

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

On Wednesday, March 20th, the Region 7 Board of Education will present its fiscal year 2024/25 budget in the Colebrook Town Hall upstairs meeting room at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. We will be voting on their budget on Tuesday, May 7th at Town referendum, along with our own Town budget (comprised of the Board of Selectmen's and Colebrook Consolidated School budgets).

At this week's Board of Selectmen meeting, we considered a proposal from our Registrars of Voters to align our May 7th voting hours more closely with neighboring Region 7 towns. Norfolk and Barkhamsted, for example, keep their polls open from noon to 8 p.m. (the State minimum).

Our Registrars are recommending that we move to a 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. schedule for referendum voting to better manage our staff and budget resources—and an analysis of local voting patterns indicates that adopting this schedule would not adversely affect voter turnout. The Board of Selectmen will meet on March 25th at 7 p.m. to vote on this recommendation. If you would like to share your opinion ahead of our meeting, please reach out to me, Ernie Marmer or AJ Ruwet. It's important to note that this change would not impact voting hours for primaries or general elections (local, state or national).

We are pleased to report that Serena Brainard has agreed to serve as Interim Director at the Community & Senior Center. Serena did a great job last year while Debbie Crowell was out on family leave—and we're thrilled to have her back. She started on March 11th (as Debbie transitions from her duties) and will continue until a successor(s) is identified and in place.

On that note, we are actively seeking to hire a new Director(s) to work closely with our Community & Senior Center Volunteer Committee to plan and implement social, educational, recreational and health-oriented activities for community residents. These include two meals per week, working with volunteer groups who utilize the Center for activities, and planning monthly outings. Other responsibilities include Labor Day and Christmas Fairs, managing an annual appeal, publishing a monthly newsletter, social media/website updates, and budgeting. We are currently allocating 28 hours/week at \$21.22/hour—and are considering a job share, given the range of responsibilities. If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity to provide much-needed (and appreciated) services for our community, please reply to this email, or call me at 860.379.3359, ext. 201.

We welcome back Mike Halloran, who will be returning to support our Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions on a contract basis. Most recently, Mike has been responsible for Land Use regulation for the Town of Norfolk, until his retirement at the end of 2023.

As noted previously, we're looking for lifeguards for the Colebrook Pond, with the season typically running from mid-to-late June through late-August (coinciding with the CCS summer break). Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and have Red Cross Certification. We will help interested Colebrook residents obtain certification.

Applications are available in Town Hall (just outside the Town Clerk's office) for the Colebrook Associates 2024 Scholarship Program. Applicants must be residents of Colebrook continuing their education in the fall as new or continuing students at accredited four-year, two-year, or certificate-granting institutions. Deadline to apply is April 30th.

Upcoming Town events:

On Sunday, March 17th at 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall, the Colebrook Land Conservancy will host a presentation on creating backyard pollinator habitats. Learn more at colebrooklandconservancy.org.

The Colebrook Lions Club will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt outdoors on the soccer field at Colebrook Consolidated School on Saturday, March 23rd, beginning at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

The Colebrook Conservation Commission will be hosting Colebrook Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 27th. Pick up large garbage bags at Colebrook Town Hall, second floor meeting room, from 9 a.m. to noon. Sign up to clean a road that morning, or you can sign up in advance by emailing adminasst@colebrooktownhall.org, or by calling 860.379.3359, ext. 201.

Upcoming municipal board meetings:

Inland Wetlands – Tuesday, March 19th at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. (Land Use office)

Board of Selectmen – Monday, March 25th at Town Hall at 7 p.m. (Second floor meeting room)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org, or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202.

Cordially,

Brad

Brad Bremer
Colebrook First Selectman
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