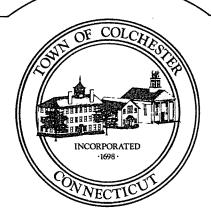
Gregg Schuster



First Selectman



Colchester Commission Chairmen Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 21, 2010 Immediately Following the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm Colchester Town Hall – Meeting Room 1

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Selectman James Ford, Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman Greg Cordova, and Selectman Rosemary Coyle.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Derrik Kennedy, Bruce Hayn, Ron Goldstein, Stephen Cohn, Merja Lehtinen, Nick Norton, Richard LeMay, Laurie Robinson, Al Hemingway, Katy Nally, Ryan Blessing, and members of the public.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Commission Updates - Commission Chairs

Board of Education - Chair Ron Goldstein reported that CMT and CAPT scores are in and the students have made progress in all areas and also that the school district received \$792,000 from the Federal government – some of which will be put to use for immediate needs while the remaining will be set aside for future use and needs.

Board of Finance - Chair Bruce Hayn reported that the budget cycle is beginning and discussion has begun on the process for this next fiscal year. Further, he sat on a panel at the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Annual Convention on October 6, 2010, and found that many other towns in the State look to Colchester for how well the Board of Finance works with and collaborates with the Boards of Selectmen and Education.

Cable Advisory Board – Merja Lehtinen reported that there will be a \$1,000 scholarship available for one Bacon Academy student this year and that an application is necessary to be considered.

Economic Development Commission - Chair Stephen Cohn reported that there is currently an opening on the commission; that the Town, with the help of the EDC, is still searching for an Economic Development Coordinator; and that the Town received a STEAP grant to revitalize Lebanon Avenue.

Historic District Commission - Chair Ellen Sharon stated that there is an opening on the Historic District Commission, but that there is no activity to report from the Commission.

Open Space Advisory Committee - Chair Nick Norton reported that the Committee is currently putting together a plan and process for accepting and evaluating open space and open space needs of the Town.

Planning and Zoning Commission – A report was read by First Selectman G. Schuster from Chair Joseph Mathieu that reported on the activity of the Commission; it is attached.

Police Commission - A report was read by First Selectman G. Schuster from Chair Glenn Morron that reported on the activity of the Commission; it is attached.

Sewer & Water Commission - Chair Richard LeMay's reported that the Commission is currently working on a Build-Out Analysis, is updating the Streamflow Regulations, the Town water plant has been inspected and there are no violations, the Well 3 bid has been approved, the Commission and Town are working on extending a water line to Cabin Road, and the Joint Facilities plant was inspected and works well.

Zoning Board of Appeals - A report was read by First Selectman G. Schuster from Chair Laurie Robinson that reported on the activity of the Board; it is attached.

No Reports Received From:

Chair Dave Anderson on the activity of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

CHVFD Tax Exemption Association

Chair Jean Stawicki's on the activity of the Commission on Aging.

Chair Falk Von Plachecki on the activity of the Conservation Commission.

Chair Genea Bell on the activity of the Ethics Commission.

Chair Robert Kennedy on the activity of the Fair Rent Commission.

Chair Jan LaBella on the activity of the Housing Authority.

Chair Sean O'Leary on the activity of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Chair Brendan Health on the activity of the Police Retirement Board.

Chair Thomas St. Louis on the activity of the Youth Services Advisory Board.

3. Adjourn

J. Ford moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:15 p.m., seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Delfik M. Kennedy

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Attachments:

- Planning & Zoning Commission report from Chair Joseph Mathieu
- Police Commission report from Chair Glenn Morron
- Zoning Board of Appeals report from Chair Laurie Robinson

Dear First Selectman Schuster,

Neither Vice Chairman Kane nor I could be in attendance tonight. Please let this serve as a brief update on the Planning and Zoning Commission's activities.

- 1. As you know, the Town received a \$285,000 STEAP (Small Towns Economic Assistance Program) grant from the State of Connecticut earlier this month. These funds were requested to assist the town in improving and expanding the sidewalk system in the Town Center. The Commission has extended its thanks and appreciation to Town Planner Adam Turner for his hard work in securing these much needed funds.
- 2. In conjunction with soliciting the sidewalk funding from the State, and the Commission's adoption of new sidewalk regulations earlier this year, the planning office has been developing a comprehensive sidewalk plan to identify and prioritize areas where sidewalk improvements are most needed. This plan has been reviewed and endorsed by the Commission and has been forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for further consideration.
- 3. I am pleased to report that the Superior Court has dismissed the plaintiffs' appeal in the matter of <u>Leonard Przekopski v. Town of Colchester</u> and that the site development plan that was the subject of another appeal against the Town-- SDP 09-002 Bruce Hayn Applicant-- has been withdrawn. Given these developments, there is currently no land use litigation pending against the Town to my knowledge.
- 4. At the Board's last meeting a favorable report was issued regarding the Open Space Committee's recommendation that the Town accept 9.2 acres of open space in the White Oak subdivision. This recommendation has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen for further deliberation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,

Joseph Mathieu Chairman



Colchester Police Department

Commission Chair Report

October 22, 2010

Commissioner John Jones resigned from the Board of Police Commissioner at the September 27, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Jones sighted personal as well as lack of available time as the reasons of his resignation. John was an asset the this board for many years and he will be sorely missed The Commission currently has 2 vacancies and hope we hope to have them filled very soon, as there is a lot of work to be done.

The Police Commission has been working hard over the past several months to bring the police force back up to its budgeted number of officers. Right now we have 2 officers attending the CT Police Academy. Upon completion of the academy and a 15 week Field Training Program, these officers will be patrolling the streets of Colchester by mid May.

The Commission has also sought out certified police officers to fill the last vacant position. We currently have one certified applicant that was selected to go through the hiring process and the Commission expects to discuss and vote on that appointment at the next Commission Meeting, which is this Monday.

This will bring our staffing back up to the budgeted 10 officers and the Commission has done this and stayed within our allotted 2010-2011 approved budget, with funds to spare.

We are currently working on updating/rewriting the Departments Rules and Regulations. This has proven to be a daunting task; however the Commission is making much progress on this.

The Commission will also be promoting the department's first Sergeant in the next few weeks.

The Commission has also started preliminary work on the 2011-2012 budget process.

Hello Gregg and Derrik,

Please accept this report-out for the Zoning Board of Appeal's recent news, for your use at tonight's Commission Chair Meeting:

- Due to lack of applications, the ZBA has cancelled August, September, and October regular meetings.
- The Board is short atleast one Alternate (though I believe that we have two open Alternate slots). It would be great to have at least one of those positions filled.

Thank you,

Laurie R. Robinson Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals