

Linda M. Hodge



First Selectman

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2009**  
**Colchester Town Hall**  
**Meeting Room 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2009 FEB 23 PM 4:00  
NANCY A. BRADY  
TOWN CLERK

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Linda Hodge, Stan Soby, Greg Cordova, Rosemary Coyle, John Malsbenden

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Caplet, Walter Cox, Pam Scheibelein, Ryan Blessing, Gregg Schuster, Robert Tarlov, Marc Tate, members of the Bacon Academy Jazz Band, Gary Avery, Mark Decker, Tim Lamp, Maggie Gosgrove, Anita Miazga, Officer Tim Edwards, Sgt. Shane Hassett, Officer Shannon Dumigan, Bruce Hayn, Bill Hettrick, John Jones, Art Standish, and other citizens

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman L. Hodge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. J. Malsbenden moved to remove item #8b, remove item #8c, renumber the remaining items under #8 consecutively, to add under item #8g "Recommendation of Commission Chair to Move William Beer (current Alternate) to full member; leaves two alternate vacancies", add a new item #8j "Commission on Aging – Move Sue Maikshilo from Alternate to full Member. Leaves a Full and Alternate Position Vacant", seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **Approve Minutes of the February 5, 2009 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting:** R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2009 Board of Selectmen regular meeting as presented, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
4. **Approve Minutes of the February 9, 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting:** R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009 Board of Selectmen special meeting as presented, seconded by S. Soby. First Selectman L. Hodge abstained. All remaining members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
5. **Approve Minutes of the February 10 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting:** R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Board of Selectmen special meeting as presented, seconded by G. Cordova. First Selectman L. Hodge abstained. All remaining members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
6. **Presentation of Proclamations to the Bacon Academy Jazz Band:** First Selectman L. Hodge presented proclamations honoring the members of the Bacon Academy Jazz Band on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.
7. **Citizen's Comments:** Susan Shrader spoke regarding her support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

Jimmy Lane spoke regarding his support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

Rick Bennet spoke regarding his support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

Karen VanHeast spoke regarding her support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

A student spoke regarding his support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

Ms. McGrath spoke regarding her support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

Ellen Weirnecki spoke regarding her support for the movement of the Bacon Academy Track Project proposal to referendum.

#### **8. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations**

- a. **Historic District Commission (filling 1 alternate vacancy; term expires 11/01/11 or filling 1 member vacancy left by Debbie Hayn; term expires 11/01/11): Theresa Hendricksen (to be interviewed):** Theresa Hendricksen was not present.
- b. **Parks & Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling member vacancy left by Kenneth Wright; term expires 11/01/12): Frank Ricci (to be interviewed):** The Board of Selectmen interviewed Frank Ricci.
- c. **Parks & Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling member vacancy left by Kenneth Wright; term expires 11/01/12): Robert P. Jones, Jr. (interviewed on 02/05/09):** The Board of Selectmen took no action; awaiting recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- d. **Parks and Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling member vacancy left by Kenneth Wright; term expires 11/01/12): Jean S. Hess-Walsh (interviewed on 02/05/09):** The Board of Selectmen took no action; awaiting recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- e. **Parks and Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling member vacancy left by Kenneth Wright; term expires 11/01/12): Melissa Kennedy (interviewed on 02/05/09):** The Board of Selectmen took no action; awaiting recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- f. **Parks and Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling member vacancy left by Kenneth Wright; term expires 11/01/12): Albert Spranzo (interviewed on 02/05/09):** The Board of Selectmen took no action; awaiting recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- g. **Historic District Commission (filling 1 alternate vacancy; term expires 11/01/11 or filling 1 member vacancy left by Debbie Hayn; term expires 11/01/11) or Parks and Recreation Commission (filling member vacancy left by Steven Ashe; term expires 11/01/10 or filling member vacancy left by Kenneth Wright; term expires 11/01/12): Andreas Bisbikos (interviewed on 02/05/09):** The Board of Selectmen took no action.

**Recommendation of Commission Chair to Move William Beer (Current Alternate) to Full Member; Leaves Two Alternate Vacancies:** R. Coyle moved to appoint William Beer from his position as an alternate to a member of the Historic District Commission, filling the member vacancy left by Debbie Hayn, with a term to expire on 11/01/11, to appoint Mike Trocchi as an alternate to the Historic District Commission, filling an alternate vacancy with a new term to expire on 11/01/11, and to appoint Linda Akerman as an alternate to the Historic District Commission, filling an alternate vacancy with a new term to expire on 11/01/11, Seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

- h. Historic District Commission (filling 1 alternate vacancy; term expires 11/01/11 or filling 1 member vacancy left by Debbie Hayn; term expires 11/01/11): Mike Trocchi (interviewed on 01/15/09):** (see action taken above under item #8g)
- i. Historic District Commission (filling 1 alternate vacancy; term expires 11/01/11 or filling 1 member vacancy left by Debbie Hayn; term expires 11/01/11): Linda Akerman (interviewed on 01/15/09):** (see action taken above under item #8g)
- j. Commission on Aging – Move Sue Maikshilo from Alternate to Full Member. Leaves a Full and Alternate Position Vacant:** R. Coyle moved to appoint Sue Maikshilo from her position as an alternate to a member of the Commission on Aging, filling the member vacancy left by Sally Carbone, for a new term to expire on 12/01/11, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**9. Budget Transfers – none**

- 10. Tax Refunds & Rebates:** After review, J. Malsbenden moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$49.50 to Gailand Smith, \$163.30 to Toyota Motor Credit Corp, \$49.15 to Frank Adams, \$148.04 to Nancy Rae Grant, \$7.59 to Thomas and Gayle Furman, \$61.08 to Audrey Saly, \$343.90 to Roger Vail, \$36.81 to Michelle O'Neill, \$24.73 to Lance Cuppett, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

**\* First Selectman L. Hodge moved item #17 to be addressed at this time in the meeting, approved by unanimous consent.**

- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation to Board of Finance Regarding Potential Bonding Items and First Selectman's 2009-10 Budget Proposal:** First Selectman L. Hodge reviewed potential items for movement to the Board of Finance to then move them to referendum. She further gave her recommendation that the Board of Selectmen forward the Bacon Academy Track Project Proposal in the amount not to exceed \$664,700, and to forward the purchase of a new fire truck, ET228 and equipment (1982) in the amount not to exceed \$701,000, to the Board of Finance to then forward these items to referendum. S. Soby moved to forward the Bacon Academy Track Project Proposal as presented in the amount not to exceed \$664,700, and to forward the purchase of a new fire truck, ET228 and equipment (1982) in the amount not to exceed \$701,000, to the Board of Finance to then forward these items to referendum, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

J. Malsbenden moved to forward the "Priority List for Potential Debt Financing for Board of Selectmen Review & Possible Approval", with the amendment of changing "Senior Center" as listed to "Senior Center/Community Center", to the Board of Finance, seconded by S. Soby. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

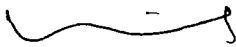
First Selectman L. Hodge reviewed the current progress of the First Selectman's 2009-10 Budget Proposal.

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Sewer & Water 2009-10 Budget Proposal (Mark Decker):** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the Sewer & Water 2009-10 Budget as presented and as recommend by the Sewer & Water Commission, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
12. **Presentation on Geographic Information System (Marc Tate):** Marc Tate presented on GIS.
13. **Discussion and Possible Action on Historic Preservation Grant Application (Nancy Bray):** R. Coyle moved to approve the Historic Preservation Grant application as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
14. **Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Commuter Lot Expansion Project Submission for Economic Stimulus Package:** Selectman J. Malsbenden reviewed the proposed commuter lot expansion project submission for the economic stimulus package. S. Soby moved to ratify the letter signed by J. Malsbenden as part of the proposed commuter lot expansion project submission for the economic stimulus package, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
15. **Discussion and Possible Action on Letter of Support for TVCCA Supportive Housing Grant Application:** G. Cordova moved to approve the letter of support for the TVCCA Supportive Housing Grant application as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
16. **Discussion and Possible Action in Regard to Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Colchester and Police Employees Union AFSCME Council 15 Local 2693T:** S. Soby moved to ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Colchester and Police Employees Union AFSCME Council 15 Local 2693T as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
18. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Colchester Police Commission:** S. Soby moved to remove James Stavola from the Colchester Police Commission pursuant to the language in the Town Charter, seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, R. Coyle voted against. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
19. **First Selectman's Report:** First Selectman L. Hodge gave her heartfelt thanks to Rosemary Coyle and John Malsbenden for stepping in as Acting First Selectman and finishing the last item remaining in the police contract. She further reported on the ongoing work on the budget, including the work on the budget forum, and the likelihood of furloughs, freezes and/or layoffs.
20. **Liaison Reports:** Selectman Soby reported on the hike at the Cohen Woodlands with the Colchester Land Trust, Colchester Historical Society, and many other attendees. Selectman Coyle reported on the Open Space Advisory Board and the Commission on Aging. Selectman Cordova reported on the Board of Education. Selectmen Malsbenden reported on the Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, and the Planning & Zoning Commission.
21. **Adjourn:** R. Coyle moved to adjourn at 9:12 p.m., seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**Attachments**

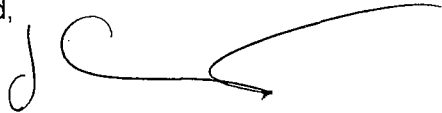
1. Report to Board of Selectman from Katherine Kosiba regarding Community Wildlife Habitat
2. Town of Colchester Board of Finance 2009/2010 Budget Schedule – “REVISED – BOE date change”
3. Memorandum dated January 30, 2009, from John Chaponis to First Selectman Linda Hodge, Cc: Board of Selectmen, regarding “2008 Grand List Totals”

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Caplet

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman



Info

Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester  
Submitted to Board of Selectmen by Katherine Kosiba, Co-chairperson

Initiative Status as of February 16, 2009

Purpose

To achieve the nationally-recognized certification - Community Wildlife Habitat - for Colchester CT through the National Wildlife Federation.

Certification Process and Point Accrual

See Overview dated October 15, 2008 provided to the Board of Selectmen.

Statement of Activity as of February 16, 2009

<u>Action</u>	<u>Points Needed</u>	<u>Prior Report</u>	<u>Points Achieved</u>
1. Registration	40-75	55	55
2. Setting and meeting educational goals	40-90	45	45
3. Setting and meeting community project goals	50-190	60	65
4. Setting and meeting project administration goals (some tasks are post-certification)	20-80	41	41
	(minimum 175 points)	<u>Subtotal</u> 201	<u>Subtotal</u> 206
Certified Individual Wildlife Habitats			
5. Home, Townhouse, Apartment (must certify at least 100 at 1 point each)	100	46	46
6. Public site, workplace, part, place of worship, other common area (must certify at least 4 at 3 points each)	12	9	9
7. Schoolyard habitats (must certify at least 3 at 5 points each)	15	0	0
8. Bonus points for each member of the Wildlife Habitat Team with their property as a Certified Wildlife Habitat site. (Current team of 7 members have certified wildlife habitats)	N/A	10	10
	(minimum 200 points specifically for habitats)	65	<u>Subtotal</u> 65
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>271</b>

Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester  
Statement of Activity as of February 16, 2009

Completed Actions

Certification goals

- There were no additional Individual Wildlife Habitat certifications this month which NWF indicated was common for this time of year.

Educational goals

- Planning is underway for our next family event and hike during school vacation. Brian Kleinman of Riverside Reptiles will be providing a program on amphibians and reptiles on April 15, 2009 (Wednesday), time to be confirmed at the Cragin Memorial Library. The corresponding hike will likely be in May. We will again look to partner with the Colchester Land Trust.
- February 18, 2009, Cragin Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m. Program: Sustainable Living at Cragin Memorial Library with Tom Worthley, UCONN Cooperative Extension Educator.
- Upcoming programs from the Colchester Garden Club in support of the project:
  - Rescheduled due to inclement weather to February 25, 2009 (Wednesday), Cragin Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m. The Colchester Garden Club and Cragin Memorial Library will co-sponsor a talk by Kasha Breau and Audubon Educator/Naturalist on "Birds and Creating a Garden Habitat"
  - March 24, 2009, Cragin Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m. The Colchester Garden Club will sponsor Deborah Kent, Landscape Designer and former local TV newscaster on Landscaping Design and incorporating native plants
  - April 30, 2009, Cragin Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m. The Colchester Garden Club and Cragin Memorial Library are co-sponsoring a talk on Butterflies and Moths in the Garden (John Himmelman, Children's Author, Naturalist and Illustrator).

Community Goals

- Co-sponsored a Family Hike on February 15, 2009 (school vacation) 1:00 p.m. with Colchester Land Trust (CLT) and Colchester Parks and Recreation Department at the Cohen Woodlands property. At least 66 adults and children attended. Information about the CLT, and community wildlife habitat initiative was available along with an activity page for families to take home (see attached).

Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester Team

- A new member has joined our core team, Jon Hipshire. He is a local resident and parent with a strong naturalist interest. We welcome Jon to our team.

Ellen Falbowski, Co-chairperson, Master Gardener

Katherine Kosiba, Co-chairperson, Colchester Garden Club-President, Master Gardener

Mary Bylone, member, Colchester Conservation Commission – board member

Cathy Shea, member, Colchester Land Trust- Secretary

Cathy Pompei, member, Colchester Garden Club – Vice-President, Connecticut Business Association- member, Rotary of Colchester – member

Karen Germain – member, Today's Child Care Association – member

Fran Brouillet, member, Colchester resident

Jon Hipshire, member, Colchester resident, parent



## **Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester**

Our goal is to obtain the nationally-recognized certification from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for Colchester through nature education, activities, projects, and townspeople certifying their properties as Individual Wildlife Habitats. For more information go to: <http://www.nwf.org/backyard>

### *Being out in Nature in Good for You*

Spending time in nature can:

- Make children more focused
  - Enhance children's emotional and social development
  - Improve school performance
  - Enhance creativity, problem solving ability, self esteem and self control
  - Improve cognitive ability
  - Reduce stress
  - Improve health
- Source: Children and Nature Network [www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)



**Green Hour** is a resource from the National Wildlife Federation for parents and caregivers who want to add the exploration of the natural world to their children's daily lives. By giving children a "Green Hour" a day -- a bit of time for **unstructured play and interaction with the natural world** -- they can be set on the path toward **physical, mental, and emotional well-being**. And at **GREENHOUR.ORG**, you'll find inspiration and ideas to do just that. Each week a fresh issue full of activities and information is published to help guide the exploration and focus on fun.

Check out some fun activities at <http://www.greenhour.org/content/activity>

## **Come to Supporting Events:**

**February 18, 7pm Cragin Library**  
Sustainable Living

**February 25, 7pm Cragin Library**  
Creating a Garden Habitat for Birds

**March 24, 7pm Cragin Library**  
Landscape Design and Native Plants  
Deborah Kent, Landscape Designer

**April 15, 7pm Cragin Library**  
Family Series – Reptiles with Brian Kleinman of Riverside Reptiles

**April – Date/Time to be announced**  
Family Series - Hike

**April 30, 7pm Cragin Library**  
Butterflies, Caterpillars and Your Garden with John Himmelman,  
children's nature author/illustrator

### **For their own safety, when hiking children should:**

- Always be within close reach and sight of guardians.
- Avoid playing in or near dense cover.
- Refrain from squealing or making other animal-like noises while hiking or playing.
- Be warned not to approach animals, especially baby animals. Never pet, feed or pose for a photo with a wild animal even if the animal appears tame.
- Not walk off-trail to avoid getting lost or doing damage to plants growing nearby.
- Keep an eye on the trail, always considering the path ahead before bounding forward so as not to trip over a tree root which may cause serious injury.

For more information on how to plan and hike safely, go to

Hike Safe:

[http://www.hikesafe.com/index.php/hiker\\_responsibility\\_code](http://www.hikesafe.com/index.php/hiker_responsibility_code)

One more thing: Please take any trash with you when you go to keep the Cohen Woodlands Park looking natural!



## Today - Discover Colchester's Cohen Woodlands

Winter is a good time to spot animal homes which are some of the things we're looking for on our hike today.

Which of these animal shelters can you and your family find:

- Pond
- Stone walls
- Mound on the ground
- Brush pile
- Leafy squirrels' nests
- Rotting logs
- Tree hollows

These shelters offer refuge from the weather and predators, and safe sites for animals to raise their young.

### After the Hike:

#### What animal shelters are in your yard?

Take a walk around your yard, and using the list above, put a check mark next to the natural shelters you have in your yard.

Do you have a bird house? A toad house?

Did you know that you only need 2 animal shelters and places for animals to raise their young as part of the Individual Wildlife Habitat certification requirements?

What do you think made each of these shelters? Confirm your answer with one of our guides.



### Making "Sense" of Nature

Humans have five senses...taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing. These senses provide our brains with information all the time. The information from our senses are like clues that help us figure out the world around us.

Which senses are you using today on the Discover Colchester – Cohen Woodlands hike and what is your experience using each? Share some of the "sense-ational" journey you took today with others.

If you want to remember and compare your "senses" each time you experience nature, consider starting a nature journal. It's easy. To learn more and get a template go to <http://www.colchesterct.gov/Pages/index> scroll down to "At A Glance", click on the *Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester* link and scroll down to Activities.

### After the Hike: Create a Sound Map

Take a piece of paper and something to write with. Find a quiet place to sit. In the center of the paper, draw yourself. Then listen carefully to the sounds around you and mark them on your paper. What do you hear? Diagram what you hear and where – both natural and man-made sounds.

Have each of your family members create their own Sound Map and compare the results. Did you each hear the same things or something different?

Info

**REVISED – BOE date change**

**Town of Colchester**

**Board of Finance 2009/2010 Budget Schedule**

NANCY A. BRAY  
TOWN CLERK

*Nancy A. Bray*

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2009 FEB 17 PM 4:20

<b>Date</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
<b>February 18, 2009</b>	<b>6:30 Budget Forum</b>
March 2, 2009	7:00 Receive Budget
March 4, 2009	7:00 Regular BOF Meeting
March 5, 2009	7:00 Health 7:30 Youth Services 8:00 Fire Department/Ambulance
March 9, 2009	7:00 Senior Center 7:30 Library 8:00 Police
March 10, 2009	7:00 Park & Recreation 7:30 Town Clerk 7:45 Social Services 8:00 Code Enforcement
March 11, 2009	6:30 Tax Collector 6:45 Tax Assessor 7:00 Public Works – Landfill, Maintenance, Road Crew, Snow
March 16, 2009	7:00 Board of Education
March 17, 2009	7:00 Meet with BOE & Town – Final Review, Set Budget & Dates
March 18, 2009	7:00 Regular BOF Meeting
<b>April 6, 2009</b>	7:00 Town Meeting to Present Budget and Hear Input
<b>April 7, 2009</b>	7:00 Town Meeting to Present Budget and Hear Input
May 5, 2009	7:00 Annual Town Meeting
May 12, 2009	Referendum

**Town of Colchester  
Office of the Assessor**

**Memorandum**

To: Linda Hodge, First Selectman  
From: John Chaponis, Assessor  
CC: Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, Maggie Cosgrove, CFO  
Date: Date: January 30, 2009  
Re: 2008 Grand List Totals

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The following is the Grand List totals for the October 1, 2008 Grand List. It equates to a **1.5% increase** over the 2007 Grand List. In increase of \$19,230,000 in assessment or \$442,500 in tax dollars based on last year's mill rate.

	<u>2007 Grand List</u>	<u>2008 Grand List</u>
Real Property:	1,103,468,080	1,130,110,930
Motor Vehicle:	108,687,870	101,870,460
Personal Property:	<u>37,328,010</u>	<u>36,731,780</u>
Net Grand List:	1,249,483,960	1,268,713,170
Prorates:	6,200,000	6,200,000
Motor Vehicle Supplement:	<u>14,100,000</u>	<u>14,100,000</u>
TOTAL:	1,269,783,960	1,289,013,170
Corrections & BAA	<u>- 1,000,000</u>	<u>- 1,000,000</u>
<b>NET GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,268,783,960</b>	<b>1,288,013,170</b>