who are also election officials, and our residents who volunteered at the high school gym on Election Day.

Clarifying information on the Colchester Recreation Center

The Colchester Recreation Center is **not** subject to Act 250. In 2015, the Town asked Lou Borie, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Board (which oversees Act 250 Statewide) whether the proposed project would fall under the authority or jurisdiction of Act 250. Mr. Borie replied citing that Act 250 only applies to municipal projects “involving more than 10 acres,” with “involved land” being defined as “to be physically altered and upon which construction of improvements will occur for state, county, or municipal purposes.” He also shared that court cases had declared that ““Involved land" for state, county and municipal projects means only land that is physically disturbed by the project.”

In 2020 the Town followed up with Rachel Lomonaco, District Coordinator Environmental Commission District #4, also known as the Regional Act 250 Coordinator. We provided a plan to develop 9.9 acres—much more than the five acres the recreation center project approved by the voters. Ms. Lomonaco **noted that** there were “No Act 250 permits found for this property” and that **an Act 250 permit was not required. The basis for the decision was “Provided that the proposed municipal project includes less than 10 acres of disturbance, the project does not constitute development pursuant to 10 V.S.A. §6001(3)(A)(v).”** More information is available [here](#).

Thank You Letter from the Colchester Selectboard:

March 9, 2023

Dear Colchester Residents:

On behalf of the Selectboard, I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2024 Municipal Services Budget and the Colchester Recreation Center.

As your Selectboard, we worked to prepare a municipal services budget that maintains baseline services, while also addressing certain additional resource needs, including those in IT due to increased cybersecurity threats, and those in the Police Department, including a Civilian Evidence Technician position and data storage and transmission for Body Worn Cameras and Digital Evidence Software. Overall increased costs in several areas of business also required us to guide Town staff to budget with the priority of maintaining current services rather than adding any new services for the upcoming year.

The Colchester Recreation Center will be an important addition to our community—after 20 years of work, our community will have a year-round, multi-generational space to gather and recreate. We are grateful to the many community members and staff who have put in so many hours over the years to develop this vision for the Town, and we thank all those who supported this project. This project will offer expansive recreational and community-building opportunities for years to come.

We are proud of the Town's work and everything that has been accomplished this year, but it is not possible without input and help from our residents, businesses, board and commission members, volunteers and employees, so thank you again. We additionally thank the Town Clerk's Office, and our volunteer election officials for running an efficient and open election process. The Selectboard and I look forward to continued efforts that will ensure our quality of life, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities, and environmental stewardship, both now and for future generations.

Once more, thank you to all who participated in Town meeting and voted this year. We are so truly grateful to serve you!

Sincerely,



Pam Loranger
Colchester Selectboard Chair

Colchester Blooms! Donations

For over a decade, a committee of Colchester volunteers, Colchester Blooms! has sought donations for the planting and maintenance of public flowerbeds at several Colchester locations—two traffic islands at the junction of Malletts Bay Ave and Blakely Road, and the entrance to the Bayside Park. This has been possible thanks to generous donations from local businesses and residents. Any amount helps us add to the beauty of Colchester.

Can we count on your support so Colchester will bloom this summer?

Checks should be made payable to the "Town of Colchester" and sent to Colchester Blooms! c/o Liz Hamlin-Volz, 123 Holy Cross Road, Colchester, Vermont 05446. **Please include “Conservation Reserve Fund” on the memo line of your check, so the money is allocated properly.** All deductions are tax-deductible, and a receipt will be provided.



Questions? Contact Theresa Carroll at

tc Carroll110@gmail.com or visit <https://colchestervt.gov/3293/Colchester-Blooms>

Thanks for your support in advance!

Department Updates

Clerk’s Office: Colchester Property Taxes

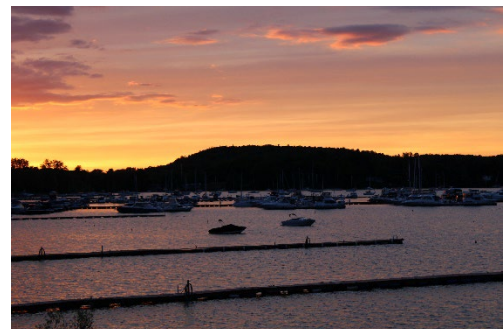
The third installment is **due Wednesday, March 15th**. For more information, please visit: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/329/Property-Taxes>. For more information on ways to pay taxes and office hours, please visit: <https://colchestervt.gov/330/Payment-Options>.

If you have any questions or need the amount due, please contact us at townclerk@colchestervt.gov or 802-264-5520.

Parks & Recreation:

A.C.E. Before and After School Child Care Registration for the School Year 2023-2024 **opens March 20, 2023**. Current A.C.E. families have **until March 16 to reregister**. Online registration is not available.

Click Here for 2023-24 A.C.E. Registration Form:
<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7924/23-24-ACE-Registration-Form-fillable>



The **Summer Brochure** is also now available:

<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7865/2023-Summer-Brochure>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you **SHARE YOUR ADDRESS**. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

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

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, March 16, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

Conservation Commission: Monday, March 20, 6:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

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