

# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

**immediately following the Joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance Meeting,**  
**but NOT SOONER than 7 p.m.**

Thursday, January 21, 2021 @ 7:00 PM or following the

**(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: First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: None
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None
5. CORRESPONDENCE: See Attached
6. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting
  - B. Accept Isaiah Stewart's Resignation from Ad Hoc Committee for Diversity and Inclusion
  - C. Move Joanne Philips from liaison to member of Ad Hoc Committee for Diversity and Inclusion
  - D. Tax AbatementsR. Coyle motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
7. Approve Job Description for Coalition Coordinator – Youth and Social Services: T. Rudko motioned to approve the Job Description for the Coalition Coordinator, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
8. Approve Grant Submission of CT Senior Center Project: CARES Act Funding Opportunity: R. Coyle motioned to approve the grant submission and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
9. Amount of Detail Listed in the Liaison Reports: No Action Taken
10. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None
11. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Colchester's case rate for COVID is 94.1%. Hoping to see that go down now that holidays are over. No new cases in any of our nursing homes. We are holding a vaccination clinic at

the Senior Center on January 27, from 9 – 3. The vaccination clinic is already full. Paid Fire Department and Police Department staff, who wanted vaccines, have received them.

12. LIAISON REPORTS: T. Rudko - Planning and Zoning Commission - There was a presentation about the horticultural manufacturing of marijuana proposed for a property near the Transfer Station. The commission is considering a floating zone regulation amendment.

D. Turner – Historic District Commission had a public hearing for a certificate of appropriateness for the Town Green project. It was approved with a few modifications.

Conservation Commission – One pending application regarding wetlands on Norwich Ave., there was a continued hearing about the enforcement issue on Middletown Road.

R. Coyle – Commission on Aging produced 200 copies of the Senior Resource Guide.

Open Space – Waiting on a decision from the state about the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program.

Long Term Recovery Committee – Had no quorum.

Chatham Health District – There are issues with the vaccine distribution and the Vaccination Administration Management System (VAMS). Use of part of the municipal coronavirus relief fund will be coming to the Board of Selectmen based on a recommendation from the Chatham Health Board.

First Selectman – Budget Forum and Board of Finance – Over 700 people responded to the survey, which closed on January 18 at 8 a.m.

13. ADJOURN: D. Turner motioned to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

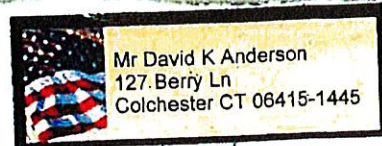
Respectfully Submitted by:



Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman



TO: BOARD OF SELECTMAN  
TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
FROM: DAVID K. ANDERSON  
SUBJECT: JUNKYARD, BLIGHT



1/9/2021

ANOTHER YEAR HAS PASSED AND I AM STILL  
LOOKING AT THE JUNKYARD, BLIGHT, AT  
12 FERN DRIVE AND THE FORMER AUTOMOBILE  
DEALERSHIP IN THE CENTER OF TOWN. TOWNS  
THAT HAVE PRIDE, RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND  
UNDERSTAND QUALITY OF LIFE DO NOT ALLOW  
JUNKYARD OR BLIGHT TO EXIST IN RESIDENTIAL  
AREAS OR THE CENTER OF TOWN. THE  
OFFICIALS THAT CONTROL COLCHESTER DO NOT  
UNDERSTAND THOSE CONCEPTS.

I PLAN TO LEAVE CONNECTICUT SOME TIME  
THIS YEAR I WAS TOLD THE JUNKYARD  
MAY AFFECT THE SALE OR SALE PRICE OF  
MY HOUSE MOST PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO  
LIVE NEXT <sup>TO</sup> A JUNKYARD IN A RESIDENTIAL  
AREA.

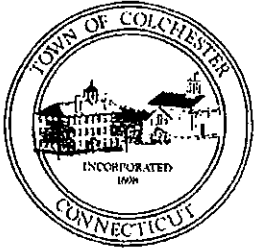
SO FAR ALL I HAVE HAD IS EXCUSES AND  
HAVE BEEN IGNORED.

WHEN I LEAVE CONNECTICUT I EXPECT TO  
HAVE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE AND WILL  
BE BETTER OFF FINANCIALLY, FEWER TAXES

WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO ADDRESS THE  
JUNKYARD AND BLIGHT? R.S.V.P

David K. Anderson

01-13-21A11:10 RCVD



## *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

January 13, 2021

Dave Anderson  
127 Berry Lane  
Colchester, CT 06415

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am in receipt of your written concerns related to the blight on the Fern Road property. I appreciate you cannot see the amount of time, attention and efforts the Town has expended on this issue and I am not able to be any more specific with my response. I can tell you we are involved with the property and have had a number of meetings over the past several months to determine a plan that is both legal and humane. This situation is complicated and there are statutes which outline the processes which must be followed.

This situation has existed for a long time. It cannot be fixed without exhausting a number of investigative processes.

Sincerely,

Mary Bylone  
First Selectman  
Town of Colchester

CC: Daphne Schaub  
Board of Selectmen

## COA Meeting-January 11, 2021

Though our building is still not open to the public, we continue to provide the following services:

- Transportation for in-town, medical rides and monthly shopping trips (masked and socially distanced)
- Meals: MOW deliveries (Tuesday-Friday) and Community Café (5 frozen meals delivered every Tuesday)
- Wellness Check outreach calls-these are now happening once per month, unless otherwise requested
- Virtual Programming with at least 1 in-person safely distanced special event per month.
- Weekly communications through email blasts and robo-calls to all members
- Management of the office: volume of phone calls have remained steady, paying bills, grant reports, management of social media, etc.
- Building is closed, but people can call in to make an appointment for any one-on-one assistance which cannot be handled by phone. (masked and socially distanced)

Last month, I attended the Long-term Recovery Committee and Ad Hoc Committee for Diversity and Inclusion Meetings. I shared what the senior center has been doing to support community seniors throughout the pandemic and the closure of our building to the public.

Colchester remains at a Red Alert status for positive rates of COVID-19. Once cases begin to trend downward, CHD will be looking for a minimum of 4 weeks of stability before recommending that we reopen the senior center building to the public. The doors remain locked, with information to call in for assistance, or ring the doorbell—staff report daily and work from the building. Town Hall is also closed to the public, except by appointment through the end of the month of January 2021.

The Holiday Stocking Project collected a total of \$3,070.00, which provided stockings for 70 seniors in the community, delivered on December 2021. I will write a Letter to the Editor in the *River East News Bulletin* and will see if they would like to feature an article about the project.

New programs have begun under the leadership of Ruth Reinwald-Learn to Sign with Ruth, Coffee Talk with Ruth, Step by Step Painting Class, International Cooking Demos, Wheel of Fortune and Boggle on Zoom. We've identified a weakness in our programming around fine arts, so Ruth will be implementing several programs where participants can be creative and have fun.

AARP's Tax Aide program will begin in February, if AARP National allows it. We are making preparations for socially distanced appointments and scheduling appointments, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. This may be shut down entirely, if AARP National deems it unsafe for their volunteers, due to COVID-19.

We are looking forward to the public education for the new senior center to begin and many CSC members have been asking about it. I think it will be something for people to be encouraged about and give them a positive thing to focus on in the community, which is timely.

Should the senior center or any of our programs or services be closed due to inclement weather, postings can be found on WFSB Channel 3 under "Colchester Senior Center." We do not follow the school calendar.

CSC will be closed on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in November: Community Café: 231 MOW: 524
- Monthly transports in November: 454 (closed 11/11, 11/26 & 11/27)
- Monthly attendance in November: 807
- Total Membership: 1,301