



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Commission Chairmen Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2014**  
**Colchester Town Hall – 7:00PM**  
**Meeting Room 1**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Mizla, Selectman Bill Curran, and Selectman Kurt Frantzen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**1. Call to Order**

Selectman S. Soby called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**2. Commission Updates – Commission Chairs**

Christopher Bourque reported that the **Agriculture Commission** is working on several projects and sub-committees. They are working with the Board of Education and students at Bacon Academy on the Farm to School initiative. They did not receive the Food Hub study grant. Commission is working with the Assessor on a proposal to offer a tax exemption for farm buildings. They are offering agricultural education to Bacon students by working on a greenhouse. Commission is also working on the POCD.

Ron Goldstein reported that the **Board of Education** had their annual test score meeting although the smarter balance test scores have not come in because of the CMT migration. Report should come in by December. The science results were reported and they improved in all categories. AP testing results were also strong. 203 students took the test which is ¼% of the school population. Overall 80% achieved a 3, 4, or 5. Strategic Planning process is underway. The group is looking for broad based input from the community. The question put forth is what do we want our students to learn? Meetings will be conducted over the next three months which will also include several public sessions.

Rosemary Coyle stated that the **Chatham Board of Health** has nothing to report.

Stan Soby reported on the **Charter Review Commission** that the group received the First Selectman charge and is currently going over the Charter and gathering information. They are also reviewing the questions from the previous charter.

Rosemary Coyle reported on the **Colchester Hayward Fire Department** that they have several training events going on. The CDC issued a checklist for identifying Ebola symptoms. At the end of November will be the chassis swapping that was created from the lease purchase agreement. RFQ for Strategic Plan is being reviewed. Received 13 responses and have narrowed down to four top choices. All fire police radios have been reprogramed.

Bruce Goldstein reported that the **Economic Development Commission** recommended the tax abatement plan for the sports arena. Requested and have received approval to reduce the required members from nine to seven due to current quorum issues. Commission is actively working on plans and ideas for new business opportunities.

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Ellen Sharon reported that the **Historic District Commission** has not had applications submitted for a while so they have not met. They opened the School for Colored Children Museum during the event on the green. Ellen reported that the roof tiles will need to be replaced soon.

Joe Mathieu stated the **Planning and Zoning Commission** will have a public hearing for the new regulations on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Joe explained the work involved and process to get to the point of public hearings. POCD consultant is developing the first draft and will have public input sessions around January 2015 when draft is complete.

Stan Soby reported that the **Senior Center Negotiating Committee** is waiting on the final engineer's report which is due on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Stephen Coyle reported on the **Sewer and Water Commission** (report attached)

Laurie Robinson reported that the **Zoning Board of Appeals** first meeting will be next week after many months of no applications. The application is for a variance to re-site a drive or road. The commission does not have alternates and are at risk to not field a full board. Attended POCD meetings and stated that pieces of the plan affect every Board.

Merja Lehetinen reported on **Cable Advisory**, Comcast is offering \$1,000 scholarships for Bacon Academy seniors. Merja advised cable customers to watch their bills carefully for errors. Stated that they do free training for use of the Public Access TV.

**WRITTEN REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING (attached):**

Robert Tarlov regarding **Board of Finance**  
Thomas Tyler regarding **Building Committee**  
Falk Von Plachecki regarding **Conservation Commission**  
Kim Russo regarding **Fair Rent Commission**

**NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:**

John Malsbenden regarding the **Board of Assessment Appeals**  
Gary Siddell regarding the **Commission on Aging**  
Mary Ellen Mahoney regarding the **Cragin Board of Trustees**  
Daniel Henderson regarding the **Ethics Commission**  
Avis Hull regarding the **Friends of Cragin Library**  
Jan LaBella regarding the **Housing Authority**  
Nick Norton regarding the **Open Space Advisory Committee**  
Chris Ferrante regarding the **Park & Recreation Commission**  
Robert Parlee regarding the **Police Commission**  
Brenden Healy regarding the **Police Retirement Board**  
Robert Suchecki regarding the **Youth Services Advisory Board**  
Robert Suchecki regarding the **Youth Services Advisory Board**

**3. Adjourn**

R. Coyle moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Bill Curran. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Dean  
Clerk

**Tricia Dean**

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**From:** Rob Tarlov <ctparagon@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 4:40 AM  
**To:** Tricia Dean  
**Subject:** Chairmen's' Meeting - BOF Report

The Board of Finance has been working on a list of goals and initiatives relating to the budget process, budget format and communications to the public. Two subcommittees have been formed, one working on what and how to communicate during the budget process (March and April) and a second as to how to do the same during the rest of the year, especially during the fall and winter while the budgets are being developed by the schools and town departments before being presented to the Board of Finance.

One of the subcommittees is working on two surveys. One to survey residents as to why they vote, or don't vote, and to solicit ideas as to increase turnout at referendums. A second survey to come a little later will be similar to last year's, but with changes reflecting comments made on last year's survey. We have a volunteer helping us develop the questions as well as ways to increase participation. Last year we had over 600 participants, almost 3x prior results.

The Board is working with our Health Insurance Fund consultant to develop a sustainable funding process for Health Insurance. As we are self-funded, we want to be sure we are adequately funded to withstand years with high claims and to attempt to smooth out the funding from year to year to avoid a repeat of 2013-2014 budget year, when we experienced 17% and 25% increases in the cost of funding.

Over the next two months, the Board will review of our Equipment and Vehicle Capital Improvement Plan as well as the first year's financial results of the Energy Savings Project.

Rob Tarlov  
Chairman



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## Tricia Dean

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**From:** Joy Tyler <jttyler2@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2014 6:25 PM  
**To:** Tricia Dean  
**Subject:** Re: Commission Charimen Meeting Agenda for 10/16/14 @ 7pm  
*Building Committee*

Hi Tricia,

There is a triboard meeting on 10/15, so I won't plan to give a chair report on the next night, as the BOS should pretty much be up to speed on the progress. If necessary, I can show up and give a report. Let me know.

Thanks

Tom

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**From:** Tricia Dean <tdean@colchesterct.gov>  
**To:** jcbourque57@msn.com; malsbenden@sbcglobal.net; r.goldsteinesq@snet.net; ctparagon@comcast.net; jttyler2@sbcglobal.net; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyale@colchesterct.gov>; lepage119@comcast.net; siddellg66@comcast.net; afvp@sbcglobal.net; Don Lee <DLee@colchesterct.gov>; dkmmahoney@att.net; ford\_james\_w@sbcglobal.net; daniel.m.henderson@us.army.mil; kimberleyrusso@yahoo.com; Avis.hull@sbcglobal.net; becaffegan@comcast.net; esharon@ntplx.net; janetlabella@sbcglobal.net; nnorton@yahoo.com; cdferrante@yahoo.com; jbmathieu@comcast.net; robertparlee@hotmail.com; HealyBrenden@SBCGlobal.net; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyale@colchesterct.gov>; stephencoyle@sbcglobal.net; KC84 - Rob Suchecki <KC84@colchesterct.gov>; robinson@snet.net; ctmlhr@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** Denise Mizla <denise.mizla@aol.com>; Denise Mizla <dmizla@colchesterct.gov>; Kurt Frantzen <kafrantzen@comcast.net>; Kurt Frantzen <kfrantzen@colchesterct.gov>; rosemarycoyle@sbcglobal.net; Stan Soby <ssoby@colchesterct.gov>; William Curran <leverwjc@comcast.net>; William Curran <wcurran@colchesterct.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2014 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** Commission Charimen Meeting Agenda for 10/16/14 @ 7pm

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the Commission Chairmen Meeting Agenda for next week's meeting on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

If you will not be able to attend please send me an update to be included at the meeting by Wed 10/15.

Regards,

**Tricia Dean**

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

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## Jay Gigliotti

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**To:** Tricia Dean  
**Cc:** Gail Therian  
**Subject:** FW: Conservation Commission Chairman's Report

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

As the Chairman of the Colchester Conservation Commission (CCC), I shall unfortunately be unable to attend the Colchester Commission Chairman Meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2014. Please see below for my Chairman's Report of the Colchester Conservation Commission.

The following CCC Chairman Report, provides highlights & updates of the business conducted by the CCC since the April 17, 2014, Commission Chairman Meeting.

The previous Vice-Chairman of Conservation Commission, Mr. Kurt Frantzen, resigned as he was elected to the Board of Selectmen. To fill the Vice-Chairman position, the Commission elected Mr. Mo Epstein as the Vice-Chairman for the remainder of 2014. As the Conservation Commission's By-Laws indicate, elections of Commission officers shall occur annually at the December meeting. The Commission shall again conduct officer elections at that time.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Mo Epstein has served on the CCC for approximately **38 years**. He is always willing to help out in similar situations, makes many positive contributions and has consistently had a great attendance record during his long tenure with the Commission. The Environmental Planner/Wetlands & Environmental officer, Mr. Jay Gigliotti, as well as myself and other members of the commission, have made sure to thank Mr. Epstein for his on-going dedication to the Town & the Commission.

Commission member Andy George, was recently appointed to a Full-Time Member from an Alternate Position.

The Commission welcomed a new alternate member, Mrs. Rebecca Myer. She has extensive knowledge of the environment, as well as a great deal of experience with environmental laws. Mrs. Meyer has made an immediate positive impact during her first x3 meetings with the Commission.

Currently, the Commission has only one remaining vacant alternate member position.

My previous Chairman's report explained that the CCC made revisions to the Colchester Inland Wetland & Watercourse Regulations, which became effective on 4/1/14. Since the 4/1/14 effective date, the Commission has been operating off the revised regulations without any negative incidents.

The Commission received and approved an application from the owners of Tony's Junkyard, to slightly modify their existing permit issued in May of 2013. This modification permitted the property owners to fill a small, isolated pocket of a non-significant wetland. The fill of this isolated wetland, shall allow a stable and safe access into site, facilitating the removal of additional junk and debris previously in-accessible during the main site clean-up. Jay Gigliotti, continues to work with the property owner and their environmental professionals to complete the permit modification, as well as the remainder of the items required within the original permit.

Jay Gigliotti has worked diligently on several key enforcements, which are now progressing towards compliance. In addition, Mr. Gigliotti has brought several new enforcements to the Commission, and these enforcements are now currently underway.

The CCC has acted on x5 applications for As-of-Right/exempt (section 4) activities, x3 applications for retail/commercial/residential developments and x3 timber harvests. In addition, the CCC continues to accept, hear & discuss and vote on multiple applications for activities/projects within regulated areas.

As I consistently state it, the CCC is successful only because of the excellent job that Mr. Jay Gigliotti does, day in and day out. The CCC would not be able to function at the high level it does, if it was not for Mr. Gigliotti.

Finally, the Clerk for the CCC, Ms. Gail Therian, is instrumental in ensuring the on-going and code compliant operations of the CCC.

Thank you, please let me know if you have any specific questions.

Sincerely,

Falk von Plachecki

Chairman, Colchester Conservation Commission

## Tricia Dean

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**From:** Kimberley Russo <KRusso@unitedwayinc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 13, 2014 9:25 AM  
**To:** Tricia Dean  
**Subject:** October Chair Meeting

Tricia,

I will not be able to attend the Selectman meeting Thursday night. Below is my report on behalf of the Fair Rent Commission. If you need anything else, please let me know.

"The Fair Rent Commission continues to respond to requests for support regarding cases of fair rent. We still plan to connect with the Town's IT Manager in order to discuss possibilities of adding some additional information to the Fair Rent Commission's page on the Town's website so that we can clarify our role, residency requirements and provide additional referral sources for individuals seeking support that we may not be able to provide such as 211."

Kim

**Kimberley Russo / Director of Community Investment / United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut**  
30 Laurel Street / Hartford, CT 06106 / tel 860-493-1108 / fax 860-493-1199 / [krusso@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:krusso@unitedwayinc.org) / [unitedwayinc.org](http://unitedwayinc.org)

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Thursday, October 16, 2014

#### Sewer and Water Commission report

##### Water Park leak

The leak at the water park resulted in a loss of over \$17,000 of water. This cost was borne by the rate payers, not the taxpayers. The leak needs to be repaired as soon as possible in order to open the park next summer. The Public Works Director is in the process of preparing bids for the work. His preliminary estimate is \$38,000.

##### Well Risk

Currently, our backup well (Well 3) is not functioning properly and is in need of some repairs. This work is underway.

However, the permanent solution is to replace the well (a.k.a. Well 3A). Obtaining the permits is an 18 month process and is currently a vital project.

##### Sewer Activities

The Joint Facilities commission is in the process of hiring a new Administrator.

The Rotary Drum Thickener is project is also proceeding.

Stephen Coyle, Chairman, Colchester Sewer, Water Commission