

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, January 7, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

(ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ACTION)

Members Present: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Denise Mizla, and Taras Rudko

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: R. Coyle motioned to add a presentation on Town Goals as number 13 and renumber accordingly, seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. T. Rudko motioned to add type of payments accepted by the town as number 14 and renumber accordingly, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Katherine Kosiba spoke in favor of the purchase of the Westchester Property.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: ATTACHED
6. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2020 Board of Selectmen
 - B. Amend Reappointment for Jason Radacy to ZBA for a five-year term to end 12/31/2025
 - C. Amend Reappointment for Bob Setschinsky to ZBA for a five-year term to end 12/31/2025
 - D. Accept Jean Stawicki's Resignation from the Commission on Aging
 - E. Tax Abatements

D. Turner motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the minutes in liaison reports to list T. Rudko instead of R. Rudko, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
7. Presentation by Novus on ePortal for Freedom of Information Requests: First Selectman to ask attorney to attend a future Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss possible legal implications.
8. Charge for Ad Hoc Committee to Research Using Town Funds to Support Efforts to Secure Both Conservation and Agricultural Easements: No action taken.
9. Norton Park Grant: R. Coyle motioned to support the submission of the application for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for the Norton Park Committee, seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
10. Approve Section 5310 Funding for Procurement of 14 Passenger Bus for Senior Center: R. Coyle motioned to approve the Section 5310 funding and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Selectman@ColchesterCt.gov

860-537-7220

www.ColchesterCT.gov

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2021 JAN 11 PM 1:03
Mary Bylone
Rosemary Coyle
Denise Turner
Denise Mizla
Taras Rudko
TOWN OF COLCHESTER

11. Memorandum of Understanding for Section c-601 c of the Town Charter: T. Rudko motioned to accept the MOU with the changes, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
12. Amount of Detail Listed in the Liaison Reports: No action taken.
13. Presentation of Town Goals by the First Selectman: Power Point Attached
14. Type of payments accepted by the Town: The board reached consensus that the Tax Collector should take cash. Tax Collector will attend the next BOS meeting to discuss other payment questions and procedures.
15. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Katherine Kosiba supported the presentation on the budget goals presentation, the promptness of the reply about pedestrian safety and made a suggestion for liaison reports.
16. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:
- There will be a joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting on January 21 at 6 p.m. to hear a presentation about the new Senior Center.
 - There were 113 cases of COVID in town last week. There has been an outbreak of it at Apple Rehab and one person at Harrington Court.
 - State has given 99,929 first vaccinations and 1,085 of the second dose. Some members of our Fire Department and Police Department have gotten the first vaccine.
17. LIAISON REPORTS:
- T. Rudko – Unable to attend Planning and Zoning.
 - R. Coyle – Agriculture Commission – appointed a person to the Ad Hoc Committee to Research Using Town Funds to Support Efforts to Secure Both Conservation and Agricultural Easements.
 - Senior Center Building Subcommittee – Public Information – Discussion about how to inform the public.
 - Chatham Health District Budget Subcommittee
 - Colchester Business Association – Presented for the First Selectman State of the Town.
 - D. Mizla – Youth Services Advisory Board – They are doing the Learning Lounge and Community Conversations. They did the Resolution Run virtually and had 17 participants, some were from other parts of the country.
 - D. Turner – Historic District Commission – One new application for certificate of appropriateness. They elected their officers.
 - Ad Hoc Committee for Diversity and Inclusion – Patty Watts from the Senior Center was the guest speaker. They will have new guest speakers including Matt Bordeaux and the Police Commission.
 - First Selectman – Police Commission – Was unable to attend but they are working on budget priorities.
18. ADJOURN: T. Rudko motioned to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Please see the minutes of future meetings for any corrections hereto.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heide', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Heide Perham

From: First Selectman
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Katherine Kosiba
Cc: Heide Perham; Stacey Schweighoffer
Subject: Re: Problem - unsightly/unsafe overflow donations, and two suggestions to improve situation.

Hi Katherine

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I think the first line of approach would be to get the collection agencies to pick up in a timely manner or have the bins removed. Moving them to the area you are referencing will increase dumping I think. I will include your email in the correspondence section of the agenda for the BOS in the January meeting. We can certainly send out some email reminder about the topic and post some of the links on the webpage that you have provided.

Mary Bylone
First Selectman, Colchester
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415
860-537-7220 office



From: Katherine Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 8:29 PM
To: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Mizla <dmizla@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; Taras Rudko <trudko@colchesterct.gov>; Jeff Burt <jburt@colchesterct.org>
Subject: Problem - unsightly/unsafe overflow donations, and two suggestions to improve situation.

Dear First Selectman Bylone,

This view (photo at end of email) is becoming more common place in downtown Colchester with a few of the many charity donation bins.

Might the town consider taking some of the property before the entrance to the transfer station to put in a row of donation bins for various charities to then get them out of the downtown area? This would also make it easier for townspeople to donate without leaving items outside the bins with multiples available in one location. I read an article some time back that a town on the shoreline did this at or near their transfer station (I seem to recall it being Branford, but cannot relocate the online reference I read)

There have been times over the years when the Colchester Garden Club is doing garden maintenance at the Cragin Memorial Library where things blow over to the library's entrance from the Salvation Army Bins behind Noels' Market, as well as into Noel's vacant lot behind bins. If we did not pick up, I don't know who else would.

At the present time our downtown area has many collection bins at these locations (This may not be a complete list, I would be willing to do a fuller inventory)

Cragin Court:

- Cragin Memorial Library – 2 bins (Salvation Army) (Currently there is a set of golf club's outside the bin in the library parking lot)
- Behind Noel's Market – 2 bins (Salvation Army) Above is the current appearance which is worse from before the last storm; a friend of mine contacted several days ago but no action yet taken.
- Behind Merchants Row - bin (Red Cross)

Linwood Avenue

- St Mary's Church
- Stop and Shop Parking Lot

South Main Street

- CVS Parking lot – 2 bins - (front by street)
- Citgo Gas Station - 2 bins (front by street)

Additionally,

- Greenwich has a volunteer organization <https://www.wastefreegreenwich.org/> that has put a page on their web site to help people redirect items to local/area charities rather than throw away. <https://www.wastefreegreenwich.org/where-to-donate>
- Hebron has created a list of things that the transfer station does not accept <https://www.hebrongoesgreen.com/recycling-uncommon-goods> and <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/591a44596a4963482c69e466/t/59e1622acd39c37ad08f07ce/1507942954603/Potential+Donation+Locations.pdf>

It would be nice to do something similar for the town of Colchester on the town's Transfer Station web page to do (or maybe Bacon Academy students do as a project to develop an expanded resource on the town web page <https://www.colchesterct.gov/transfer-station/pages/proper-waste-disposal-procedures>) to further reduce trash and encourage townspeople to recycle/reuse/donate more.

Thank goodness for the FB page Buy Nothing Colchester <https://www.facebook.com/groups/115738705526851> which has many people posting to give things away daily.

I hope the Town of Colchester/Board of Selectmen will consider further expanding our town's promotion/education of Recycle/Reuse/Donate philosophy <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics> to help provide a single source document/site to direct townspeople on how/where to direct their unwanted items and keep our town beautiful.

Warm regards

Katherine M. Kosiba

178 Bull Hill Road, Colchester, CT 06515

Cc: Board of Selectman (by email and town's online submission form)

Jeff Burt, Superintendent of Schools.



All Things Colchester



John Sellick

10h · 🌐

...

Donations or trash ?

Anyone know who to call about this ?

If the snow hasn't already hit it

It'll be worthless in another week or two....

I'm really trying not to berate the folks who decided to do this.... based on  all the different colored bags and boxes etc

This is clearly a bunch of you

but come on people

You can care a little

Save the planet ...till it comes to me having to drive this to an actual donation center



Heide Perham

From: Fatu, Natasha A <Natasha.Fatu@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:37 PM
To: kmk178@att.net
Subject: RE: Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues (11/13/2020 2:48:59 PM)

Hello Katherine,

The Department of Transportation's (Department) Division of Traffic Engineering has received your concern below regarding installation of crosswalks on Route 16 at the Stop & Shop Plaza and Route 16 at Route 149 in the town of Colchester. Requests of this nature should first be reviewed by the Town's Local Traffic Authority (LTA) since they are generally more familiar with local issues. If they are in agreement that the request should be studied, they will contact the Department for an official study.

Please see the following link for the LTA contact information.

[Directory of Local Traffic Authorities](#)

With respect to speeding and distracted drivers, as you are aware, there are motorists who choose to ignore traffic rules and signs. Driver behavior on the roads in many circumstances, is not ideal and is in violation of traffic laws. The "rules of the road" are designed to regulate driver behavior in such a fashion that motorists are safe and traffic flows efficiently. Speeding - or the speed of a car - is a driver behavior issue, as a car only goes as fast as the individual driver directs it to.

The Department's Highway Safety Plan incorporates the "4 E's" - Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services. The Department strives to provide the safest Engineering solutions within federal guidelines and standards for the state roadways and to provide Educational resources to the towns. Enforcement is considered the most effective means of addressing speeding and distracted driving concerns, as the Department has limited jurisdiction in this role. The safest roadway will be those where all four E's are effective. Therefore, the Department recommends routine police enforcement of this area and the local enforcement agency should be contacted to help monitor speeding and distracted driving.

Thank you for taking the time to expressing your concern,

Natasha Fatu, P.E., PTOE
Transportation Engineer
Division of Traffic Engineering
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: (860) 594-2731
Fax: (860) 594-3376
Email: Natasha.Fatu@ct.gov

From: Katherine M. Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 2:49 PM
To: Nursick, Kevin J

Cc: WebMaster.ConnDOT; Young, Cynthia A.; Steeves, Anita
Subject: RE: Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues (11/13/2020 2:48:59 PM)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Name: Katherine M. Kosiba
Contact phone number: 860-267-4471
Contact E-mail address: kmk178@att.net
Reported Town: Colchester
Topic: Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues
Route: rte 16
Location Description: Rte 16 and rte 149 AND rte 16 at Stop and Stop entrance
Direction of Travel: Rte 16 heading into Colchester
Time:

Comment: To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to know whether there is a reason for the lack of painted crosswalks across rte 16 where are there pedestrian electronic signal crossings. The two locations I noticed today in Colchester are:

- Westchester Center at the corner of rte 16/rte 149, and
- Linwood Avenue - At the entrance of Stop and Stop on the opposite street corner from Gano's Equipment.

I have noticed people using the crosswalk signal on Linwood Avenue, then are reluctant to cross when it signals them to cross, as cars are taking right on red illegally because the signal is in effect. Having a crosswalk painted on the road will help with this as vehicles have to provide right of way to pedestrians who are in the crosswalk. With the COVID 19 pandemic there seems to be more distracted drivers, and drivers in a hurry creating unsafe conditions. I hope you will consider making these two state roads with pedestrian crossings safer for those who choose to walk by painting the crosswalks. Thank you. Warm regards, Katherine M. Kosiba

This was submitted via the comment page

Heide Perham

From: Brault, Angela R <Angela.Brault@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Katherine Kosiba
Subject: Re: State Highway Signs (11/17/2020 2:04:08 PM) Second issues re: rte 16 crosswalks...

Crosswalks could've went to another section in the Department. I will forward this to our traffic Department

From: Katherine Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Brault, Angela R
Subject: RE: State Highway Signs (11/17/2020 2:04:08 PM) Second issues re: rte 16 crosswalks...

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Here is the copy I sent to our Colchester Public Works Dept and First Selectman on my notice to CT DOT on the missing painted crosswalks on rte 16. Thank you.

From: Katherine Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:25 PM
To: 'Brault, Angela R' <Angela.Brault@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: State Highway Signs (11/17/2020 2:04:08 PM)

Dear Angela

Thank you very much. I sent another notice via the web site last week about the lack of painted crosswalks on rte 16 where there are pedestrian cross signals and I have not yet received an acknowledgement. I am very concerned before both locations are heavily trafficked, and drivers are not heeding pedestrians trying to cross when signal is in force because no painted crosswalks.

From: Brault, Angela R <Angela.Brault@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Katherine M. Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Cc: McClure, Eoin <Eoin.McClure@ct.gov>; Santoro, Michele E <Michele.Santoro@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: State Highway Signs (11/17/2020 2:04:08 PM)

Ms. Kosiba;

Thank you for informing us of your observation. I have forwarded your email to the appropriate District to inspect the area and handle, if necessary.

Thank you again for your email.

Sincerely,

Angela Brault
CTDOT

From: Katherine M. Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:06 PM

To: Brault, Angela R

Cc: Nursick, Kevin J; WebMaster.ConnDOT; Young, Cynthia A.; Steeves, Anita

Subject: RE: State Highway Signs (11/17/2020 2:04:08 PM)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Name: Katherine M. Kosiba

Contact phone number: 860-267-4471

Contact E-mail address: kmk178@att.net

Reported Town: Colchester

Topic: State Highway Signs

Route: Rte 16 / Linwood Avenue Colchester

Location Description: Rte 16/Cragin Court

Direction of Travel:

Time:

Comment: To Whom It May Concern, the Rte 16 WEst sign and post has been laying on the grass on rte 16/Linwood Ave for more than 2 weeks (near Cragin Memorial Library and Colchester Historical Society Museum. When will it be put back into place? Thank you.

This was submitted via the comment page

From: [First Selectman](#)
To: [Heide Perham](#)
Subject: FW: Request for BOS action - Lack of painted crosswalks in Colchester across state highways where electronic pedestrian crossing signals are located.
Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 2:27:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mary

Mary Bylone
First Selectman Colchester CT
860-537-7220 office



From: Katherine Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Sal Tassone <townengineer@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; James Paggioli <JPaggioli@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for BOS action - Lack of painted crosswalks in Colchester across state highways where electronic pedestrian crossing signals are located.

Dear Mr Tassone,
Thank you so much for the town's pursuit of this important public safety measure. I am very appreciative and look forward to when the State DOT's work may be completed.
Happy New Year.
Warm regards
Katherine M. Kosiba

From: Sal Tassone <townengineer@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Cieri, Antony <Antony.Cieri@ct.gov>
Cc: Fatu, Natasha A <Natasha.Fatu@ct.gov>; Carlos.Wimberly@ct.gov; Chapman, Richard J <Richard.Chapman@ct.gov>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; James Paggioli <JPaggioli@colchesterct.gov>; Resident Trooper Sergeant <SGT@colchesterct.gov>; debimarvin@msn.com; Katherine Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>

Subject: Fw: Request for BOS action - Lack of painted crosswalks in Colchester across state highways where electronic pedestrian crossing signals are located.

Good morning Tony,

In accordance with the following request from Colchester concerned citizen, Katherine Kosiba and the attached response received from Natasha Fatu of Conn. DOT, I would like to request the installation of crosswalk pavement markings at the following locations:

- Rte 16/Linwood Avenue at Stop and Shop entrance
- Rte 16/ Middletown Road and Rte 2 Westbound entrance
- Rte 16/Middletown Road and Rte 2 Eastbound entrance
- Rte 16 / Middletown Road and Rte 149/Westchester Road (New sidewalks/sidewalk ramps and pushbutton crosswalk signals recently installed as required by DOT for the recently completed Dunkin/Henny Penny site development at this location).
- Route 85/Broadway and Route 85 Amston Road. (The State DOT recently upgraded sidewalk ramps and pushbutton crosswalk signals at this location).

Having visited all of the above sites earlier today, I can confirm that while all five noted locations have pushbutton crosswalk signals, none of the five locations have pavement markings at the crosswalks. Also, with the ongoing and increased development and recent installation/improvement of public sidewalks in the vicinity of these crosswalk locations, there is increased pedestrian traffic utilizing the existing pushbutton crosswalk signals. Accordingly it is requested that the State DOT also install crosswalk pavement markings at these locations to enhance visibility/detection by the motorist, thereby helping to provide for safer pedestrian crossings.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your help.

Sal Tassone P.E.
Town Engineer/ LTA Designate
860-537-7281

From: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Sal Tassone <townengineer@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Fw: Request for BOS action - Lack of painted crosswalks in Colchester across state highways where electronic pedestrian crossing signals are located.

Thoughts?

Mary Bylone
First Selectman, Colchester
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415
860-537-7220 office



From: Katherine Kosiba <kmk178@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 12:27 PM
To: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Denise Mizla <dmizla@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcogle@colchesterct.gov>; Taras Rudko <trudko@colchesterct.gov>; Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>; James Paggioli <JPaggioli@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Request for BOS action - Lack of painted crosswalks in Colchester across state highways where electronic pedestrian crossing signals are located.

Dear First Selectman Bylone,

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION:

I would like to request the Town of Colchester seriously consider taking action to improve pedestrian safety in conjunction the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation to have pedestrian crosswalks painted at several locations on rte 16 where there are electronic pedestrian crossing signals but no painted crosswalks.

BACKGROUND:

With the pandemic having more people walking in town, as well as people walking along rte 16 from homes and residential areas from Cabin Road Road onto rte 16 into town, I have also noticed cars not giving the pedestrians the Right of Way to cross at certain intersections with electronic Pedestrian Crossing Signals because there is no crosswalk painted NOR crossing beeping and the driver is not aware of the signal in use.

Colchester has several of these electronic pedestrian crossing locations with no painted crosswalks on rte 16.

The locations are:

- Rte 16/Linwood Avenue at Stop and Shop entrance (see photo attached)
- Rte 16/ Middletown Road and Rte 2 Westbound entrance
- Rte 16/Middletown Road and Rte 2 Eastbound entrance
- Rte 16 / Middletown Road and Rte 149/Westchester Road

I myself have walked down rte 16/Linwood Ave from the Cragin Memorial Library to the pedestrian crossing signal at Stop and Shop to cross the street then walk back up to the town green. There was an occurrence this year while crossing Linwood Ave with the cross signal a car pulled in front of me taking a Right on Red disregarding the active walk signal (I'm thinking likely because he did not see the signal/ there was no crossing sound/beeping AND because there was no cross walk painted to reinforce the pedestrian crossing) Photo attached of this intersection.

I contacted the CT DOT to bring this matter to their attention. Their response was the local government has to assess and request this type of improvement (see attached emails). So I am requesting the Board of Selectmen look into taking action on this important safety issue for the very busy rte 16 locations where electronic crossing signals are in place without the accompanying painted crosswalks. If we can have painted crosswalks on our Colchester country roads for the Airline Trail crossings, it is just as critical to have in more heavily traveled areas to keep pedestrians safe.

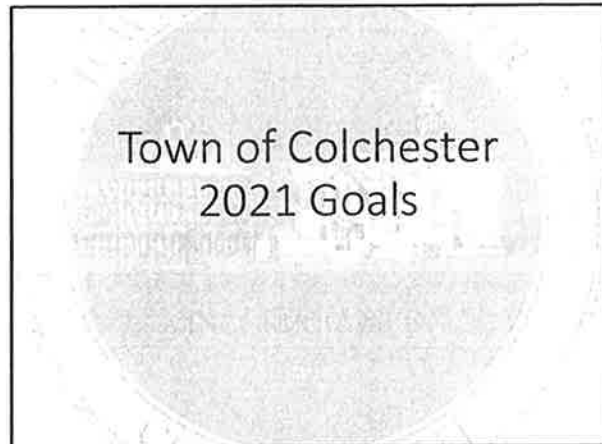
Thank you.

Warm regards

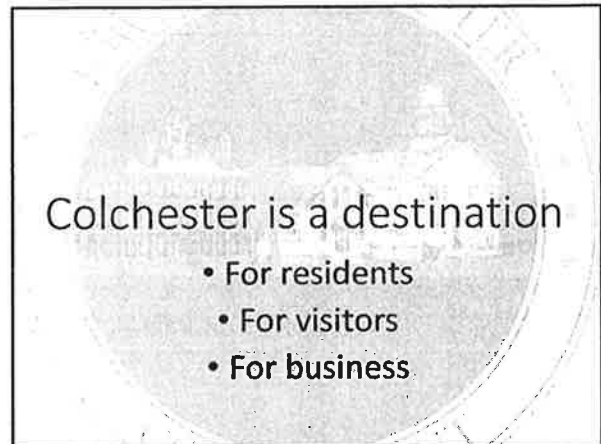
Katherine M. Kosiba

178 Bull Hill Road

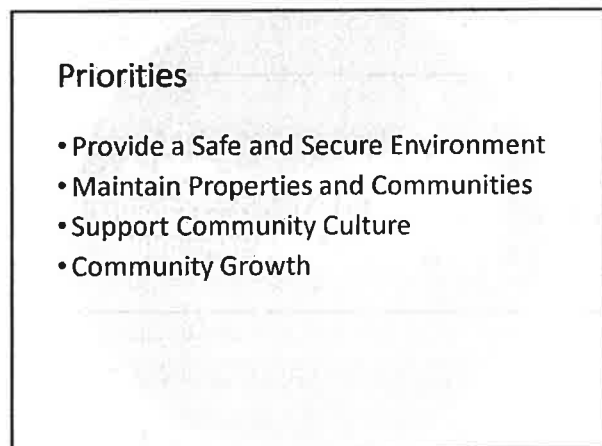
Colchester, CT 06415



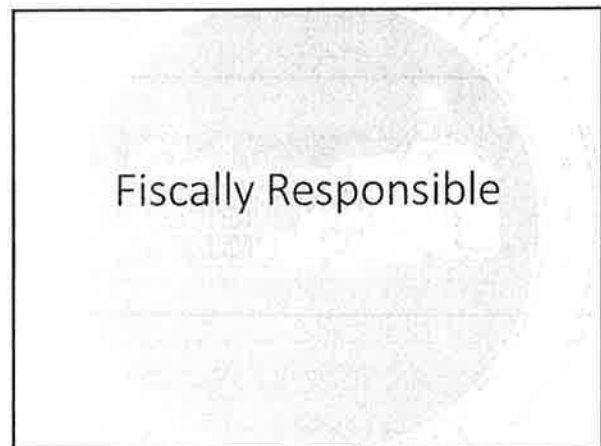
1



2



3



4

Safety and Security

- Police / Fire / EMS / Town Staff / Emergency Response
- Provide adequate staffing to address both prevention and intervention
 - Provide safe equipment
 - Develop Capital Purchase strategy
 - Support ongoing training
 - Develop relationship with community
 - Maintain Emergency Alert Systems and Communications

5

Maintain Properties and Communities

Adequate resource allocation to maintain and support required growth in the following areas:

- Roads
- Trees
- Buildings
- Landscaping
- Parks
- Recreation
- Blight
- Fleet Maintenance

6

Support Community Culture

- Historic District preservation
- Provide Recreational opportunities
 - Fields/Playgrounds/Basketball and Tennis Courts/Splash Pad and new ideas
- Match Social Services resources to community needs
- Grow Senior Services/New Senior Center
- Support our Farmers
- Preserve Open Space
- Support Local Business development and sustainability

7

Plan and Support Responsible Growth

- Attract New Business
- Develop partnerships with other organizations
- Develop Marketing Plan/Branding
- Grow Manufacturing
- Update P&Z Regulations
- Attract Public Transportation
- Provide Affordable Housing
- Partnership with Board of Education

8