



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

Commission Chairman Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 18, 2013
Colchester Town Hall – 7:00 PM
Meeting Room 1

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2013 JUL 22 AM 10:50

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim. Paggioli, Walter Cox, Don Lee, Rob Tarlov, Adam Turner, Kate Byroade, Patricia Watts, Tom Tyler, Falk von Plachecki, Steven Cohn, Rich LeMay, Gail Therian 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**

First Selectman G. Schuster read a written report for the **Board of Education** submitted by Chairman Ron Goldstein. (attached)

Rob Tarlov reported that the **Board of Finance** is working on two major items now, the school building project and the Capital Improvement Plan. Over the last four (4) years, the Board has funded and addressed the shorter term capital items and is now moving on to the long term capital items. The Board is also beginning to address the Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan. The Board is also looking at the costs of repairing existing buildings if the proposed school building project does not move forward. These figures will be available to the public for the comparison of brick and mortar costs vs. repair costs to the existing facilities.

Tom Tyler reported that the **Building Committee** attended on June 10, 2013 a Tri Board meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and the Board of Education where the William J. Johnston Middle School renovation and the addition of a Senior Center and Community Center plans were presented. At that meeting the three Boards unanimously supported the project to move it to Referendum. The Building Committee finalized the schematic drawings with Techton and is tweaking these drawings so they can be put on the Town's website for the public's review. They attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 where the Connecticut General Statute 8-24 review received a favorable recommendation from the Commission which will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee plans to hold Public meetings on September 3 and September 9, 2013 to educate the public on the project and they will be attending the Open Houses at all four schools to answer questions, etc. To continue the process to the Referendum, the Committee will meet with the Board of Finance on August 7th and the Board of Selectmen on August 15 for the approval to move to a Town meeting. The notice of the Town meeting would then be published on August 31st and the Town Meeting will take place on September 23rd with the Referendum being held on October 9, 2013. A discussion followed and it was decided that the Board of Selectman will discuss at their August 1, 2013 meeting the scheduling of a Town Meeting to move this item to a referendum.

Falk von Plachecki reported that the **Conservation Commission** has issued Wetlands permits for Tony's Junkyard. He said that J. Gigliotti, Wetlands Enforcement Officer, did a good job gathering the information and getting it to the Commission. The consulting firm worked well with the Commission. Kurt Frantzen and along with another member of the Commission are working on updating the Inland Wetlands Regulations to incorporate the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the State Statutes changes and revisions. These updates should be ready to be presented at a Public Hearing in the early fall. At the July 10, 2013 meeting, an as-of-Right logging operation application was approved. At this meeting a request for a withdrawal and refund of fees for a subdivision application was received. Because fee refunds are not within the authority of the Commission, they could not separate the two requests and asked J. Gigliotti to advise the applicant to continue working on the revisions of the submitted plans for the next meeting. G. Schuster thanked the Conservation Commission for their work on Tony's Junkyard application.

Stephen Cohn reported the Economic Development Corporation is working on finalizing a pro-active approach to attract businesses to Colchester. They are also educating themselves on how taxes are calculated. There is one C-Tip application for the New England Properties, Inc. before them, which eventually will be presented to the Board of

Selectmen. He reported that he will be resigning from the Commission in the next few weeks due to personal commitments. G. Schuster thanked him for his service to the Commission, especially as Chairman.

Merja Lehetinen reported for **Cable Advisory Committee** that there is still competition for customers between AT & T and their competitors, resulting in lower fees. A T & T is looking at ending the promotion of land line service by 2020 which may be an issue for government and other type of businesses employees. Regarding Cable Companies, the regional cable companies are concerned that they may be dissolved, but there is a Federal mandate requiring that there be a local representative, so this cannot legally be done.

First Selectmen G. Schuster read a written report for the **Fair Rent Commission** submitted by Kimberley Russo.

First Selectman G. Schuster read a written report for the **Police Commission** submitted by Rob Parlee. (attached)

Rich LeMay reported that the **Sewer & Water Commission** ended the fiscal year in a good position and were able to put money into capital projects on both the Sewer and Water sides. The water lines have been accepted to the State garage facility and the sewer and water lines have been extended to Tractor Supply property and the wet water pump station should be operational very soon. The joint facilities side also closed the fiscal year in good shape and there is still no word regarding the STEAP grade to upgrade the plant. At the last joint facilities meeting it was decided that it would not be upgrading the Lebanon addition.

No Report Received from:

David Wasniewski concerning the **Agriculture Commission**
Dave Anderson concerning the **Board of Assessment Appeals**
Kevin Dalton concerning the **CHVFD Tax Exemption Commission**
Rose Levine concerning the **Commission on Aging**
Genea Bell concerning the **Ethics Commission**
Ellen Sharon concerning **Historic District Commission**
Jan LaBella concerning the **Housing Authority**
Nick Norton concerning the **Open Space Advisory Committee**
Sean O'Leary concerning the **Parks and Recreation Commission**
Joe Mathieu concerning the **Planning and Zoning Commission**
Brenden Healy concerning the **Police Retirement Board**
Robert Suchecki concerning the **Youth Services Advisory Board**
Lori Robinson concerning the **Zoning Board of Appeals**

3. Adjourn

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:21 p.m., second by G. Cordova
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Therian
Clerk

Attachment 1 (Board of Education Report)
Attachment 2 (Fair Rent Commission Report)
Attachment 3 (Police Commission Report)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education closed a successful school year on June 24th, with graduation at which we heard from two our Valedictorian, Megan Ganley, who will be attending Boston College in the Fall, and her sister, Shannon Ganley who will be attending The College of the Holy Cross in the Fall. We also heard from Lamb Essayist Zach Grinfeld who will be attending Hofstra University School of Engineering and Applied Science. Although thunderstorms threatened and the power even went out for a few minutes, the ceremony was a success.

Now as we prepare for the new school year, we welcome Ann Watson as the new Principal of Colchester Elementary School. Ann comes to us from Avon, where she also was an elementary school principal, and we look forward to having her on the team. At the elementary school we are also excited to be preparing for the introduction of All-Day Kindergarten for all students. At the Intermediate School, our Assistant Principal is leaving to become Principal of an elementary school in a nearby district – the search process for her replacement is underway and we should have the position filled for the start of school.

The entire District is also preparing for the roll-out of Connecticut's new teacher and administrator evaluation program, and the continuing implementation of Connecticut's new Common Core State Standards for our curriculum. These two initiatives have required a tremendous amount of work and training in new procedures, and the entire District team is to be applauded for its success in meeting the new requirements.

Thank you.

To: Colchester Board of Selectman

From: ~~Kimberley Russo~~, Chairwoman, Colchester Fair Rent Commission

Date: July 16, 2013

The Colchester Fair Rent Commission has been actively responding to and acting on requests from Colchester residents with respect to issues relating to fair rent complaints. All of these requests were dealt with in a timely and efficient manner and resolved to the best of our abilities. We have also received a number of requests that do not fit the Commission's operating guidelines and have referred the individuals to other organizations that may be of assistance to them. As an example, we have received a request for aide from an individual residing in East Hampton. Another example, we received a request for assistance from an individual having issues with a storage unit that was not part of a residential lease agreement. Both were referred to Connecticut Legal Services for support.

In January 2013 we welcomed a new member, Valerie Griff, to the committee. Also in January 2013, Jack Faski stepped down as Chairman of the committee but remains an active member and Kimberley Russo stepped up as Chairwoman.

We continue to remain committed to supporting Colchester residents when issues regarding their rental leases arise.

Derrick Kennedy

From: robert.parlee <robertparlee@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 7:17 PM
To: Derrick Kennedy
Subject: Re: Commission Chair Meeting July 18, 2013 Reminder

Hi Derrick I will not be attending the meeting .but here is what the Police commission is working on. We are updating the rules and regs by adding a gun light policy we are also working in getting info on the DARE car so we can sell it. We just promoted officer Regnere to officer first class. Officer Dimauro and officer Edwards attended a state firearms laws update seminar. And as if June 24 the prescription drug drop box has collected 265.9 lbs. thank you .
Robert Parlee police commission chairman.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 16, 2013, at 11:23 AM, "Derrick Kennedy" <dkennedy@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

A reminder to all, if you are unable to attend the Commission Chair Meeting on Thursday, please send your reports to me via email.

Thank you.

Derrick M. Kennedy, MPA
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

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