

For the Week of September 5, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Thank you Doug Landry for over 30 years of service to Colchester! Doug began working for the Town of Colchester in 1989 as a Mechanic's Helper. He later became a mechanic, and then eventually a Wastewater System Maintenance Technician. With the formation of the Department of Public Works in 1991, Doug was one of three original public works employees remaining.



Doug gained and exercised a high level of skills maintaining our wastewater system and pump stations and as a mechanic —maintaining vehicles and equipment used by departments from public safety and parks to public works itself. He cares deeply about the maintenance of these systems and equipment—as well as his fellow employees and the community we serve. There is not much that Doug couldn't repair or maintain in high level working order.

While Doug is not retiring, he is moving on to a different work role after 34 years. We want to thank Doug for his substantial effort of the last three and a half decades and his overall service to the Town of Colchester!

On behalf of the State, we are sharing information about funding for low- and moderate-income Vermont homeowners to repair or replace their failed or inadequate on-site drinking water or wastewater systems through the ARPA Healthy Homes Initiative On-Site Program. Applications must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Please note that the funding is competitive and limited. Submission of a pre-qualification application does not guarantee a homeowner will receive funding.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- Have a failed or inadequate on-site drinking water or wastewater system (also known as wells, springs, septic systems or tanks, leach fields, drywells, or cesspools)
- Own and live on a residential property with either a single-family home or an owner-occupied, multi-family home with up to four units
- Earn a household income of less than \$80,835 per year

How to Apply and for More Information: The pre-qualification application is available here: <https://forms.office.com/g/NNzgNctNYR>. For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the

pre-qualification application and ARPA Healthy Homes On-Site funding, please visit: <https://anr.vermont.gov/document/faqs-healthy-homes-site>. Homeowners who need assistance filling out an application can apply over the phone by leaving a message for the ANR Healthy Homes Team at (802) 828-0141 or (877) 344-0354 (Toll Free). You can also reach out to the ANR Healthy Homes Team by e-mail at ANR.HealthyHomes@vermont.gov or by phone with questions.

Want to get involved in your Town? Consider volunteering on a Town Board or Commission!

See below for more information, and to complete an application, please visit and apply no later than September 29th: <https://colchestervt.gov/369/Boards-Commissions>

Cemetery Advisory Committee – Up to 3 Open Adult Member Seats

Julie Graeter, Town Clerk & Treasurer, jgraeter@colchestervt.gov

Theresa Carroll, Chair, tcarroll110@gmail.com

Meets once every three months at the Town Offices or per the agenda.

The Cemetery Advisory Committee advises the Town Staff and Selectboard on the proper operation of the Town's cemeteries, activities and properties. Members serve in an advisory role with no fiduciary responsibilities, providing non-binding strategic advice to the Selectboard and Staff on the following:

- Status and maintenance of the Town's six cemeteries: Champlain, Fort Ethan Allen, Malletts Bay, Old Methodist Church, Munson, and Village
- Modifications of rules and regulations governing the Town-owned cemeteries, including costs of interment and plots, and recommendations for expansion and landscaping
- Recommendations for which capital improvements should be made to the cemeteries and their relative priority
- Long-term planning for how to respond to future demands for cemetery services

Planning Commission – 1 Open Adult Member Seat

Cathynn Larose, Director of Planning and Zoning, 802-264-5602

Richard Paquette, Chair, Paquette12@comcast.net

Meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Town Offices at 7:00 p.m., Outer Bay Room, 3rd floor.

Currently the Planning Commission is finalizing several amendments to the Development Regulations and will likely soon begin a review of design in the Town's Growth Center (Severance Corners). The Commission also:

- Oversees revisions to the Town Zoning Regulations

- Undertakes planning studies for the long-term growth of Colchester (updating the open space plan is possible during this term)
- Updates the Town Plan (will kick off in 2024)

Conservation Commission – 1 Open Adult Member Seat

Theresa Carroll, Chair, tcarroll110@gmail.com

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd floor, or per agenda.

The Conservation Commission is concerned with the public awareness, education, and preservation of Colchester’s natural areas; water quality of rivers, ponds, and Lake Champlain; wildlife habitats; and beautification of the Town. Annual activities include:

- Green Up Day coordination
- Colchester Blooms! to raise funds for planting flowerbeds at high-traffic sites
- Maintenance of the rain garden on Holy Cross Road
- Site visits to Town natural areas to plan future projects and assess natural resources for reports to Lake Champlain Land Trust
- Attention to water quality, stream protection, conservation and related areas and responds to special project requests from Town officials
- Completed projects include: Care of the Urban Forest Project through the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program. This program assists with master tree planning and tree inventory. It also provides volunteer training in the maintenance and care of Town trees; as well as hosting the Rain Barrel Workshop
- What CCC Values: Creative thinking and new ideas regarding ways to address conservation in Colchester

Mark your Calendars!

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 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Severance Green



“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”

Department Updates

Clerk's Office: Learn How to Clean Cemetery Monuments

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9TH @ 8:00 a.m.

At Munson Cemetery

(Next door to McClure Miller Respite House on Roosevelt Hwy., Colchester, VT)

Register with the Town Clerk's Office or for more information: 802-264-5520 or townclerk@colchestervt.gov.



Before & After

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, September 26, 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

Planning Commission: Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Development Review Board: Wednesday, September 13, 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.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd floor, Outer Bay Room.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, September 21, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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