

For the Week of March 20, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Your Town Staff congratulates, welcomes, and thanks Town Meeting Day candidates!



Congratulations to Jacki Murphy and Maureen P. Dakin on their re-election to the Selectboard. We also congratulate Angela MacDonald for her election as Town Lister, Scott Barrett on his re-election as Town Moderator, and Leora Black on her re-election to the Library Board of Trustees.

Your Selectboard, Library Trustees, Listers and Moderator are not elected by party according to Vermont State Statutes.

The responsibilities of local government, from speed limits to stormwater and sewer services to property valuation to library policy, are specific to our responsibilities in our Charter and State Statutes, public input, and the willingness and ability of voters to fund local services.

Voting and running for office are two ways to participate in local government. We also have events, meetings and ongoing opportunities. The time commitments range from "one-time and done" at special events, to being on-call for emergencies for Colchester Fire and Colchester Rescue, which are primarily staffed by volunteers, and Colchester Technical Rescue, which is completely staffed by volunteers, to boards and commissions (see links for more information):

- 85 elected and appointed members of [boards and commissions](#)
- 43 firefighter [volunteers](#)
- 28 rescue [volunteers](#)
- 24 technical rescue [volunteers](#)
- 135 recreation events / youth league [volunteers](#)
- 33 library [volunteers](#)
- 80 election [volunteers](#)
- Hundreds of volunteers participate annually for [Green-Up Day](#), which is coordinated by the Conservation Commission and involves the Town's Police Department, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation
- Community groups labeling and maintaining stormwater drains, or the ["Adopt-A-Drain"](#) program, helps keep storm drains clean and efficient

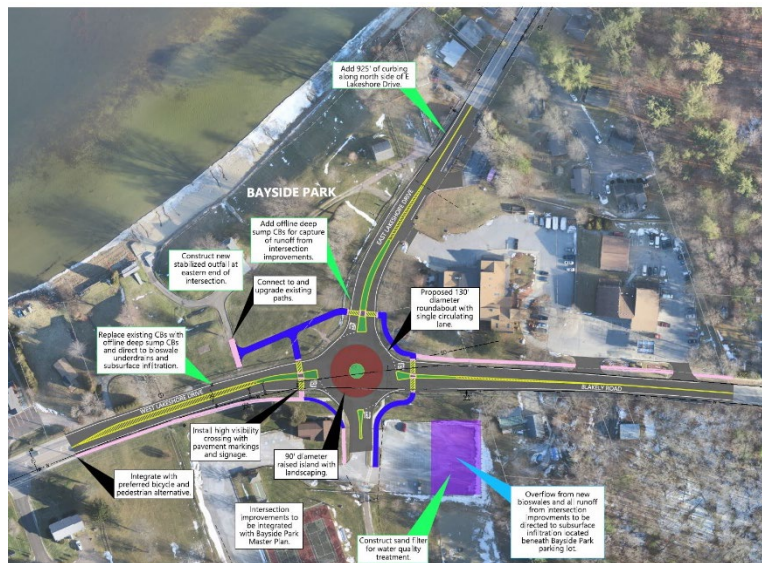
There are also volunteer opportunities specifically for youth:

- **Get Engaged Student Volunteer Program:** Since 2016, the Town of Colchester has invited Colchester High School 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 student terms or join the board/commission as an adult member at the age of 18. Participation in the program can count toward the student’s volunteer work required for graduation.
- **Fire Department Cadet Members:** Cadet Firefighters train with the department and receive certifications but do not directly engage in operations that are immediate danger to life and health. Cadet firefighters may obtain and maintain certifications in Emergency Medical Response and perform these duties for the Department.
- **Youth Rescue Volunteers:** Similarly to volunteering with the Fire Department, youth members can train with the Rescue department and earn Emergency Medical Response certificates. Several current volunteer members of Colchester Rescue began as youth members.
- **Youth Library Volunteers:** Colchester’s Burnham Library has three distinct roles for Teen Volunteers in the areas of shelving books, cleaning, and painting.

Department Updates

Public Works: Bayside Intersection Update

In 2017, the Malletts Bay Scoping Study was completed, which evaluated multiple alternatives for various stormwater and transportation improvements within Malletts Bay. This study recommended the construction of a single lane roundabout at the Bayside Intersection, which was then ultimately adopted by the Selectboard as the preferred alternative. Since that time, the Department of Public Works staff have been working to advance the project, with the majority of their efforts related to discussions with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to find a way to fund the 3.5-million-dollar project. About eighteen months ago, design work for the project began by using local funds.



Recently though, a grant agreement was executed with VTrans for \$250,000 to cover the design, permitting, and right-of-way for the project. The grant agreement also included a commitment from VTrans to fund the entire construction once the environmental clearances are obtained, which are expected to be completed in about a year. This project will likely go under construction in 2026 to avoid conflicts with the planned construction of the Malletts Bay Sewer Project.

The Town is served by a major North-South transportation corridor, US Route 7, and a major East-West transportation corridor, Route 127. From a congestion management standpoint, the limiting factor on these corridors are the intersections. These include Exit 16, Severance Corners, U.S Rt. 7/Bay Road/Creek Road, Exit 17, Blakely Road and Laker Lane, the Bayside Intersection, Prim and West Lakeshore Drive, and the intersection of Prim Road and Porters Point Road. Of the eight major intersections along these corridors, the Bayside Intersection was the last remaining intersection that needed funding. At this time, two of these intersections have been completed, one is under construction, and the remaining five intersections will be completed within the next three years. Collectively, these improvements represent a \$66 million investment into the transportation system within Colchester, with only \$562,000 coming from local funding.

Town Clerk’s Office: *Attention Colchester dog parent!* It’s time to renew your dog’s annual license.

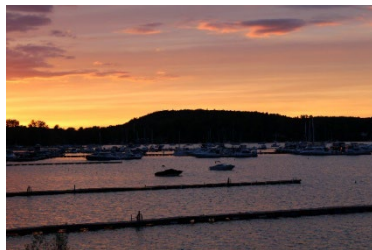
Fees:

Fixed dog	\$15.00
Non-fixed dog	\$20.00
To avoid an additional \$5.00 fee, license your dog before April 1st.	



The state of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed with their town. A current rabies certificate along with proof of spay/neuter and fee is needed to issue the license and tag.

Licensing can be completed online, by mail or in person. For more information go to <https://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> or call 802-264-5520.



Parks & Recreation: A.C.E. Registration for the School Year 2023-2024 **opens today**. 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 28, 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

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

Development Review Board: Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m. 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 or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

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