

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Commission Chairman Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2014
Colchester Town Hall – 7:00PM
Meeting Room 1

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2014 JAN 21 PM 2:53
NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK
Nancy A. Bray

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Mike Caplet, and Selectman Denise Mizla

OTHERS PRESENT: Ron Goldstein, Tom Tyler, Maggie Cosgrove, Jim Paggioli, Nancy Bray, Jim Ford, and other citizens.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:34p.m.

2. Commission Updates – Commission Chairs

Ron Goldstein stated a clarification that in fact there are building committees that come together for non-brand new construction and the Jack Jackter project was entirely a renovation and repair project. Ron Goldstein reported that the **Board of Education** is actively involved in the development of the budget that will be presented to the Board of Education on January 28, 2014 and move it forward for approval by the Board of Education in February, they have received a technology grant from the State of Connecticut, student board members have taken on the initiative of researching GMO free food alternatives to see if there is a demand for it in the school system. The student board members are also in the process of meeting with community groups and with the operational folks in the school district to see if they can make it happen.

First Selectman Schuster read a written report by Rob Tarlov regarding the activities of the **Board of Finance**. (Attached #1)

Thomas Tyler reported no activity from **Building Committee**.

Merja Lehetinen reported that the **Cable Advisory Committee** AT&T is separating from the landline section which has been sold to a company down in Stamford who will continue to service landline customers, AT&T will just be servicing wireless, Orange cable advisory on regional level is starting litigation against their community access provider, Norwich cable advisory area will offer Xfinity promise at a low cost and the federal government has reopened free air waves.

Falk Von Plachecki reported that the **Conservation Commission** are still working on the legislative update from DEP to revise the regulations to correspond with the legislation that's been passed, subdivisions that had little to no impact that were moved through commission, one came in for proposed open space area and through discussions at approval of subdivision's recommendation made, as a conservation commission, they suggested to move forward with a fee in lieu of open space which was not as desirable and one applicant came through for a farm pond where issues regarding understanding of process came up partly due to failure on his consultants part.

First Selectman Schuster read a written report by Joe Mathieu regarding the activities of the **Planning & Zoning Commission**. (Attached #2)

Rich LeMay reported that the **Sewer & Water Commission** are in their budget season for fiscal year 2014/2015, no billing disputes, one break and the Elmwood tank project is complete, on joint facilities side they are in the process of completing their budget, Mr. Peters will be joining that committee and there were problems with odor control stations but repaired. R. LeMay also stated they are still down members and asked to please continue efforts in finding more members.

First Selectman Schuster submitted a written report by Sergeant Rob Suchecki regarding **Youth Services Advisory Board**. (Attached #3)

Laurie Robinson reported that the **Zoning Board of Appeals** have had no applications for some months, they have two urgent openings for alternates, they began attending 2014 Plan of Conservation development sessions which went well with lots of input, in December board members had a chance to review, edit and make suggestions that have been included in the proposal for new zoning regulations.

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Chris Bourque regarding the **Agriculture Commission**
Dave Anderson regarding the **Board of Assessment Appeals**
Kevin Dalton regarding **CHVD Tax Exemption Commission**
Rose Levine regarding **Commission on Aging**
Stephen Cohn regarding the **Economic Development Commission**
Genea Bell regarding the **Ethics Commission**
Jack Faski regarding the **Fair Rent Commission**
Ellen Sharon regarding the **Historic District Commission**
Jan LaBella regarding the **Housing Authority**
Nick Norton regarding the **Open Space Advisory Committee**
Sean O'Leary regarding the **Parks & Recreation Commission**
Robert Parlee regarding the **Police Commission**
Brendan Healy regarding the **Police Retirement Board**
Robert Suchecki regarding the **Youth Services Advisory Board**
Laurie Robinson regarding the **Zoning Board of Appeals**

3. Adjourn

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:57 p.m., seconded by M. Caplet. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Santos
Clerk

Attachments: Board of Finance Report (#1)
Planning & Zoning Commission (#2)
Youth Services Advisory Board (#3)

Sylvia Miller

From: Rob Tarlov [ctparagon@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Derrik Kennedy; Sylvia Miller
Subject: RE: Commission Chair Meeting Reminder Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:00 PM Town Hall Room 1

Rob E and I are both out of State:

BOF Report

We have begun reviewing a Capital Needs Plan for Town and School Facilities. This plan will assess the repair and maintenance needs of buildings and land that are larger than normal year to year operations. The financial cost of accomplishing this plan will be no small amount, but which cost increases geometrically as time goes by if needs are ignored. We continue a process renewed about 4 years ago of financing, in advance, equipment and facility maintenance, repair and replacement. February's meeting will have further review and analysis.

Our fund balance grew by almost 967,000 dollars last fiscal year. 55% of this is assigned fund balance, money which has been encumbered for future identified needs. For Fiscal Year 1012-2013, we were about 250K less than budgeted expenses on a \$50 million budget, most from salaries of positions which took time to fill as well as other employees out on workmen's comp. We also had about 250,000 of unanticipated revenues and we used 127K of previous fund balance accumulation. About 400K of the increase is unencumbered. Our fund balance %, one measure of the Town's fiscal health, moved from 8.65% to 9.49%, still in the 7 – 10% range identified by our policy as our confidence zone.

Budget season continues. The First Selectman and Board of Ed will make their budget presentations to the Board of Finance on March 5 at 7:00. We will have a public forum on March 10th at 7:00 for public input on the preliminary budgets presented. Board of Finance will begin their workshops on March 5 and they will generally be held Monday to Thursday at 7:00 until the final session on March 19th. All budget workshops are open to the public and have public comment time at the beginning and end of each. We will also continue the weekly newsletter during the budget season to those on the Town's e-mail list.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman

Gregg Schuster

From: Joseph Mathieu <jbmathieu@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 5:40 PM
To: Derrick Kennedy
Cc: Gregg Schuster
Subject: RE: Commission Chair Meeting Reminder Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:00 PM Town Hall Room 1

Hi Sylvia,

I wasn't aware of this meeting and will not be able to attend. Can you send me the schedule for the remainder of the year.

Here is my report:

Dear First Selectman Schuster,

Please accept this brief report on behalf of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

The Commission elected officers at its regularly scheduled meeting held yesterday evening. The current slate of officers-- Mathieu, Chairman, Novak, Vice Chairman and Noniewicz, Secretary, will continue to serve in those roles for 2014.

As you are aware, we currently have two major undertakings underway: revisions to our Zoning Regulations and an update of our Plan of Conservation and Development. With respect to the Zoning Regulations, after many months of drafting, receiving public input, discussion and final edits the draft regulations were taken to public hearing in December. The hearing was continued to our January 8, 2014 meeting at which time the board voted to close the public hearing and move to the deliberation phase. Deliberations will commence at our next meeting in February and I expect will extend into subsequent meetings as the board reflects on the various comments and suggestions made during the public hearing.

With regard to the POCD, the commission met last night with our consultant, Mr. Chalder, and various representatives from Town Boards to begin the process of deciding on the structure and content of the Plan. We made good progress and that work will continue at our second meeting in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Mathieu,
Chairman

Youth Action Council

Youth Action Council (Y.A.C.) is a community service group for high school students that meets weekly at the Youth Center. The group's mission is to provide students with an opportunity to develop leadership qualities while creating and participating in volunteer activities.

Recent Activities: Foster Care Awareness Butterfly Project

BINGO @ Senior Center

"Teens for Jeans" jeans drive

Youth Force Group

If you are looking for a fun and exciting way to help the community and learn about the needs of others, this group is for you. The mission of the group is to increase youth awareness and compassion for less fortunate individuals. This will be accomplished through educational presentations, hands-on service projects, and community awareness initiatives.

Recent Activities: "Teens for Jeans" jeans drive

Shift Scoliosis Project- blankets for scoliosis hospital patients

Teens In Action- Tuesday, February 18th

Looking for a fun and rewarding way to help the community? We will be going to the Covenant Soup Kitchen to help prepare and serve lunch. The Covenant Soup Kitchen is a wonderful opportunity for less fortunate individuals to sit down and have a nice hot meal or get food from the food bank and bring home groceries for their families. The soup kitchen serves thousands of meals and feeds hundreds of residents each month and depends heavily on donations from the community and especially volunteers to help in a variety of ways. Come with us as we help to prepare and serve their Thursday lunch with the guidance of experienced staff.

Open Youth Center

OYC provides a time for middle school youths to hang out with their friends in a supervised, safe environment. An after school snack is provided. We have a pool table, Wii, Air Hockey, and a craft room, and a reading/homework area. Weather permitting, outdoor activities are also offered. Attending the Youth Center is a privilege and kids are required to be respectful of staff, their peers, and the equipment.

Monday 7th & 8th Grade Open Youth Center has averaging between 50-70 students.

Wednesday 6th Grade Open Youth Center has been averaging between 30-50 students.

The Boys Council

The After-School Crew is designed to aid in the development of social skills and self-esteem through team challenges and group discussions. This exciting group will

Presented by the Colchester Youth & Social Services



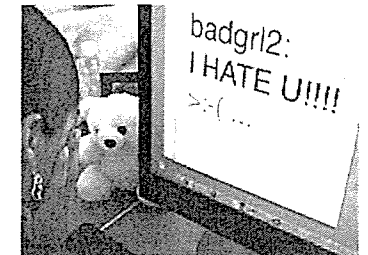
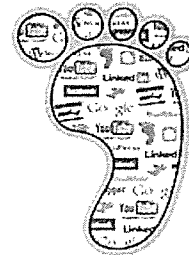
Community Conversations

Cyber Safety:

How to protect your kids from online risks from cyber bullying to stranger danger!



KEEP YOUR KIDS
SAFE Online



Social Networking, Texting, Sexting, Picture Sharing and Cyber Bullying are all part of our children's everyday life and can have serious consequences. Learn the tips and tricks on how to prevent your kids from making online mistakes.

LOCATION: Bacon Academy

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2014

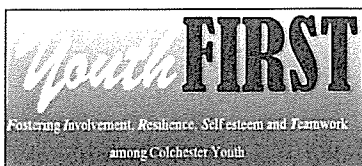
TIME: 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. including FREE pizza!

WHO: *This presentation is for parents only.*

Topics to include: social networking, cyber bullying, gaming sites/apps, geo tagging, email, texting/sexting, picture sharing, illegal music downloading, mobile apps and creating a digital footprint!

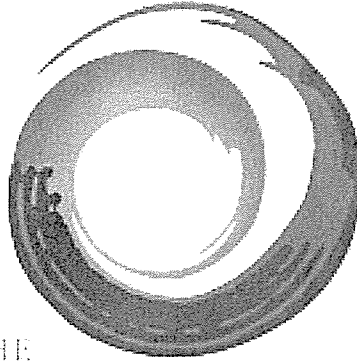
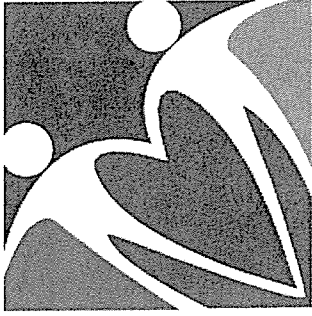
Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts, Law Enforcement Officer, and author, has worked undercover online for years showing him firsthand the dangers kids and families face if they do not think about safety while online. Come and learn how to keep your family safe!

There will be in school assemblies for grades 7-12.



INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
Empowering Smart Online Choices





THE
COUNCIL
FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

Peer Pressure



Self-Esteem

Friendships

Confidence

Come and Join our Council Group!

WHO: 6th Grade Boys

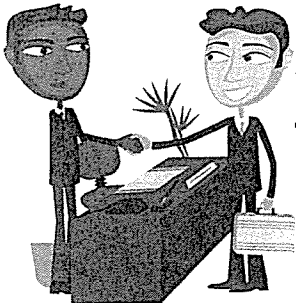
WHERE: COLCHESTER YOUTH CENTER

WHEN: THURSDAYS 2:15pm—4:00pm

(January 9th— February 27th)

Registration is FREE!

Sign up with your 6th Grade Guidance Counselor by Friday November 22nd.



How to sign up for...

Get Your Roll On!



Who: 6th-12th Grade Students
**What: Hibachi at Toyo in Colchester &
roller skating at Ron-A-Roll in Vernon!**

When: Friday, February 21st
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Cost: \$21

**How: Complete registration form and bring
to Youth Services at Town Hall**

**To register and for more information please contact Youth
Services at 860-537-7255 or e-mail
youthservices@colchesterct.gov**

How to sign up for..

Lunch & Lasers!



Who: 6th-12th Grade Students

What: Two games of laser tag & a bite to eat!

When: Friday, January 17th

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$24

How: Complete registration form and bring to Youth Services at Town Hall

To register and for more information please contact Youth Services at 860-537-7255 or e-mail youthservices@colchesterct.gov