



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

Commission Chairmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 18, 2012
Colchester Town Hall –
Immediately Following Town Meeting at 7:00PM
Meeting Room 1

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2012 OCT 19 PM 4:15

MEMBERS PRESENT: Acting First Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman James Ford, Selectman Greg Cordova, and Selectman Rosemary Coyle

MEMBERS ABSENT: First Selectman Gregg Schuster

OTHERS PRESENT: Derrik Kennedy, Brad Bernier, Tom Tyler, Ron Goldstein, Rob Tarlov, Sean O'Leary, Rob Parlee, Joe Mathieu, John Malsbenden, Nancy Bray, James Paggioli, Rich LeMay, Ryan Blessing, Melissa Roberto, and other citizens.

1. Call to Order

Acting First Selectman S. Soby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Commission Updates – Commission Chairs

John Malsbenden reported that the **Board of Assessment Appeals** held appeals in April with another round of hearings in September for motor vehicles.

Ron Goldstein reported that the **Board of Education** had a successful start to the school year. The Board is focusing on CAPT and SAT score results, with the district making progress and beating State averages. CIAC identified accommodations as guidance for the high school athletic program. Budget discussions have started for the coming year.

Robert Tarlov reported that the **Board of Finance** has been reviewing measurement data for each department. Also, the Board has been working with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education on the energy project. Finally, is discussing ways to communicate the budget better to the public for the future.

Thomas Tyler reported that the **Building Committee** continues to hold regular meetings. Tecton finalized their schematic design, there have been five open houses to discuss the design and upcoming benchmarks, brochures were handed out to all who attend, there has been positive feedback so far, and the timeline is still being communicated. There will be another open meeting in November with a full tour of the middle school.

Rose Levine provided a report on the **Commission on Aging** (attached)

Acting First Selectman S. Soby read a written report by Merja Lehtinen regarding the activities of the **Cable Advisory Committee**

Acting First Selectman S. Soby read a written report by Genea Bell regarding the activities of the **Ethics Commission** (attached)

Acting First Selectman S. Soby read a written report by Nick Norton regarding the activities of the **Open Space Advisory Committee** (attached)

Sean O'Leary reported that the **Parks & Recreation Commission** is working on a special events policy and fees for applications. A subcommittee was established to examine the summer camp. Lighting fees are being evaluated. The 57 Fest was very successful. The Commission will be holding a presentation on the Program Fund as well as discussion on staffing.

Joseph Mathieu reported that the **Planning and Zoning Commission** continued to revise the zoning regulations with a first-draft complete. Route 85 work for sewer and water extension as well as the DOT facility has commenced.

Robert Parlee reported that the **Police Commission** is continuing to work on the department's five-year equipment plan. The Commission will be holding public education sessions with regards to future expansion of the police department, especially with regards to a third shift – starting with 24-hour coverage five days a week and then going to a full, 24-hour, seven day a week schedule. The Commission is discussing taking over as the local traffic authority. The drug drop-off box has collected over 60 pounds of old or unused medicine since its launch.

Richard LeMay reported that the **Sewer & Water Commission** has two new members whose expertise is an asset to the commission. The quarterly billing has been sent out. Activity is normal over the last quarter. There is a new 8-inch water main extending to Schuster Park. Staff are reviewing three new potential sources of water.

Acting First Selectman S. Soby read a written report by Laurie Robinson regarding the activities of the concerning the **Zoning Board of Appeals** (attached)

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Liz Gilman concerning the **Agriculture Commission**
Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Company Tax Exemption Committee
Falk Von Plachecki concerning the **Conservation Commission**
Stephen Cohn concerning the **Economic Development Commission**
Jack Faski concerning the **Fair Rent Commission**
Ellen Sharon concerning the **Historic District Commission**
Jan LaBella concerning the **Housing Authority**
Brendan Healy concerning the **Police Retirement Board**
Pam Scheibelein concerning the **Youth Services Advisory Board**

3. Adjourn

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:34 p.m., seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Derrick M. Kennedy
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

**COMMISSION CHAIR MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2012**

The Commission on Aging held a seminar this Wednesday at the Senior Center on Senior Driving. The speaker was Dr. Jennifer Selden, PhD, Clinical Neuropsychiatrist. She described the physical and cognitive changes a senior may experience as they age which can impact their ability to drive safely. Physical change such as mobility, osteoporosis, hearing and vision problems, and cognitive issues like dementia, slowed reaction time, processing of information, spatial relationships and ability to make quick decisions all impact safety on the road. Attendees were told where driver evaluations could be obtained, and what alternatives were available for non-drivers.

Also the data has been gathered for the very first Colchester Senior Resource Guide. Attendees at the Center will assist the COA in fact checking the information gathered , the book will be put together, sent to the printer, and also will be available on line for families and friends of seniors.

Rose M. Levine, Commission Chair

To: The Honorable First Selectman and Members of the Board of Selectmen
From: Merja H Lehtinen, Greater Norwich Area Technology and Access Council for Colchester
and Chairman of the Statewide Video Advisory Council for all statewide regions
RE: Report to the Board of Selectmen

August 18, 2012

The Norwich Area Video and Telecommunications Advisory Board was scheduled to meet at a Special Meeting Thursday, October 18, 2012, however, it has been changed to Nov. 1, however, since as I will still be en route from another program meeting, so hereby make this report via email, unless schedules change and I am able to attend tonight. My regrets for not attending, as I have tried to make each and every of the board chairmen meetings ever since my initial appointment in May 2004, for the same post on NACTAC on behalf of Colchester. We are pleased at NACTAC to announce that Comcast and its related subsidiaries are offering special reduced cost Basic programs, including a plan under \$10 for families who receive reduced lunch or other qualifying "events," and a general "open to anyone" program for Basic that is about \$22 a month with taxes and fees. Please encourage viewers to check the special offers or call the companies.

NACTAC Awarded Grant to Regional Library

The NACTAC has given out a grant this past year to Otis Library, the regional library of record, to have a widescreen telecommunications screen in the lobby to air special programs to the community in the event of the need of displaying critical public announcements. All other times, the use of the screen is to list programs open to the public. Colchester and area libraries are part of the Otis Library region. Otis Library, as you may know, is the hub lending library to our library and others, and also contains and solicits family memorabilia and historical records to be preserved there in its specially designed and temperature controlled archives.

PEGPETIA Funds for Technologies to Enable Any Users to Educate Others Using Public Access Channels

The PEGPETIA funds I mentioned at each of the last meetings for Town Chairmen of our respective commissions, councils and boards, are still available. Due to the efforts made by the Statewide Video Advisory Council, we were able to publicize the availability of funds for grants that include technology as a bridge to using public access and airwaves by the public, any government commissions and boards, schools, libraries, and the private sector of any individuals and/or companies or nonprofit organizations. The stated purpose is to fund technology for those who wish to educate others on how to produce news, educational, cultural, historical, public safety, artistic, or social content for the airwaves. Although PURA commended SVAC for increasing the volume of inquiries, there are still ample funds and we still need to reach out and encourage you to apply for technology grants rather than embed them in town budgets. The funds are available and can be used in addition to any town, state, or federal funds allocated through the budget process. Therefore, I have attached the email below. We encourage you to copy and give this to all boards and organizations as well as any individuals (and that is a critical inclusion) who may wish to seek funds to create programming on the public access airwaves. The attached memo below is self explanatory.

Sincerely,

Merja H Lehtinen for Colchester on NACTAC
as for statewide regions of towns as Chairman of the Statewide Video Advisory Council

COMMISSION CHAIR MEETING

October 18, 2012

The Ethics Commission has been unable to meet since summer 2011 for lack of quorum. Fortunately, there have been no complaints or requests for advisory opinions during this time. The Ethics Commission staffed a table at the volunteer fair earlier this year but we did not identify any new members. We appreciate the Board of Selectmen's continuing efforts to recruit for the Ethics -- and other -- Commissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Genea Bell

Chair, Colchester Ethics Commission

Report of Open Space Advisory Committee

A few years ago Colchester created an open space task force. It had staff members who were extremely valuable. When the task force decided to recommend establishment of an open space advisory committee the volunteer members, a majority, included staff membership in the committee because they believed staff would be an integral and valuable part of the work to be done. They were mindful that the proposed committee would have only an advisory role.

It has been decided that non-resident membership is not allowed on Colchester elected and appointed bodies and a change in the membership has been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Nicholas Norton, Chairman

October 18, 2012

Commission Chair Report
October 18, 2012

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Met 10/16/12 - the first time since 10/2011 - due to lack of applications to consider
- Elected officers for the rest of 2012 and 2013: Patrick Reading, Co-Chair, and Laurie Robinson, Chairman
- Will meet 11/16/12 to discuss the proposed changes in zoning regulations, which were presented by Adam Turner at this week's meeting
- Has five members, but we do not have any alternates, which puts us at risk of being able to hear an application with a full board present.

Chairman,

Laurie Robinson