

For the Week of August 14, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

On behalf of the Selectboard, we want to extend our thoughts and sincere condolences to Nicholas Ringuette's family and everyone impacted by the tragic car crash at U.S. Route 2 and Clay Point Rd.

The Colchester Selectboard understands the gravity of the issue and will hold a public hearing on safety of the U.S. Route 2 area near Clay Point Rd on August 22 at 6:30 PM, at the beginning of the Selectboard meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to hear concerns and suggestions from residents. The Town will not have a proposal at this meeting.

Following this meeting, public safety and public works staff from the Town will draft a recommendation for the Selectboard. The Selectboard will then consider the recommendation and any public input on that recommendation at a future Selectboard meeting. Based on the information received, the Selectboard will decide whether to submit a request to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, as U.S. Route 2 is a state highway, and will determine the contents of such a request.

Calling all artisans and crafters!

The Town of Colchester will be sponsoring a fall market at Severance Corners highlighting our local businesses, artisans, music, and food trucks. Activities for kids will also be part of this event.

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 2023

(Rain Date: Sept. 17)

11 AM – 3 PM

Severance Green



There is no cost to vendors to participate in the event, and all proceeds from your sales will remain yours. If you are interested in being a vendor, please email atebeau@colchestervt.gov for the application. We will be supplying you with set-up information prior to September 16th.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kathi O'Reilly, Director of Economic Development at koreilly@colchestervt.gov or 802-264-5508.

We look forward to seeing you as a vendor or as a supporter of our great businesses!

Town News Interviews

Planning and Zoning Internship Program

Want to know more about interning with departments within the Town? Planning and Zoning Director Cathyann LaRose explains the program and its history:



What is the Planning and Zoning Internship Program?

The Town has participated for several years as a partner in the University of Vermont's Perennial Summer Internship program. This program allows the Town to post a position with a work plan, for which interested students can apply and interview. The University pays the first 70 hours of a student's summer work, with the Town covering the remainder. These typically run from May to August, and while we typically hire one intern each summer, this summer we partnered with two.

What kind of projects do interns work on?

Interns work on a variety of projects that are designed to meet department needs and student interests and skill sets. For example, those students with coursework in map-making will be able to put those skills to work helping the Town create maps for special projects. Students often come with natural resource interests and may be involved in research or writing of energy, open space, or other planning projects.

What have past interns contributed to the department and what are current interns learning and/or providing support with?

Last year's summer intern was wonderful and assisted us with a variety of projects: understanding costs associated with solar panel installations, collating responses to a visual preference survey for buildings along the lakeshore, formatting our development regulations, and starting the outline of our next open space plan. Our student interns this summer are continuing work on the open space plan, performing some much-needed data-mining and mapping exercises, and working on some other regulatory projects including food trucks, parking reduction strategies, and lot types. They're also working to organize action items from our Town Plan to help keep us on track with the work identified there.

How does someone apply for an internship with the department?

At this time, we work directly with UVM. Our experience has always been positive, and the cost-sharing they offer makes the partnership even more attractive. They also provide mentorship to the students.

This year’s summer interns, Kari Pelletiere and Jake Miller, explain their interests and experiences in the program thus far:

How did you find out about this internship and why did you seek it out?

“The Rubenstein School has a Perennial Internship Program that helps to connect students to local organizations and departments that are specifically geared towards tackling environmental problems or related fields. I applied for this internship specifically because it seemed like a really neat opportunity to see how a lot of the environmental concerns that I have been learning about in my classes can be directly addressed through local regulations and processes.” – Kari Pelletiere



“I got weekly emails from the UVM Perennial internship program featuring different internships, and I saw this one in one of those emails. I wanted to land an interesting and unique internship for this summer, and this one fit the bill. After reading through the internship objectives and projects, I knew I wanted to apply.” – Jake Miller

What have you enjoyed about your internship experience?

“I’ve enjoyed diving into various parts of planning, like how parking is regulated, which initially appeared to be pretty simple, though from further investigation, is much more complex. Working through how strategies incorporated in other towns and cities could apply to Colchester and its needs is super interesting to me.” – Kari Pelletiere

“Firstly, I have enjoyed the in-person experience of working in an office and being around coworkers. During Covid, much of my work was online, so it’s been a nice and desired change of pace. I also really enjoy the fact that we get to choose between the projects that interest us most. Working individually, as well as with the other intern, Kari, on particular projects of interest has been great so far. I have had guidance and learned from others, but also have had the freedom and independence to work on certain projects myself. This balance is something that I have enjoyed very much.” – Jake Miller

What else are you looking forward to gaining from this internship?

“I am looking forward to consolidating and sharing the research that Jake and I have done about open space planning and brainstorming ideas and strategies to assist the Town in drafting a new Open Space plan in the next couple of years.” – Kari Pelletiere

“I am looking forward to gaining a new perspective on Planning and Zoning, and learning the little things people would not usually consider. I also am looking forward to sharpening my research, communication, and writing skills. Producing something that the department can utilize in the future would be great as well.” – Jake Miller

Any plans to incorporate what you gain from this internship in your future career path?

“While I am still very uncertain about what I want to do after college, I know that I can take a lot of the information about state and local bylaws and regulations with me to other potential jobs. As well, all of the regulatory and nonregulatory strategies that I have been researching this summer can apply to other communities and can be helpful tools to use down the road.” – Kari Pelletiere

“The different skills I am gaining from this internship, such as research, communication, writing, and time management skills, are all going to be helpful in a variety of future career paths I could choose. Showing up to the office at a certain time and working on particular projects each week is definitely giving me a good feel for what a potential future career could look like. I hope to incorporate all of the skills I gain to my future career path in some way, even if they are not explicitly relevant.” – Jake Miller

Department Updates

Clerk’s Office: Colchester Property Taxes

The first installment is due Tuesday, August 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.

Burnham Memorial Library: Upcoming Adult/Senior Programs for Summer

Afternoon Book Discussion

Tuesday, August 15th at 1 p.m.—*Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham
Copies of the book are available to borrow at the library.



Trivia Night

Tuesday, August 15th at 6 p.m.

Join us for some friendly competition to test your knowledge over the course of three rounds on a variety of topics. Play solo or as part of a small team, with a chance for a prize!

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, August 22, 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, August 17, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, August 29, 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.

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

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