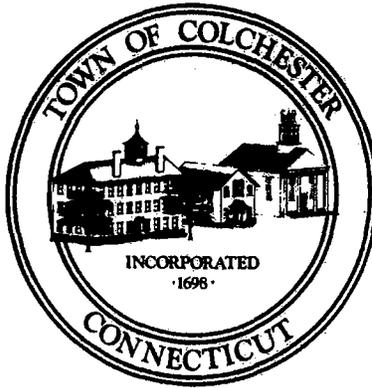


Linda M. Hodge



First Selectman

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2009
Colchester Town Hall
Meeting Room 1 – 7:00 p.m.**

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

2009 MAY - 8 PM 4: 12

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Linda Hodge, Selectman Stan Soby, Selectman John Malsbenden, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Greg Cordova

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Caplet, Shelly Flynn, Cindy Praisner, Adam Benson, Gregg Schuster, Dawn LePage, Sean O'Leary, Kele Issa, Brenden Healy, David Dander, and other citizens.

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman L. Hodge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** J. Malsbenden moved to add to item #10c "John Ringo (representative of the Board of Finance)", a new item #16a "Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Concert Ice Cream Concessions", and a new item #16b "Discussion and Possible Action on Old Firehouse Grant", seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **Approve Minutes of the April 7, 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Joint Meeting:** R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 Board of Selectmen special joint meeting as presented, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
4. **Approve Minutes of the April 16, 2009 Board of Selectmen Public Hearing:** S. Soby moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 Board of Selectmen public hearing as presented, seconded by R. Coyle. G. Cordova and J. Malsbenden abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
5. **Approve Minutes of the April 16, 2009 Colchester Commission Chairmen Meeting:** S. Soby moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 Colchester Commission Chairmen meeting as presented, seconded by R. Coyle. J. Malsbenden and G. Cordova abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
6. **Approve Minutes of the April 16, 2009 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting:** S. Soby moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 Board of Selectmen regular meeting as presented, seconded by R. Coyle. G. Cordova and J. Malsbenden abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
7. **Approve Minutes of the April 21, 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting:** S. Soby moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2009 Board of Selectmen special meeting as presented, seconded by G. Cordova. J. Malsbenden and R. Coyle abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
8. **Approve Minutes of the April 24, 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting:** S. Soby moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2009 Board of Selectmen special meeting as presented, seconded by G. Cordova. R. Coyle and J. Malsbenden abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **Citizen's Comments:** First Selectman L. Hodge noted that there were two citizens present in the audience who wished to comment on item #16a. G. Cordova moved to move item #16a to immediately follow #9 on the agenda, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

David Dander spoke regarding his personal and professional experiences with his business in the Town of Colchester, his businesses' involvement in the Ice Cream Concessions Bid RFP, and his opinion on the lack of qualifications of the other bidding entity.

Sean O'Leary spoke on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the Commission's reasoning for their decision for the bid award recommendation before the Board of Selectmen.

Dawn LePage spoke regarding her opinion that David Dander's business should be given the entire bid award for the Ice Cream Concession Bid before the Board of Selectmen.

16. **a. Discussion and Possible Action on Ice Cream Concession Bid:** S. Soby moved to send the Ice Cream Concession Bid back to the Parks & Recreation Commission, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

10. **Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations**

- a. **Police Commission Resignation (effective 05/05/09): Bill Otfinoski:** S. Soby moved to accept the resignation of Bill Otfinoski from the Police Commission with deep regret, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- b. **Economic Development Commission (filling member vacancy left by Robert Boucher; new term to expire on 10/01/14): Kele Issa (to be interviewed):** The Board of Selectmen interviewed Kele Issa.
- c. **Colchester Retirement Board (member appointments; new terms to expire on 01/01/12): Stan Soby (representative of Board of Selectmen), John Ringo (representative of Board of Finance) and Jon Sandberg (Treasurer of the Town):** G. Cordova moved to appoint Stan Soby (representative of Board of Selectmen) for a new term to expire on 01/01/12, John Ringo (representative of Board of Finance), filling the vacancy left by Ron Goldstein, for a new term to expire on 01/01/12, and Jon Sandberg (Treasurer of the Town) for a new term to expire on 01/01/12, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

11. **Budget Transfers:** None

12. **Tax Refunds & Rebates:** After review, J. Malsbenden moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$40.27 to Samantha Moore, \$507.14 to Marcia and Samuel Kranc, \$2448.17 to Mark and Amy Tousignant, \$1980.01 to Robert and Johna Devoe, \$164.52 to Louis Amara, \$18.12 to Lola A Johnson Trust, \$27.69 to Mark and Kellee Ratzer, \$279.04 to Daniel Wrobel, \$1695.87 to Regina and Daniel Anselmo, \$32.55 to Dorry Spatafora, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

13. **Discussion and Possible Action on Colchester Police Pension Plan:** Brenden Healy presented on the proposed amendments to the pension plan. R. Coyle moved to table this item pending a copy of the applicable IRS code, and a written interpretation by an ING representative, seconded by S. Soby. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
14. **Discussion and Possible Action on Fire Department Vehicle Mounted Exhaust Filtration System RFQ Award:** G. Cordova moved to approve the award of the Fire Department vehicle mounted exhaust filtration system RFQ to Ward Diesel Filter Systems for a total amount not to exceed \$104,288.⁰⁰, per the recommendation of the Colchester Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, with the Town share of \$54000.⁰⁰ to be taken from equipment reserve, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
15. **Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action on Collaborative for Colchester's Children:** Shelly Flynn presented on the Collaborate for Colchester's Children. R. Coyle moved to congratulate the Collaborative on their accomplishments thus far, and to approve and support the town of Colchester as a partner to the implementation plan and ongoing efforts to address the important issues related to early childhood education, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
16. **Discussion and Possible Action on School Readiness Grant:** R. Coyle moved to approve the School Readiness Grant application as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
 - b. **Discussion and Possible Action on Old Firehouse Grant:** S. Soby moved to approve the Historic Restoration Fund grant contract as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
17. **Citizen's Comments:** None
18. **First Selectman's Report:** First Selectman L. Hodge had nothing additional to report as everything was included in the body of this meeting.
19. **Liaison Reports:** Selectman Soby reported on the Colchester Retirement Board. Selectmen Malsbenden reported on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Selectman Cordova reported on the Parks & Recreation Commission.
20. **Adjourn:** R. Coyle moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m., seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachments

1. Email dated 05/06/09, from Lt. Michael Spellman to First Selectman Linda Hodge, regarding "Sgt. Shane Hassett"
2. Dated 05/05/09, "Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester Initiative Status as of May 5, 2009"

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Caplet
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

From: Spellman, Michael [mailto:Michael.Spellman@po.state.ct.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2009 2:35 PM
To: Linda Hodge
Cc: Fields, Steven; Griffin, Frank; troopk.msgt@po.state.ct.us
Subject: Sgt Shane Hassett

Ms. Hodge,

It is with profound professional regret that I inform you that Sergeant Shane Hassett has requested reassignment from the Colchester Resident Trooper program to Troop K as a patrol supervisor. After giving great consideration to the current dynamics of the Resident trooper program in the town of Colchester I recommend Sergeant Michael Hassett to replace Sergeant Shane Hassett as the Resident Trooper for the Town of Colchester. Sergeant Michael Hassett (not related to Sergeant Shane Hassett) is a very energetic and competent police supervisor. He possesses advanced interpersonal skills, and he enjoys working with others to accomplish significant goals and challenges. I would like to schedule a meeting with you in the very near future so that I can officially introduce Sgt Hassett to you, and provide you with an opportunity to share with him your expectations and priorities. It is my hope that after your introduction and input we can have Sergeant Mike Hassett in the position of Colchester Resident trooper by May 14, 2009.

As you have requested I will continue to share budgetary information on State Police only Resident trooper programs in municipalities the same size as Colchester for your review. Last week I provided you with a budgetary comparison done by OPM with towns similar to Colchester, and the table broke it down to cost per taxpayer as requested. The fiduciary assessment is your judgment of what the town can afford and or desires, but as you can see it can be done for less than currently expended by the town of Colchester with a State Police only format. We have a power point presentation available on benefits of the program, and I can avail the Commanding Officer of Troop C to discuss the Mansfield model you enquired on. Operationally we stand ready to handle public safety duties in Colchester as needed status quo, or with changes. With the high number of Troopers choosing to live in Colchester and our physical plant location we are a natural community resource. =

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Michael J. Spellman
Commanding Officer Troop K
Colchester, Ct.

Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester
Submitted to Board of Selectmen by Katherine Kosiba, Co-chairperson

Initiative Status as of May 5, 2009
(No reports were delivered in March or April 2009)

Purpose

To achieve the nationally-recognized certification - Community Wildlife Habitat - for Colchester CT through the National Wildlife Federation.

Certification Process and Point Accrual

See Overview dated October 15, 2008 provided to the Board of Selectmen.

Statement of Activity as of May 6, 2009

<u>Action</u>	<u>Points Needed</u>	<u>Prior Report</u>	<u>Points Achieved</u>
1. Registration	40-75	55	55
2. Setting and meeting educational goals	40-90	45	70
3. Setting and meeting community project goals	50-190	60	85
4. Setting and meeting project administration goals (some tasks are post-certification)	20-80	41	61
	(minimum 175 points)	<u>Subtotal 201</u>	<u>Subtotal 271</u>
Certified Individual Wildlife Habitats			
5. Home, Townhouse, Apartment (must certify at least 100 at 1 point each)	100	46	53
6. Public site, workplace, part, place of worship, other common area (must certify at least 4 at 3 points each)	12	9	9
7. Schoolyard habitats (must certify at least 3 at 5 points each)	15	0	0
8. Bonus points for each member of the Wildlife Habitat Team with their property as a Certified Wildlife Habitat site. (Current team of 7 members have certified wildlife habitats)	N/A	10	10
	(minimum 200 points specifically for habitats)	65	<u>Subtotal 72</u>
<u>Total</u>	375	266	343

Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester
Statement of Activity as of May 5, 2009, 2009

Completed Actions

Certification goals

There were 4 homes certified as Individual Wildlife Habitats in February, 3 in March. Total points needed are 200 for individual habitats (homes, businesses, farms, community properties, schools, churches, etc.) and we currently have 72.

Two upcoming Community events are geared to focus more attention on the certification portion of the initiative.

The team met with Barbara Gilbert, Curriculum Director, to discuss the requirement of school certification. A commitment has been obtained to certify all four schools before the end of the school year. Next step, separate meetings between each principal and a member of the Wildlife Habitat team to discuss the assessment and certification process at each school to create an authentic learning opportunity to engage students.

Educational goals

- Brian Kleinman of Riverside Reptiles delivered his program on local amphibians and reptiles to over 135 adults and children on April 15, 2009 at the Cragin Memorial Library. Mr. Kleinman donated his program to the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester initiative.
- On April 22 at Cragin Memorial Library, a Backyard Water Resource Protection presentation by Wendy Goodfriend of Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District. A display and handouts will remain at the library through most of May. Links to handouts will be added to the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester web site.
- On April 30, Cragin Memorial Library and the Colchester Garden Club sponsored a community talk on Butterflies, Moths, Caterpillars in the Garden by John Himmelman, children's author/illustrator, co-founder of the Connecticut Butterfly Association. Participants numbered 14 adults and children. Handouts will be added to the Community Wildlife Habitat web site.
- Family discovery hike focused on amphibians, reptiles, and beavers was held at Babcock Pond, May 3 at 1 p.m. with educational stations which required advance registration due to the limited parking. There were 22 children, 10 adults, and 11 volunteers. We partnered with the Colchester Land Trust who also conducted a family hike at 2 p.m. from a nearby side road for the other side of Babcock Pond. Their participation was 34 adults and children.

Photo 1: Photo by Kathy Culhane
“Al Petell, Wildlife Conservationist points out Babcock Pond beaver lodge.”



Photo 2: Photo by Marty Podskoch
Colchester Land Trust hikers pass beaver dam at Babcock Pond



Community Goals

- Planning in progress for an Individual Wildlife Habitat tour of 3-5 local properties that are certified to call attention to this critical component of the community initiative.
- Planning has begun for a special free fun/educational event, *Colchester Day at Connecticut Audubon Society- Glastonbury* with support of Sally Carbone, Directory, and several our partners to promote getting out in nature, and “Backyard Conservation” to draw attention to the certification aspect of the initiative. Initial planning meeting was held on Wednesday, April 29. The following commitments have been made so far with more expected:
 - Date: Sunday, June 28; 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 - Al Petell, DEP trained Master Wildlife Conservationist, to answer questions and provide information related to the many animals/birds within the center.
 - Connecticut Forest and Parks – to lead a family ramble on adjacent trails and provide information on hiking/blue trails.
 - Sustainable Gardening Practices:
 - Master Gardener – demonstration and information on Composting
 - Invasive Plants
 - Mulching
 - Hiking Safety
 - Community Wildlife Habitat Certification – information table and volunteers.

Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester Team

- A new member has joined our core team, Michelle Avery. She is a local resident and parent who is working on her Masters in Environmental Science and Biology, currently working part-time for the CT Department of Environmental Protection doing water testing in Long Island Sound. . We welcome Michelle to our team.

Ellen Falbowski, Co-chairperson, Master Gardener

Katherine Kosiba, Co-chairperson, Colchester Garden Club-President, Master Gardener

Mary Bylone, member, Colchester Conservation Commission – board member

Cathy Shea, member, Colchester Land Trust- Secretary

Cathy Pompei, member, Colchester Garden Club – Vice-President, Connecticut Business Association- member, Rotary of Colchester – member

Karen Germain – member, Today's Child Care Association – member

Fran Brouillet, member, Colchester resident

Jon Hipsher, member, Colchester resident, parent

Michelle Avery, member, Colchester resident, parent, part time CT DEP employee, student