

Government 101



Overview of Your Local Government

Town of Colchester

- Town Meeting – First Selectman form of government established and governed by Town Charter and Ordinances
- Town Meeting is the Legislative Body
- The Board of Selectmen is the governing entity for the Town
 - Contracts, Policy, Appointments
- First Selectman is the Executive, with specific and limited authority

Elected Boards

- **Board of Selectmen – 2 year terms**
 - Rosemary Coyle, Denise Mizla, William Curran, Kurt Frantzen, Stan Soby
- **Board of Finance – 6 year terms**
 - Rob Tarlov, Rob Esteve, Art Shilosky, Tom Kane, John Ringo, James McNair
- **Board of Education – 4 year terms**
 - Ron Goldstein, Don Kennedy, Mary Tomasi, Brad Bernier, Michael Egan, Mitchell Koziol, Michael Voiland
- **Board of Assessment Appeals – 2 year terms**
 - Denise Turner, Torri Buchwald, John Malsbenden

Elected Officials

- Town Clerk – Gayle Furman (4 year term)
- Tax Collector – Don Philips (4 year term)
- Treasurer – Greg Cordova (2 year term)
- Registrars – Dot Mrowka, Diana Giles
(2 year terms)

Appointed Officials

- Assessor – John Chaponis
- Building Official – Reed Gustafson
- Fire Marshal – Reed Gustafson
- Fire Chief – Walter Cox

Appointed Boards

By Charter:

- **Police Commission - 3 year terms**

Rob Parlee, Frank Jackter, Ed Fusco, Jennie Langdon, Steve Caron

- **Sewer and Water Commission – 3 year terms, no less than 50% of members must be residents of S&W District**

Stephen Coyle, Robert Peter, Ron Silberman, Thomas Hochdorfer, Matthew Cross and four vacancies

Appointed Boards

By Ordinance:

- Planning and Zoning Commission
7 members, 2 alternates, 3 year terms
- Zoning Board of Appeals
5 members, 2 alternates, 5 year terms
- Economic Development Commission
7 members, 2 alternates, 5 year terms
- Parks and Recreation Commission
8 members, 2 alternates, 4 year terms
- Commission on Aging
7 members, 2 alternates, 3 year terms
- Fair Rent Commission
5 members, 2 alternates, 2 year terms
- Conservation Commission
5 members, 3 year terms

Appointed Boards

- Historic District Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Charter Review Commission
- Flood and Erosion Control Board
- Police Retirement Board
- Agriculture Commission
- Open Space Advisory Committee

Appointed Boards

- Blight Ordinance Task Force
 - School Building Committee
 - Youth Services Advisory Board
 - CHVFD Tax Exemption Commission
 - Housing Authority
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- Some 250 volunteers serve on these Boards and Commissions.

Town Departments

- Finance – Staff Shared by Colchester Public Schools and Town
- Public Works
 - including Public Works Administration, Highway, Fleet Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Snow Removal, Facilities, and Transfer Station
- Planning and Zoning
 - Town Planner, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Land Use Specialist
- Code Administration –
 - Building Official, Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal (PT)
- Engineering (a one person department)
- IT (two part time staff)

Town Departments

- Parks and Recreation
- Youth and Social Services (was once two departments)
- Senior Services
- Cragin Library
- Public Health (in Charter) provided through Chatham Health District
- Fire/EMS – Career and Volunteer Staff
- Police
 - Resident State Trooper Program
 - First Selectman is Civilian Chief of Police
 - Resident Trooper Supervisor is responsible for Operations
 - 11 Sworn Officers