



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Mary Bylone called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NONE
5. CORRESPONDENCE: Attached
6. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Approve Minutes of the March 18 Board of Selectmen Meeting
 - B. Approve the Minutes of the April 1 Tri-Board Meeting
 - C. Approve the submission of Title III Grant Renewal Application to secure grant funding for the Making Memories Program, FY 2021-22 and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents
 - D. Approve the submission of the Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration Continuation Grant and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents
 - E. Reappointment of Marion Spaulding to the Colchester Housing Authority with a term to end 5/30/2026
 - F. Tax Abatements: R. Coyle motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by D. Turner.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Boards and Commission – Interviews and/or Possible Appointment and Resignations
 - A. Possible Appointment of Quinn Kozak to the Commission on Aging as an Alternate with a Term to Expire on 12/31/2022: R. Coyle motioned to appoint Quinn Kozak to the Commission on Aging as an Alternate with a Term to Expire on 12/31/2022, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
 - B. Possible Appointment of Quinn Kozak to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate with a Term to Expire on 12/31/2023, D. Turner motioned to appoint Quinn Kozak to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate with a Term to Expire on 12/31/2023, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

8. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Marge Mlodzinski thanked the board for appointing Quinn to the Commission on Aging

Selectman@ColchesterCT.gov

860-537-7220

www.ColchesterCT.gov

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2021 APR 19 AM 11:32
Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

9. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: The COVID positivity rate for the State of CT is 2.04%. Colchester is still in the red.

- Budget is underway.
- Waiting on information about the American Rescue Plan funding, expecting more direction by mid-May.
- Ambulance and stretcher have been ordered.
- The town should be closing on the Open Space property on Route 16 within the month.
- We are waiting on rendering for the Town Green Project.
- Bacon Trustees want to restore the baseball field on the green.
- The police vehicle ordered last summer has arrived.
- The referendum for the budget and the fire apparatus will both be in person.
- We will not begin holding in person board and commission meetings until at least the end of May.
- Meeting with Patty Watts to discuss the reopening of the Senior Center.

10. LIAISON REPORTS:

D. Mizla: Park and Recreation – The Commission is discussing naming field R4 after Norm Kaplan who was a coach with Park and Rec for a number of years. They will bring that to the Board of Selectmen at a future date. Registration is open for Summer Camp. There will be concerts on the green this summer, there may be a small registration fee. They are seeking sponsors for the events.

Youth Services Advisory Board – They didn't have a quorum but discussed Colchester Unplugged the weekend of April 24-25.

Norton Park – The Commission will be holding a spring clean up to do weeding and raking out leaves and removing invasive species. They did a presentation with the Senior Center on April 15 which is posted to the website. They are in the process of designing a banner.

R. Coyle: Commission on Aging – The Commission is hosting a Food, Stuff, Energy and Water along with Bacon Academy on April 22 via Zoom. They are sponsoring a Healthy Living for Brain and Body workshop on May 19. Additionally, the COA is planning on a health fair in Spring 2022. Senior Center Director's Report attached.

Open Space – The Open Space Advisory Board is working on the Farm and Forest Preservation program which will require amendment of the language in Chapter 92 of the Colchester Code. The Town has submitted a brownfield assessment grant to the CT Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development. The UCONN Wildlife Management Plan will be presented to the Board of Selectmen once it is completed.

Senior Center Building Committee – The Building Sub-committee presented the project to the Planning and Zoning Commission as part of the Mandatory Referral requirement of Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-

24. The Planning and Zoning Commission made a favorable report to the Board of Selectmen. The committee is working on a public information flyer to go to residents.

T. Rudko: No liaison reports.

D. Turner: Historic District Commission – The Commission approved the modified certificate of appropriateness for the Town Green Project so that will be moving forward.

11. ADJOURN: D. Turner motioned to adjourn at 7:31 p.m., seconded by T. Rudko. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Heide Perham

From: Taras Rudko
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: Heide Perham
Subject: Town Meeting

To the Board of Selectmen,

Please consider this an official complaint and/or challenge to the town meeting that was held on Thursday, March 18th. I am submitting this now to meet any necessary time constraints as the recording of the meeting has yet to be posted.

It is my assertion that the meeting was held incorrectly due to "technical difficulties" as referenced in the minutes. The town citizens were not able to bear witness to the meeting in its entirety. I was logged into the session from 5:30 p.m. onward and was disconnected prior to the reading of the outcome. The meeting then bounced back between the Board of Selectmen and the town meeting. It is unclear if the meeting was even resumed and/or adjourned correctly.

I would suggest that all activities regarding contractual obligations stop until this matter is resolved and that there be a do-over for a subsequent meeting and vote.

I would also ask this correspondence to be included in the next Board of Selectmen agenda.

Thank You,

Taras W. Rudko

Member - Board of Selectmen

Town of Colchester

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMAN
 FROM: DAVID K. ANDERSON

4/2/2021

SUBJECT: BLIGHT AT 12 FERN DRIVE

I RECENTLY TALKED TO PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND RESPONSIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE OWNER OF THE BLIGHTED PROPERTY AT 12 FERN DRIVE, NO ONE SAID I WAS BRUTAL OR ABUSIVE. WHAT HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO OCCURE AT THAT PROPERTY BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE IS A DISGRACE, ALL OF THESE PEOPLE AGREE WITH THAT. THE PROPERTY OWNER IS NOW IN THE HOSPITAL WHEN HE IS DISCHARGED HE WILL BE GOING TO AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY TO FINALLY GET THE PROPER CARE HE DESERVES. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THE INSIDE OF THAT HOUSE IS IN SUCH POOR CONDITION IT SHOULD BE DEMOLISHED OR CUTTED TO THE STUDS. THERE ARE SERIOUS HEALTH, SAFETY AND CODE VIOLATIONS AND A BLIGHT PROBLEM THAT HAS GONE ON FAR TO LONG BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE FAILED TO DO THEIR JOB. WE ARE HAPPY THAT THE PROPERTY OWNER WILL NOW GET THE CARE HE DESERVES. AT SOME POINT RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE WILL TAKE OVER THAT PROPERTY SO IT WILL NO LONGER BE AN EYE SORE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

D. K. Anderson

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting April 12, 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) Community Café (5 frozen meals delivered every Tuesday), and new Grab & Go meal option (5 frozen meals picked up on Mondays)
- 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)

Colchester's seniors are over 97% vaccinated (for ages 65+) and so are the CSC staff. Colchester is at an Orange Alert status for COVID, after spending a week at Yellow. Overall, Colchester and the CHD is trending well. Given those factors, in consultation with Mary Bylone and Russ Melmed, we have set a tentative reopening date for Monday, May 3rd, as our planning goal. Due to the unpredictability of this virus, that may have to change, but that is what we are aiming for.

I am working with the CSC staff to audit all of the classes previously held on site, prior to the shutdown, to make a plan if they can 1. Meet in person with certain safeguards in place. 2. Continue to meet virtually through Zoom or 3. Continue to be on hold until conditions changes which make it safer to meet in person. We will be auditing every service available and making adaptations for safety, as well. Once we have a cohesive reopening plan, we will push that out to our members, so everyone will have realistic expectations. It will be different than before.

DPH has issued a Public Health Warning regarding COVID-19, urging folks to continue with mask wearing and social distancing, even when vaccinated.

We have been receiving many phone calls about the 3rd round of Stimulus Checks, with many people concerned that they have yet to receive theirs.

Working with a small subcommittee of the CoA (Marge, Robbie and Gerrie) to review and update CSC Policies & Procedure Manual. Once revised, it will have to go before the BoS for approval before it can be shared for public use.

IRS has extended the tax filing deadline to May 17th. We will end the season for AARP Tax Aide appointments, as planned, by April 15th. I commend their dedication and work to offer this program this year.

Travel survey going out next week to all members with email. Trying to gain information about people's comfort levels with travel, for planning purposes.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in February: Community Café: 170 MOW: 342
- Monthly transports in February: 405
- Monthly attendance in February: 733
- Total Membership: 1382