



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Commission Chairmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 21, 2016
Colchester Town Hall – 7:00PM
Meeting Room 1**

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2016 APR 26 PM 4:41

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Art Shilosky, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Mizla, and Selectman John Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order

First Selectman A. Shilosky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Commission Updates – Commission Chairs

Merja Lehetinen reported on the **Cable Advisory Board** – Providers continue to come down in prices.

James Ford reported on the **Economic Development Commission** – Developing a management plan for social media. Current town policy prohibits entering into commerce and that's what the main focus of EDC is about. R Coyle asked the chair to cite language on what is problematic and the board may be able to revise. Working with sector opportunities, two major developers interested. Need two vacancies filled.

Ellen Sharon reported on the **Historic District Commission** – One application received as an eagle scout project for a wall to go around the civil war monument. Application was denied. The School for Colored Children is disintegrating. Two options may be available one is Carefree offered to provide a shed or the Liverant Family is looking into building a replica without any cost to the town.

Stephen Coyle reported on the **Sewer & Water Commission** - Public Hearing for rates meeting was postponed to May. 1 ½ water increase, no sewer increase. Took a tour of the Joint Facilities to view the rotor drum. (report attached)

WRITTEN REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING (attached):

Jean Stawicki regarding **Commission on Aging**
Dan Henderson regarding **Ethics Committee**
Joe Mathieu regarding **Planning & Zoning Commission**
Laurie Robinson regarding **Zoning Board of Appeals**
Stephen Coyle regarding **Sewer & Water Commission**
Ron Goldstein regarding **Board of Education**
Robert Tarlov regarding **Board of Finance**

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Christopher Bourque **Agriculture Commission**
Ron Silberman **Blight Task Force**
Thomas Tyler **Building Committee**
Gregg LePage regarding **Charter Revision Commission**
Falk Von Plachecki **Conservation Commission**

Mary Ellen Mahoney regarding **Cragin Board of Trustees**
Christina Maher regarding **Fair Rent Commission**
Jan LaBella regarding **Housing Authority**
Nick Norton **Open Space Advisory Committee**
Chris Ferrante **Parks & Recreation Commission**
Robert Parlee **Police Commission**
Brenden Healy regarding **Police Retirement Board**
Rob Suchecki **Youth Services Advisory Board**
Denise Turner **Board of Assessment Appeals**

3. Adjourn

J Jones moved to adjourn the Commission Chair Meeting at 7:21 p.m., seconded by R Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachments (7)

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Dean
Clerk

Commission on Aging Quarterly Report
Date: April 21, 2016
Submitted by Jean M. Stawicki, Chairman

Commission on Aging

Since the resignation this last December of our past Chairman, Gary Siddell, who was very energetic, enthusiastic, and able to give very generously of his time, we have been working as a commission to fill his very large shoes.

We currently have a vacancy for an alternate on our Commission and request that when notices of vacancies are placed in the paper that the vacancy on the Commission on Aging be included.

We have wrapped up editing of the Second Edition of the Senior Resource Guide and we are proceeding to the printing process. Towards that goal, the Commission applied to the Lions Club and was awarded a grant for printing the Guide. The amount of the grant will be disclosed by the Lions Club at its presentation on May 11, 2016.

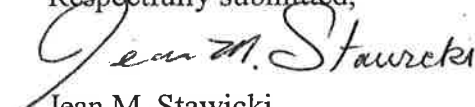
The Commission is working to determine the speaking topics it would like to present to Colchester residents between now and the end of the current calendar year.

Commission members are filling a few seats on the Senior Center Strategic Planning Committee towards the goal of improving the Senior Center and determining space needs for a possible future Senior Center.

The Commission is also continuing to work on developing projects aimed at forming collaborations between seniors and students in the Colchester School system.

The Commission will be participating in the second Commission on Aging Regional Round Table Meeting to be held on May 11, 2016 in Portland.

Respectfully submitted,


Jean M. Stawicki

Colchester Ethics Commission

Colchester Ethics Commission

Thursday, April 21st, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Colchester Town Hall

The Colchester Ethics Commission has met as scheduled to discuss the Colchester Code of Ethics and address any issues that have come to our attention. The Commission recently published five new documents to the town's website. These documents include (1) The Town's Ethics Procedures, (2) Frequently Asked Questions, (3) Citizen's Guide to the Ethics Complaint Process, (4) Ethics Commission Complaint Form and (5) The Commission's Guide to the Public Hearing Process. We have had active participation by citizens who have requested clarification of the board's jurisdiction and process. The board is also working on a document to clarify certain portions of our code we feel need attention.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Henderson
Chairman

The Planning and Zoning Commission currently has two applications before them and the public hearings for those applications will be continued at the April 27, 2016 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

The first application is for a convenience store, coffee and sandwich shop and gas station at 9 Loomis Road. The Commission is expecting the public hearing to be closed and then a vote on the application.

The second public hearing is for a 49,000 square foot expansion of Alpha Q located at 87 Upton Road. The public hearing for this application should also close and go to a vote at the April 27th meeting.

The Commission will also be hearing the 8-24 application for the purchase of the Senior Center property located at 95 Norwich Avenue.

The Commission has also received an application for a Zone change for the Browning and Lee Hardware Building located at 127 Old Hartford Road. The application will be heard at the May 4, 2016 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Thank you,

Randy Benson
Town Planner

Please accept this summary of the Zoning Board of Appeal's recent actions for this evening's Commission Chairmen Meeting:

- The Board elected Laurie Robinson as Chair and Patrick Reading as Co-Chair for 2016.
- This month, we heard an application regarding an appeal to the ZEO's decision.
- Next month, we expect to meet for an application regarding a request for a variance.
- The Board has 5 members, but no alternates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie R. Robinson
Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals

Sewer and Water Commission – Chairman Report

April 21, 2016

1. The Public hearing on the 2016-2017 Rates is postponed until May due to a lack of Quorum.
2. The proposed rate is a 1.5% increase for water and no increase for Sewer for a net increase of approximately .75 % increase.
3. At the May 2016 Joint Facilities meeting, we will get a tour of the new Rotary Drum Thickener.
4. No change in the status of well 3A.
5. We will be considering a new policy for accepting Force Mains on State roads. This is similar to what Portland and East Hampton are doing for the St. Clemens proposal.

Stephen Coyle, Chairman



Colchester Board of Education

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 202
Colchester, CT 06415

Ronald Goldstein
Chairman

Phone (860) 537-7208
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT April 21, 2016

As I will be out-of-town Thursday night, I am providing this written report of recent Board of Education news.

The school year is quickly drawing to a close, with June 10 as the last day of school and graduation. A number of certified staff members are retiring and also two administrators. Director of Teaching and Learning Barbara Gilbert is retiring, and will be succeeded by Dr. Charles Hewes, who is currently an Assistant Principal at Bacon Academy. Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Deb Sandberg will also retire, and the Board welcomes Elise Butson as the new Principal. Ms. Butson comes to use from South Windsor, where she is currently an associate principal. She has an extensive background in Higher Order Thinking (HOT) schools (like JJIS) and we are excited to have her passion and energy on our administrative team.

Four of the District's teachers recently were named as recipients of grants from the Fund for Teachers. These prestigious awards will enable these teachers to enhance their professional development through travel and coursework over the summer. They will then bring what they learn back to their classrooms (and the entire district).

Fall/Winter Athletics ended with many noteworthy accomplishments in Football, Boy's Basketball and Girl's Basketball.

In January, the Board received Citizen's Comments requesting that Colchester Elementary School be named after longtime First Selectman Jenny Contois. The Board is researching the procedures for naming of school facilities, including how best to gather public opinion on doing so. No decisions have been made.

The District's Farm-to-Table initiative continues to expand. At the elementary level, our youngest students are working with high school students on a production company devoted to healthy eating and farm-to-table ideals. At the high school, Academy Acres (our student garden) is growing and we approved the installation of a greenhouse in the school courtyard.

The Board looks forward to a busy summer, with negotiations of several union contracts underway or soon to be started.

Thank you.

Budgets going to Town meeting with a mil rate increase of .29 mils which is a little less than 1% at +.94%. For the median price home with 2 cars, increase will be about \$50 per year.

Continue to work on the Insurance Funding Policy. A new funding formula was put in place 2 years ago and experience has been good, but want to determine a formula that will smooth out any future volatility in funding.

The Town's capital plan has been updated, adding the items in the Facilities Plan to the Equipments which continue to be funded at 100%. Items still needing to be added to level funding portion of the plan are the large fire equipment pieces.

A new snow removal reserve funding plan has been put in place.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, **Board of Finance**