

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

Last week, we told you that we are seeking to reduce the Selectmen's budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. This will help us to replenish our reserves—as we prepare for upcoming Capital needs, and plan for anticipated rising costs for ambulance services, fire protection and refuse/recycling.

In the proposed Selectmen's budget, we are continuing to benefit from State aid for roads—as well as the opportunity to budget a bit less for winter maintenance, given the milder weather we're experiencing. However, if a harsh winter were to occur, we have contingency funds available to ensure that the roads are maintained to our standards. We've also identified efficiencies in budgeting for support for the Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetland Commissions.

Emergency Management Director Rick Tillotson, Fire Chief Sean Barry and I recently took part in an emergency management workshop hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The event was put on for towns in the Farmington River Valley. In the wake of last summer's flooding in Vermont, we discussed protocol for dealing with spillway runoff from the 16.5 billion-gallon capacity Colebrook River Dam following a hypothetical period of excessive rainfall (e.g., 10-15 inches). While such a weather event is unlikely, the Army Corps promotes preparedness and we came away feeling grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with other towns.

Earlier this week, we participated in non-binding mediation with Wind Colebrook South regarding their longstanding tax appeal. Unfortunately, we did not achieve a resolution, and Town attorney Pat Power and counsel for Wind Colebrook South are conferring with Judge Andrew Roraback regarding next steps.

Summer is approaching and the Town is looking for lifeguards for the Colebrook Pond. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and have Red Cross Certification. We will help interested Colebrook residents obtain certification.

Planning for the 80<sup>th</sup> Colebrook Fair will begin soon. Congratulations and thank you to AJ Ruwet who will be chairing the Fair Committee.

The Connecticut Presidential Preference Primary will take place on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Colebrook residents will be able vote early at Town Hall on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Learn more [here](#), or on the [Colebrook Registrar of Voters](#) page on our website.

Kindergarten registration and screening will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> 9-10 a.m. Families will be receiving a packet in the mail to complete and bring on registration day.

Applications are available in Town Hall (just outside the Town Clerk's office) for the Colebrook Associates 2024 Scholarship Program. Applicants must be a resident 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

March Madness is coming to Colebrook. Our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team will be playing for the Winsted Recreation League Championship tomorrow night (Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30 p.m. at the Gilbert School. Fans are welcome to attend. **Go Colebrook Green Team!**

#### **Upcoming Town events:**

On Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://colebrooklandconservancy.org).

#### **Upcoming municipal board meetings:**

School Building Committee – Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 6 p.m. (Second floor meeting room)

Planning & Zoning – Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. (Land Use office)

Board of Education – Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 7 p.m. (Second floor meeting room)

Board of Selectmen – Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 7 p.m. (Selectmen's conference room)

Board of Finance – Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 6 p.m. (Second floor meeting room)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org), or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202.

Cordially,

**Brad**

Brad Bremer  
Colebrook First Selectman  
860.379.3359 ext. 202  
[bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org)