

**Colchester's Weekly Town News**  
For the Week Ending June 6, 2014

**While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:**

**Town Manager's Office—Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

We held an employee picnic to recognize twenty employees having over ten years of service to the Town. I am privileged to work with a hardworking, dedicated, loyal, and talented group of individuals who have the Town's best interests in mind every day.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5509.

**Economic Development Department—Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

Highlights of the activities of the Economic Development Department this week include the following initiatives:

- Attended Colchester Community Development Corporation's monthly meeting and will be working with them on future goals and priorities
- Worked with a developer on a sign approval
- Met with landowner on possible scenarios for future use and design
- Continue to work with a developer and local company on future expansion
- Held meeting with local businesses, developer, and landowner for possible development of an energy park
- Met with the local small business development center to discuss how we can work together for the Colchester business community
- Met with the [Vermont Chamber of Commerce](#) to investigate possible marketing opportunities
- Met with local businesses to introduce services we can provide
- Met with logo committee—finalizing logo and will present to [Colchester Selectboard](#) in June
- Worked on website and exploring future design, platforms, etc.
- Finalized all scripts for five new videos that will be filmed in June
- Attended the Vermont Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo
- Attended the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission presentation on Exit 17 alternatives
- Working with CCTA on marketing and awareness campaign for new bus service route

For more information about the Economic Development Department, please visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/CommEconomicDev/index.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5508.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

## **Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director**

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Department reports the following for the week ending June 6, 2014:

The department recently issued permits for a 24' x 48' office space and materials lab at Whitcomb's Quarry at Exit 16 and an interior fit-up of Cynosure's existing office space to a biodiagnostics testing lab at 480 Hercules Drive.

The [Colchester Development Review Board](#) met on May 28 and approved the following projects:

- 1) Sketch plan for the Hampton Inn at Exit 16 for a two-lot subdivision
- 2) Site plan for Redpath Holdings for a new a 9,900-square-foot office / warehouse on Lot One at Brentwood Park
- 3) Variance application of Joe Bauer for an addition to seasonal home at 19 Irish Cove Road
- 4) Sketch plan of Mathew and Kristan Bartle and Daniel and Christie Fitzgerald for a four-unit PUD resulting in three new single-family homes on 190 and 172 Watkins Road.

The Development Review Board will meet on June 25 to consider the following projects:

- 1) Conditional use and site plan applications of Neil Gardner for a three-unit extended-stay hotel at 76 West Lakeshore Drive
- 2) Site plan and conditional-use applications of Rathe Salvage for the construction of a 4,500-square-foot salvage company office and storage building
- 3) Final plat amendment of Bayridge Estates Condominium Association for relief from a condition prohibiting watercraft located at 1172 East Lakeshore Drive
- 4) Site plan application of SP Cove LLC, Mark Saba, and Gerald Deforge to amend a previously approved marina at 278 West Lakeshore Drive and 61 Jakes Place.

The [Colchester Planning Commission](#) met on May 28 to hear a request for changes to the sign regulations to allow for larger monument signs for the Water Tower Hill business park. The commission voted to move this request, as well as other "housekeeping items" to the zoning regulations, to a public hearing. Once work on this supplement to the zoning regulations is complete, the commission will take up shorelands and floodplain zoning at summer meetings. The Town of Colchester has applied for delegation from the statewide shoreland regulations due to go into effect on July 1. It is expected that Colchester will receive this delegation with few, if any, changes needed to the Town's existing regulations.

**A reminder that all temporary signs need to be renewed on or before July 1.**

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/planningZHome.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5600.

## **Public Works Department—Bryan Osborne, Director**

The Town's main sewer line on Route 15 has collapsed. The segment of line with the collapse is about 350 feet long and is an old clay tile pipe that is approximately fifteen feet deep under the middle of Route 15. Emergency bypass pumping has been implemented, and there was no disruption in service. The department has been expending a significant amount of time and resources managing this issue. A permanent bypass project is For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

currently being developed and fast tracked for this portion of the system and is expected to cost about \$200,000. Funding for this repair will come from rate-generated wastewater funds rather than property tax funding.

The expansion project for one of the two water storage tanks on Water Tower Hill is now under way. The south tank has been drained, and contractors have completed the demolition and removal. The construction of the new larger tank will now commence. This project is critical to the continued build-out of the Severance Corners Growth Center and is expected to be completed by late summer or early fall.

The [Smith Estates Emergency Storm Water Overflow Project](#) has begun. This flood protection project is designed to protect properties along East Lakeshore Drive during significant rain events that exceed the capacity of the Smith Estates Storm Water system. The work associated with this project is planned along East Lakeshore Drive from the entrance of Smith Estates to Smith Hollow. **Disruptions to the normal flow of traffic should be expected.** Variable message boards are in place advising motorists of any planned detours and temporary road closures. This project is expected to be completed by mid-July.

The Highway Division has to date placed over 250 tons of asphalt by hand on the Town's roadways to address the severe damage sustained from this past winter. At this time, it is expected that both East Lakeshore Drive and Colchester Point Road will be completely resurfaced, with the work to be completed toward the end of the summer.

The department has been successful in securing a \$75,000 grant for the design of new sidewalks on Water Tower Hill. With the continued build-out of this planned commercial district, a significant number of pedestrians are currently using Mountain View Road. This grant award brings the department's 2014 total grant procurement to \$250,000 for critical public infrastructure improvements throughout the community.

The engineering and design work, as well as right-of-way acquisition efforts, are continuing on the [Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Replacement Project](#), the [West Lakeshore Drive Multiuse Path Project](#), the [River Road Sidewalk Project](#), the [East Road Culvert Replacement Project](#), and the [Malletts Bay Avenue Culvert Replacement Project](#). These projects have an estimated cost of approximately \$2.3 million. To date, approximately \$1.1 million have been secured in state and federal grants for these projects, reducing the local share to about 52 percent.

A facility space-planning assessment is being completed to determine the most cost-effective plan to address future facility space needs for the Town. The assessment is focused on the [Burnham Memorial Library](#), the [Colchester Meeting House](#), and the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance facilities located at [Airport Park](#). The report is expected to be completed within the next month.

A request for proposals has been completed to conduct a comprehensive energy audit of all of the Town's public facilities. The audit will identify any possible energy cost reductions or efficiencies within the Town's facilities, along with a cost-benefit analysis associated with possible improvements. The RFP is expected to be released within the next month.

The department has renegotiated vendor contracts for janitorial services and other building maintenance contracts, reducing the annual cost of these services by approximately \$11,000 per year.

The department has recently completed a major rewrite of the Town's wastewater ordinances. The proposed ordinance amendments are designed to better align the Town's wastewater allocation policies with current and

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future land-use planning. The proposed ordinance amendments are expected to be reviewed by the Colchester Selectboard at their June 10 meeting.

Working with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, the department recently completed a comprehensive planning study for future traffic improvements at Exit 17. The planned improvements include the construction of a new southbound on-ramp, the reconstruction and expansion of the US Routes 2 & 7 intersection, and improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists. At its last meeting, the selectboard unanimously approved the recommend plans, which are estimated at approximately \$17 million. The project will be completed and funded by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and is expected to take several years to complete.

Earlier this week, the Chittenden County Technical Advisory Committee to the CCRPC, chaired by the Colchester Public Works director, unanimously approved the proposed FY'15–FY'18 Transportation Improvement Program, containing a total of approximately \$47 million in funding for transportation investment within the Town of Colchester. Once approved by the CCRPC board, the plan will be forwarded to the state for consideration by the legislature.

The Town and the engineering firm of [Aldrich + Elliott, PC](#) have received the Grand Award by the [American Council of Engineering Companies of Vermont](#) for its work on the [Town of Colchester's Integrated Water Resources Management Plan](#). The Public Works Department had obtained a \$1.5 million EPA grant to fund the study and has spent the last four years working on the project. The plan includes a more comprehensive approach to managing wastewater, stormwater, and the community's natural resources.

For more information about the Public Works Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PublicWorks/Home.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5620.

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