

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

**Commission Chairmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 17, 2013
Colchester Town Hall – 7:00PM
Meeting Room 1**

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

2013 JAN 18 AM 11:19

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Parlee, Robert Suchecki, John Jones, John Chaponis, Tom Tyler, Dot Mrowka, Rob Esteve, Merja Lehtinen, David Anderson, Adam Turner, Leann Hill, Anita Pizzutiello, John Malsbenden, Walter Cox, Don Lee, Don Kennedy, Nancy Bray, David Wasniewski, Diana Giles, Melissa Roberto, Ryan Blessing, and other citizens.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Commission Updates – Commission Chairs

David Wasniewski reported that the **Agriculture Commission** will be submitted their report shortly.

Dave Anderson reported that the **Board of Assessment Appeals** will be hearing appeals in April this year instead of March, new Assessor Office staff are doing very well, and the Board is working well overall.

Thomas Tyler reported that the **Building Committee** has their final public meeting with a tour on December 15, briefed the Board of Selectmen and sought direction on December 20, discussed need for further direction with the Board of Selectmen on January 3, had a meeting of the Committee on January 10 to discuss cost of project and will need to meet with Board of Selectmen once more to discuss future direction of the Committee.

Don Kennedy stated that the **Board of Education** had nothing to report.

Robert Esteve reported that the **Board of Finance** meetings are going well, budget season is starting, there will be a budget forum on February 6 at WJJMS Media Center, the Board supports the Energy Performance Contracting project as well as the Building Committee, the Board is working on the budget survey, and trying to do more community outreach during the budget development process.

Merja Lehtinen reported that the **Cable Advisory Committee** is witnessing a competition for customers between AT&T and Comcast in the area which is resulting in lower prices for consumers – discount are available, public outreach to schools and educators that funds are available to assist in training students in t.v. production, and Comcast is offering scholarships to students.

Falk Von Plachecki reported that the **Conservation Commission** has not received many applications lately. There has been one wetlands application. The Commission was recently presented with the Zoning Regulations revision. Further, Tony's Junkyard has come up with a proposal to clean up the site. K. Frances has been elected Vice Chair.

Stephen Cohn reported that the **Economic Development Commission** has two new members to fully staff the Board. The Commission has been presented with the Zoning Regulations revision. They are now focusing on a C-TIP program and are reaching out to businesses in Town for feedback on how to best present the Town as well as updates to the website.

G. Schuster read a report for the **Open Space Advisory Committee** submitted by Chairman Nick Norton (attached).

G. Schuster read a report for the **Planning and Zoning Commission** submitted by Chairman Joe Mathieu (attached).

Robert Parlee reported that the **Police Commission** is working on the budget, revisions of the Rules and Regulations, took over responsibilities as the Local Traffic Authority, working on the five-year equipment plan, and evaluating a 3rd shift. Officers are working on promoting the Card program at WJJMS. The Drug Drop Box has collected over 110 lbs. of prescription drugs since inception. Sgt. Suchecki, as part of "Cop on Top," raised \$8,2000 for the Special Olympics.

Richard LeMay reported that the **Sewer & Water Commission** is on budget for Sewer billings and receipts. A sampling of the water in Town came back excellent. The Commission is currently seeking out other sources of water for the Town. Joint Facilities started discussion on the budget. The plant is running well, within parameters. The Commission has had discussions on the Energy Project and its effect on Joint Facilities.

Robert Suchecki reported that the **Youth Services Advisory Board** is making 2013 the "Year of the Family." On January 30, there will be a free family dinner. The Board is working on family-oriented events. Youth Action Council is working with DoSomething.org and Aeropostel to collect used jeans for homeless teens.

G. Schuster read a report for the **Zoning Board of Appeals** submitted by Chairman Laurie Robinson (attached).


NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Rose Levine regarding the **Commission on Aging**
Genea Bell reported that the **Ethics Commission**
Jack Faski reported that the **Fair Rent Commission**
Ellen Sharon reported that the **Historic District Commission**
Jan LaBella reported that the **Housing Authority**
Sean O'Leary reported that the **Parks & Recreation Commission**
Brendan Healy reported that the **Police Retirement Board**

3. Adjourn

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:24 p.m., seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,


Derrik M. Kennedy

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Open Space Commission – January 17, 2013

Worked to review and recommend a purchase of land by the Norwich utility. Proposal was made to partner with the Norwich Utility on a State of Connecticut Open Space Grant for 52 acres on Brainard Road. – Grant was awarded.

Reviewed the draft land development regulations specifically the section on open space.

We had discussions throughout the year on the need to require subdivision lands that had value unlike small subdivisions of lots that were never used

We had recommendations to require that parties accepting open space had the proper structure and that they were adequate to preserve and protect open space on a long term basis.

Commission also was briefed on the changes to the commission namely the removal of Town staff from being active members of the commission.

Gregg Schuster

From: Derrik Kennedy
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 10:49 AM
To: Gregg Schuster
Subject: FW: Commission Chairmen Meeting

From: Mathieu, Joseph B (Middle Market + UW Support) [mailto:Joseph.Mathieu@thehartford.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Derrik Kennedy
Cc: Joe Mathieu
Subject: RE: Commission Chairmen Meeting

Derrik,

Please forward the following to Gregg.

Thanks

Joe

Dear Mr. Schuster,

I am unable to attend the Commission Chairmen meeting this evening so please accept this report on the Planning and Zoning Board's recent activities.

At our regular meeting yesterday evening the Board conducted its annual election of officers. The officer slate for 2013 is as follows:

Chairman: Joe Mathieu
Vice Chairman: John Novak
Secretary: Mark Nonewicz

The Board, and our planning staff, have continued to focus our energies on revisions to the Zoning Regulations. As I have noted in past reports, this is a major undertaking and one in which the Board feels that it is important to receive feedback from a variety of sources – including other Town Boards and Commissions. The past few months have been largely devoted to that process, with Town staff visiting with other Boards and Commissions to review the initial draft of the regulations and receive their feedback. The Board is also receiving feedback directly as part of our regular meeting agenda. When this process is complete, the information that we have received will be synthesized and incorporated into a new draft which will then be reviewed by the Board. Based on where we are in this process, I would not anticipate going into formal public hearings until the spring.

From a process standpoint, one issue that has come up is whether the Board should suspend work on the Zoning Regulation revisions in order to first update the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. The Board re-visited this issue last evening and the consensus was to continue to proceed with the Zoning Regulation revisions at this time. While the current PoCD is in need of revision, we have until mid-2014 to consider revisions under State law. The consensus of the Board was that the current Plan—which was extensively revised in 2001-- still embodies the core principals that should guide the Planning and Zoning process within the Town. While staff has begun preliminary work on POCD revisions, the reality is that they cannot do both. The consensus of the Board was that the Zoning regulation revisions are a higher priority for the Town at this juncture, and accordingly we have directed staff to continue with the revision process.

Thank you.

Joseph Mathieu
Chairman

Gregg Schuster

From: H & L Robinson [robinson@snet.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 5:16 PM
To: Derrik Kennedy
Cc: Gregg Schuster; Stan Soby; Patrick Reading; Laurie Robinson
Subject: ZBA Report for 1/17/13 Commission Chairmen Meeting

Hello Derrik,

Please accept this summary of the Zoning Board of Appeal's actions to be read at this evening's Commission Chairmen Meeting:

- The Zoning Board of Appeals has not had any applications in many months
- The Board met last week to review and provide Town Staff with feedback on the draft of the proposed new zoning regulations.
- The ZBA has five members, but we do not have any alternates, which puts us at risk of being able to hear an application with five board members present.
- Due to lack of meetings, the Board has not met to give feedback on the possibility of a blight ordinance. I'll be sending an email to ZBA members asking them to individually provide feedback to Derrick, if they have any.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie R. Robinson
Chairman, ZBA

--- On Tue, 1/15/13, Derrik Kennedy <dkennedy@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

From: Derrik Kennedy <dkennedy@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Commission Chairmen Meeting
To: lizmacalister@yahoo.com, nancy.127@comcast.net, r.goldsteinesq@snet.net, ctparagon@comcast.net, Jtttyler2@sbcglobal.net, rose.m.levine@gmail.com, afvp@netzero.com, scc.ct@comcast.net, "Genea Bell" <gbell@colchesterct.gov>, jack@skyview-realty.com, ellen@clipresearch.com, janetlabela@sbcglobal.net, nnorton@yahoo.com, seaneo@comcast.net, jbmathieu@comcast.net, robertparlee@hotmail.com, HealyBrenden@SBCGlobal.net, richard.lemay@po.state.ct.us, thomas.st.louis@ct.gov, robinson@snet.net, ctmlhr@yahoo.com
Cc: "Gregg Schuster" <FirstSelectman@colchesterct.gov>, "Greg Cordova" <gecordova@comcast.net>, ford_james_w@sbcglobal.net, "Rosemary Coyle" <rosemarycoyle@sbcglobal.net>, "Stan Soby" <soby@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 1:30 PM

Good Afternoon,

This is another reminder that there will be a commission chair meeting prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting this Thursday, January 17 at 7:00pm at Town Hall.

If you cannot attend, please write a brief summary of your board/committee's actions for the First Selectman to read at the meeting.