



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

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

WANCY A. BRAY  
TOWN CLERK

*Wancy A. Bray*

2013 OCT 21 AM 10:53

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim. Paggioli, Falk von Plachecki, Sal Tassone, Christopher Bourque, Merja Lehetinen, Nick Norton, Kimberly Rowllins, Joe Mathieu, Rob Suchecki, Robert Kvederas, Don Kennedy, Rob Esteve, Gail Therian and other citizens.

**1. Call to Order**

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**2. Commission Updates – Commission Chairs**

Chris Bourque reported for the Agriculture Commission. He reported he is the new Chairman and the Agriculture Commission is working on the Agriculture section of the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission is also working with the school system to develop a program to incorporate agriculture courses into the curriculum. A subcommittee is working on the farm building exemption recommendation to be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Don Kennedy reported for the Board of Education. He said the school year is off to a successful start. The All Day kindergarten at Colchester Elementary School is going well. The pre-school program has been re-accredited with the highest standards of quality. The Board is reassign the building repairs at William J. Johnston Middle School. In the school year 2012/2013, 287 students took Advanced Placement test with 81% passing. Currently, there are 357 students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes. The Board of Education received a petition from the Bacon Academy Community Activism class requesting that Colchester serve "GMO free and/or organic food alternatives in the Colchester School District cafeterias. The petition was signed by 288 students. The Community Activism class will present further information in January.

Rob Esteve reported for the Board of Finance. They have had 25 meetings to date and three (3) Tri Board meetings and Budget workshops. The Board is currently working on two initiatives: 1) Future Elected Officials Compensation Process and 2) CIP Plan of Route Maintenance Plan.

First Selectman read a written report by Tom Tyler regarding the activities of the Building Committee. (attached)

Merja Lehetinen reported for Cable Advisory Board. She said that there is now a feed that would allow Board and Commission meetings to be broadcast to both ATT and Comcast subscribers. Training is available for volunteers. Volunteers under the age of 18 will need to have to have a parent or advisor present during training.

Falk von Plachecki reported that the Conservation Commission will be holding a Public Hearing in November on the updates to the Inland Wetlands Regulations. The Commission has seen two violations involving homeowners doing work in the Conservation Easements and is now considering requiring Show Cause hearings for these types of violations. They are also considering ways to educate the public on the restrictions of Conservation Easements.

Kimberly Russo explained that the Fair Rent Commission works to solve disputes between property owners and renters. Most cases are communication issues. The Commission wants to educate the public about the Fair Rent Commission's function.

Robert Kvederas reported that the Historic District Commission has not met lately due to lack of applications. They continue to work to maintain and preserve the Historic District in Town.

Nick Norton reported that the Open Space Advisory Committee continues to examine the opportunities to acquire or create Open Space in suitable parts of Town. The Committee then makes recommendations to the Colchester Conservation Commission which has the authority to regulate Open Space.

Joe Mathieu reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission has met several times with Glen Chalder of Planimetrics regarding the updating of the Plan of Conservation and Development. One Public meeting regarding the updating of the Plan of Conservation and Development was held on Monday, September 30, 2013 and the second meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2013. He urged people to attend this meeting. He said the initial input from the public is for preservation of the rural character of Town, the protection of natural resources and the protection of Open Space. These are items that were relative to citizens ten (10) years ago. The draft copy of the Zoning Regulations has been returned from the editor and the Public Hearings on the new Zoning Regulations will most likely take place in November. He also congratulated the Land Use staff on being awarded a grant for the Air Line Trail parking and driveway improvements.

First Selectman Schuster reported on behalf of Robert Parlee of the Police Commission that Sgt. Mercer is the new Resident Trooper. The DARE car has been sold.

Robert Suchecki reported for the Youth Services Advisory Board. He said that Youth Center has seventy (70) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders registered on Wednesdays and thirty (30) 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Mondays. The Teens in Action will be volunteering at a soup kitchen. Three trips are planned: 1) Lake Compounce; 2) trampoline park, and 3) to a Wolfpack game. There are also campus tours being planned to local colleges for students without opportunities to see schools. There are two Community Conversations planned. The first will be held on November 7, 2013 regarding marijuana use. This is for both students and parents. A second Community Conversation will be a technology workshop for both students and parents.

**No Report Received from:**

Dave Anderson concerning the **Board of Assessment Appeals**

Kevin Dalton concerning the **CHVFD Tax Exemption Commission**

Rose Levine concerning the **Commission on Aging**

Stephen Cohn concerning the **Economic Development Commission**

Genea Bell concerning the **Ethics Commission**

Ellen Sharon concerning **Historic District Commission**

Jan LaBella concerning the **Housing Authority**

Sean O'Leary concerning the **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Brenden Healy concerning the **Police Retirement Board**

Rich LeMay concerning **Sewer & Water Commission**

Lori Robinson concerning the **Zoning Board of Appeals**

**3. Adjourn**

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:29 p.m., second by G. Cordova  
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Therian  
Clerk

Attachment 1 (Building Committee)

## **WJJMS, Senior Center & Community Center Building Committee**

### **Chairman's Report**

October 17, 2013

- Held bimonthly Committee minutes
- Developed brochures and presentations on project
- Held three public information sessions on project
  - 9/3/13, Town HALL
  - 9/9/13, Town Hall
  - 9/9/28, 57 Fest
- Special Town Meeting held 9/18/13, project approved to go to 10/1/13 referendum
- 10/1/13 building project referendum fails. Work of existing building committee is complete.