

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

7:00 PM

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Topic: BOS Meeting

Time: Nov 21, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82760764824>

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This is a hybrid public meeting. The public can attend in-person or electronically. The information provided in this agenda contains the link to access the meeting electronically.

The public may view the video recording of the meeting on YouTube at "[Town of Columbia, CT](#)" Please allow approximately 48 business hours after the meeting for the video to be published.

For public input before the meeting, please email your comments to PublicInput@columbiact.org prior to 24 hours before the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

- 1. RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** *This meeting will be held both in-person and virtual. This session is being both video and audio recorded. Board members and staff who are joining virtually will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. If a member of the public joining virtually creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the First Selectman. If attending virtually, public comments during the meeting can be submitted through the "Chat" feature in or wave your hand and request your mic to be un-muted. PLEASE INCLUDE IN BOTH METHODS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.*

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes November 14, 2023.
- 5. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 Lake Management Advisory Commissions Proposed Updates to Lake Town Ordinances.
 - 6.2 Approval Explanatory Text for the Town-wide informational mailer regarding the HVAC Horace Porter School Project.
 - 6.3 Legal Notice of Special Town Meeting and Referendum for the Horace W. Porter School Installation, Replacement and/or Upgrading of HVAC System and Indoor Air Quality Improvements.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 8. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
- 9. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
 - 9.1 Review and Discussion on members terms expiring 11/27/23 on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission Alternates and Recreation Commission.
- 10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
- 11. CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 11.1 AHM Program Report October 2023.
- 12. BUDGET:**
 - 12.1 Transfers:
 - 12.2 Refunds:
- 13. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**
- 14. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**
- 15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
- 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).**
- 17. ADJOURNMENT:**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

7:00 PM

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: Steven Everett, First Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Deputy First Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; Christopher Lent, Selectman.

Also Present: Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Mike Lester, Fire Marshal; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director; Guy Wagner, Member of Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee; Ann Dunnack; Millie Ramsey.

Also Present Remotely: Ken Eldridge, Silver Petrucelli & Associates; Ernie Sharpe.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** S. Everett read the rules of conduct for hybrid virtual meetings.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Agenda with the Addition to New Business 7.5 – Munistat Municipal Financial Advisory Services Contract Agreement. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2023. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Ann Dunnack, 103 Lake Rd. asked if Silver Petrucelli & Associates will be presenting at the Town Meeting on November 30th regarding the HVAC project at Horace Porter School. S. Everett said they will be available to answer questions but will not be making a formal presentation. Millie Ramsey, 100 Hunt Rd. asked if information can be made available on how to access the Town of Columbia's YouTube channel that includes the Tri-Board Meeting held on 11/7/23. M. Walter said the explanatory text mailer could include a link to the video.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 **Lake Management Advisory Commissions Proposed Updates to Lake Town Ordinances.** LMAC provided documentation on the rationale for Columbia Lake Town Ordinances and the red-lined edits to the following ordinances:
 - Article II Motorboats on Columbia Lake Sections: 190-3 Purpose; 190-4 Definitions; 190-5 Limitation of Use; 190-6 Prohibiting Certain Use; 190-7 Penalties.

- Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake Sections: 190-11 Purpose; 190-12 Definitions & Regulation of Motorized Watercraft; 190-13 Waterskiing, Tubing & Other Water Activity Regulations; 190-12 Restricted and Limited Areas; 190-16 Penalties for Offenses.
- Article IV Conduct at Town Beach Sections: 190-18 Launching of Watercraft Inspections; 190-19 Additional Requirements for Launching Watercraft; 190-20 CT Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances; 190-22 Penalties for Offenses.

The board of selectmen had several questions upon review. M. Walter will present the questions to LMAC and will get the answers for the next BOS meeting on 11/21/23.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 To set a Town Meeting to discuss the appropriation of funds and establishing a referendum for the installation, replacement and/or upgrading of HVAC system and indoor air quality improvements at the Horace W. Porter School.

Discussion ensued regarding total cost and reimbursement rate for the project and the two proposed resolutions. The proposed resolutions are listed below:

TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,175,000, CALLING A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR REFERENDUM, AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT.

TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250, CALLING A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR REFERENDUM, AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT.

S. Everett asked K. Eldridge of Silver Petrucelli & Associates if splits are used does that solve the problem of moisture.

K. Eldredge said there is an issue with high occupancy spaces and internal humidity generation that people themselves give off causing moisture to be transmitted into the space, the split systems really don't handle that very well. The brunt of the work of moisture removal is done at the Dedicated Outside Air System

(DOAS). The DOAS is a very specialized piece of equipment and it's designed specifically to treat outdoor air. The DOAS unit is controlling the air that could potentially lead to mold and other indoor air quality.

S. Everett MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250, CALLING A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR REFERENDUM, AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT.

MOTION CARRIED, 4-0-1 with L Napolitano abstaining.

S. Everett MOVED to Amend his motion and MOVED to schedule a Town Meeting on November 30, 2023 in Yeoman's Hall at 6:30 pm to discuss the previous resolution for the HVAC project for the Horace Porter School. Further resolve that pursuant to Section 2.5(a) of the Town Charter, after discussion at the Special Town Meeting, the Resolution shall be submitted to qualified voters at referendum for a "yes" or "no" vote utilizing voting technology or methodology approved by the Connecticut Secretary of State on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, during the hours from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut, in the manner provided by the Town Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, and that the Town Clerk be directed to post and publish notice of such referendum in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, which notice shall State the question to be voted on as follows shall the resolution which notice shall state the question to be voted on as follows:

"Shall the resolution entitled, 'RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250', be approved?

Yes _____ No _____"

MOTION CARRIED, 4-0-1 with L Napolitano abstaining.

- 7.2 **Discussion regarding the dedication of Annual Report.** S. Everett MOVED to honor Ernie Sharpe for the dedication of the Annual Report. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7.3 **2024/25 Holiday Schedule.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the 2024/2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7.4 **2024/25 BOS Meeting Schedule.** S. Everett MOVED Approve the 2024/2025 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule as Amended. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7.5 **Munistat Municipal Financial Advisory Services Contract Agreement:** S. Everett asked to have the financial advisory services for bonds and notes put out to bid.
8. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
- 8.1 **Application to replace a concrete dock, concrete footing and add floating raft for Christopher Wante, 146 Route 87, Columbia, CT.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Application to initiate the demolition phase for the removal of the concrete dock and footing utilizing the Demolition Plan and adding a floating raft for 146 Route 87 upon the recommendation set forth by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
9. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 9.1 **Appointment of Savannah Sharpe Assistant Animal Control Officer.** S. Everett MOVED to Appoint Savannah Sharpe as the Assistant Animal Control Officer. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
10. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
- 10.1 **ConnDOT Traffic Investigation Reports: Speed Limit Rte 66 by Flanders Road and Passing Zone on Rte. 66 by Wickford Rd.**
- **Speed Limit Rte. 66 by Flanders Rd:**
ConnDOT's recommendation that no change be made to the 45-mph speed limit for both directions of travel on Route 66 (Willimantic Road) in the Town of Columbia from U.S. Route 6 to the Columbia/Windham town line.
 - **Passing Zone on Rte. 66 by Wickford Rd.**
ConnDOT will be revising the westbound-only passing zone on Route 66 in the vicinity of Wickford Road to begin 1,055 feet west of Wickford Road and to end 475 feet west of Wickford Road. Remove the two-way passing zone on Route 66 beginning 635 feet west of Wickford Road and ending approximately 475 feet west of Wickford Road. Remove the eastbound only passing zone on Route 66 approximately 475 feet west of Wickford Road and ending approximately 105 feet east of Wickford Road.
- 10.2 The draft zoning regulations amendments modify neighborhood regulations was provided to the BOS.
11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 11.1 **Troop K Monthly Reports for September and October, 2023.**

- 11.2 **The Willimantic Chronicle Articles.**
- **Area fire departments awarded grant funding.**
 - **Columbia election features mix of old and new.**
12. **BUDGET:**
- 12.1 **Transfers:** None.
- 12.2 **Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Refunds totaling \$2,736.33.
MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
13. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Payment of Bills totaling \$195,086.13, consisting of 2023-2024 Emergency, 2023-2024 Regular, Credit Card, and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
14. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** The Fire Marshal, Mike Lester provided an explanation on why the recent burn at the Transfer Station had smoldered for a week. He said he will work with the DPW Director to rectify the situation, so this does not happen again.
15. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.
16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).** None.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:23 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250, CALLING A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR REFERENDUM, AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen (the “Board”) of the Town of Columbia (the “Town”) hereby adopts, and recommends to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town, the following:

(1) That the Town appropriate the sum of \$6,175,000 for costs related to the purchase, installation, remediation, repair, upgrade and/or replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system equipment and other indoor air quality improvements, including, without limitation, the upgrading of electrical systems and the implementation of moisture control measures at The Horace W. Porter School (the “Project”). The appropriation may be spent for design, manufacture, installation, replacement and construction costs, equipment, materials, electrical costs, roof work, duct work, the preparation of bid documents, grant applications, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, the preparation of schematic drawings, plans and specifications, site work, architects’ fees, engineer/designer fees, architectural fees, legal fees and other expenses related the Project. The Board is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Board may reduce or modify the scope of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

(2) That to finance said appropriation for the Project, the Town issue bonds and/or notes in an amount not to exceed \$6,175,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds received by the Town for said project), provided that in no event shall less than \$2,778,750 of the appropriation approved hereby be financed with grant monies received from the State of Connecticut and/or such other granting entity. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended (the “Connecticut General Statutes”), including, without limitation, Section 7-369 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and any other enabling acts.

(3) That the Town issue and renew notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the Project or the receipt of grants for the Project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed \$6,175,000. The notes shall be issued pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes. The Town shall comply with the

provisions of Section 7-378a of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(4) That the First Selectman, or a majority of the Board, and the Treasurer of the Town (the "Officials") be authorized to sign said bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures and to determine the amounts, rates of interest, dates, maturities, dates of principal and interest payments on such bonds or notes, the form of such bonds or notes, the provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the holders of such bonds or notes and all other terms, conditions and particular matters regarding the issuance and securing of such bonds or notes and to execute, sell and deliver the same, and provide all supporting documentation as may be necessary or desirable to accomplish such purposes and to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12, and in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and any other applicable provision of law thereto enabling. The bonds and notes authorized hereby shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the full faith and credit of the Town.

(5) That the Officials are hereby authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for such bonds and notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a municipal advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; that the law firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C., Hartford, Connecticut, is designated as the attorneys at law to render an opinion approving the legality of such issue or issues.

(6) That the Officials are authorized to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes, including, but not limited to, entering into a continuing disclosure agreement pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12. If the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution are issued on a tax-exempt basis, the Officials are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(7) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulations Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the Project. The Officials are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(8) That the Officials are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide

secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws of rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

(9) That the First Selectman or his designee is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to execute any contracts with engineers, contractors, architects and other persons for the Project.

(10) That the First Selectman or his designee is authorized, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept state grants to fund the appropriation for the Project, and to execute and file any application or enter into any grant agreement prescribed by the State of Connecticut related to such grants.

(11) That the Officials and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other actions which are necessary or desirable to complete the Project consistent with the foregoing and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

(12) That this resolution shall become effective after approval at referendum vote.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby calls a Special Town Meeting of the Town to be held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m., and submits the foregoing resolution for the Project (the “Resolution”) to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town, at said town meeting, the notice of such meeting to be published as required by the Connecticut General Statutes and the Town Charter.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 2.5(a) of the Town Charter, after discussion at the Special Town Meeting, the Resolution shall be submitted to qualified voters at referendum for a “yes” or “no” vote utilizing voting technology or methodology approved by the Connecticut Secretary of State on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, during the hours from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut, in the manner provided by the Town Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, and that the Town Clerk be directed to post and publish notice of such referendum in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, which notice shall state the question to be voted on as follows:

“Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250’, be approved?

Yes _____ No _____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town appropriate \$6,175,000 for HVAC system and indoor air quality improvements at the Horace W. Porter School and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes up to \$3,396,250 to finance said appropriation?
Yes _____ No _____”

The moderator of such Special Town Meeting shall adjourn such meeting, after reasonable discussion of such Resolution and conclusion of other business as may properly come before the Special Town Meeting, to reconvene by referendum in accordance with the Town Charter.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the preparation and printing of explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes for the question to be voted upon approved hereby. Subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, the Board further authorizes the preparation and printing of materials concerning the question to be voted upon approved hereby in addition to the explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on November 14, 2023 on a Motion duly made by Board Member Steven M. Everett, First Selectman, the foregoing resolutions were adopted by the following roll call vote:

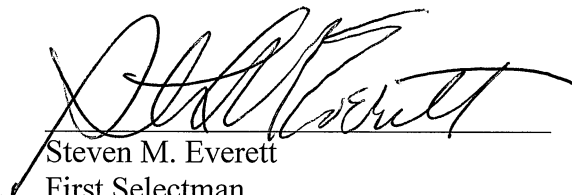
In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 1

I, Steven M. Everett, duly elected and qualified First Selectman of the Town of Columbia, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolutions adopted at the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on November 14, 2023, authorizing an appropriation of \$6,175,000 for certain HVAC and indoor air quality improvements at the Horace W. Porter School and to finance such appropriation authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,396,250, calling a Special Town Meeting, establishing a referendum date, and authorizing the preparation of explanatory text; that said Board consists of five members; a quorum consists of three members; 5 members were present at said meeting; a roll call vote was taken and 4 members voted in favor of said resolutions, 0 members voted against the adoption of said resolutions, and 1 members abstained from voting on said resolutions.

Dated at Columbia, Connecticut, this 14th day of November, 2023.


Steven M. Everett
First Selectman
Columbia, Connecticut

Rationale for Columbia Lake Town Ordinances Proposed Updates

LMAC's overall goals in proposing changes to Columbia's Boating ordinances is to balance broad recreational use of Columbia Lake for the benefit of all town residents with preserving and protecting the water quality and ecosystem of Columbia Lake and its watershed. To accomplish this mission, LMAC's focus has been judiciously placed on public safety, the protection of public and personal property, preserving water quality, aquatic habitat, and a healthy fishery, and enjoyment of approved state and/or town recreational uses. In the process, in some cases, after up to 22 years of no changes to these ordinances, LMAC considered it necessary to propose changes that help to maintain public safety, and increase education, awareness and understanding.

RATIONALE: Three categories, Public Health, Safety & Welfare, Environmental Concerns and Public Education, Understanding and Awareness, are the criteria LMAC considered as it reviewed and recommended updates to the Town Ordinances respective to Columbia Lake. Listed in each category below are the ordinance sections that the rationale for the proposed changes apply.

1. **PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE:** Considerations of public safety, health and welfare are factors when use of the lake by town residents can or might create a health or safety hazard, to the user, others or the environment including when use of the lake is required to reasonably meet the provisions of state and/or existing local regulations. Key considerations in this area, as well as others discussed below is the fact Columbia Lake is relatively small and shallow as a 281-acre waterbody with an average depth of 14'. Hence, horsepower, hours of operation, restricted watercraft, certain recreational activities, areas of operation and the like have been historically regulated by the Town and have resulted in what most believe to be a lake where public health and safety of all users are respected, and the general welfare of the Town and all lake users has been enhanced. These considerations are key factors in the changes being proposed to the Ordinance Sections listed below in order to address the pressures being put on the lake by expanding recreational activities that are currently permitted, by new recreational activities, and by the need for clarification of existing ordinances.
 - **Article II Motorboats on Columbia Lake Sections:** 190-3 Purpose; 190-4 Definitions; 190-5 Limitation of Use; 190-6 Prohibiting Certain Use; 190-7 Penalties.
 - **Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake Sections:** 190-11 Purpose; 190-12 Definitions & Regulation of Motorized Watercraft; 190-13 Waterskiing, Tubing & Other Water Activity Regulations; 190-12 Restricted and Limited Areas; 190-16 Penalties for Offenses.
 - **Article IV Conduct at Town Beach Sections:** 190-18 Launching of Watercraft Inspections; 190-19 Additional Requirements for Launching Watercraft; 190-20 CT Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances; 190-22 Penalties for Offenses.

Rationale for Columbia Lake Town Ordinances Proposed Updates
Page 2

2. **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:** Stresses and threats to the water quality and aquatic habitat and a healthy fishery for Columbia Lake exist from most human recreational use of the lake. As a result of data collected for Columbia Lake as well as from data, studies, and experiences at other lakes, LMAC recognizes that threats to the environmental quality of Columbia Lake that supports the quality and enjoyment of the recreational use of the lake that residents have come to expect, is threatened by expansion of existing permitted uses and by certain possible new uses. Thus, environmental concerns have factored into many of the proposed changes including those in the following Sections.
 - **Article II Motorboats on Columbia Lake Sections:** 190-3 Purpose; 190-5 Limitation of Use; 190-6 Prohibiting Certain Use; 190-7 Penalties.
 - **Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake Sections:** 190-11 Purpose; 190-12 Definitions; Purpose; 190-12 Definitions & Regulation of Motorized Watercraft.
 - **Article IV Conduct at Town Beach Sections:** 190-18 Launching of Watercraft Inspections; 190-20 CT Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances.

3. **PUBLIC EDUCATION, UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS:** LMAC recognized that the historic serial adoption of Town ordinances relating to the lake focused on and addressed concerns presented at those times and did not always look at how the new ordinance interacted with existing ordinances. It was also believed that experience has shown that some existing provisions have caused confusion or have not addressed their initial purpose as well as they should. Hence, some of the proposed changes are intended to add clarity, understanding and awareness with respect to existing provisions in order for them to better address the concerns referenced in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Examples of these changes include those being proposed to the Sections below.
 - **Article II Motorboats on Columbia Lake Sections:** 190-3 Purpose; 190-4 Definitions; 190-6 Prohibiting Certain Use; 190-7 Penalties; 190-8 When Effective.
 - **Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake Sections:** 190-11 Purpose; Purpose; 190-12 Definitions & Regulation of Motorized Watercraft; 190-13 Waterskiing, Tubing & Other Water Activity Regulations; 190-12 Restricted and Limited Areas; 190-15 Marine Police Officers; 190-16 Penalties for Offenses.
 - **Article IV Conduct at Town Beach Sections:** 190-18 Launching of Watercraft Inspections; 190-19 Additional Requirements for Launching Watercraft; 190-20 CT Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances; 190-22 Penalties for Offenses.

ARTICLE II WATERCRAFT ON COLUMBIA LAKE TOWN ORDINANCE

Motorboats

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article II Watercraft on Columbia Lake

[Adopted_3-7-1964_TM; amended_11-16-1987_TM;-_11-15-1988_TM;-_4-8-1991_TM]

§

§ 190-3. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to limit ~~the motorboats~~watercraft operated on the waters of Columbia Lake to those owned by residents, qualified nonresidents, and qualified temporary residents. All approved watercraft owners and operators shall comply with Connecticut State Boating Regulations as well as applicable Town Ordinances and will use only approved watercraft deemed environmentally safe and appropriate for recreational use on Columbia Lake, CT, a 281-acre waterbody with an average water depth of 14'.

§

§ 190-4. Definitions.

As used in this ~~article~~Article II, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

LAKE

Columbia Lake is the 281-acre lake located within the Town.

QUALIFIED NONRESIDENT—A

A Qualified Nonresident is a person not domiciled in the Town, but who is qualified to vote at Town Meetings.

QUALIFIED TEMPORARY RESIDENT—

A Qualified Temporary Resident is a person not domiciled in Town, but who resides in the Town for four consecutive weeks or more during a calendar year as a bona fide lessee of premises owned by a resident or qualified nonresident.

RESIDENT—A

A Resident is a person with a bona fide permanent domicile in the Town. ~~§~~

WATERCRAFT

Any vessel designed to be propelled by machinery or other mechanisms as hands, oars, paddles, or wind action used or capable of being used as a means of traveling or transportation on or under the surface of water or on ice other than a seaplane on the water.

MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT

Any watercraft propelled by machinery and powered by electricity, internal combustion, jet pump, steam, or other power sources.

COMMERCIAL USE, OPERATION OR ENTERPRISE OF WATERCRAFT

Any watercraft used in conjunction with any form of business enterprise where money or other compensation is received, whether actual or implied, for employment of the vessel.

RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT

Any watercraft used for approved recreational purposes.

§ 190-5. Limitation of ~~use~~Use of Columbia Lake.

A.

No person shall launch or operate or permit the operation of any ~~motorboat~~motorized watercraft on the waters of Columbia Lake unless such ~~motorboat~~watercraft is owned by a resident ~~or, qualified nonresident~~ qualified temporary resident of the Town, owned by the town or watercraft is approved for use on the Lake by the Board of Selectmen.

B.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to any ~~motorboat~~watercraft owned by the United States or the State of Connecticut and operated by an officer ~~or,~~ employee, contractor, or other permittee thereof in the performance of his duties.

§

§ 190-6. Prohibiting ~~certain use~~Certain Use of Columbia Lake.

A.

No person shall launch or operate any motorized vehicle or construction equipment on the lake bottom below the high-water mark except by special permit from the ~~Inland Wetlands Commission~~Board of Selectmen. The "high-water mark" is defined as the point at which the water of Columbia Lake flows over the spillway at the dam.

B.

No person shall launch or operate any motorized watercraft or motorized vehicle on the ice of Columbia Lake except by special permit from the Board of Selectmen.

C.

~~A.—~~ No person shall launch or operate any ~~ice boat propelled by machinery on the ice of Columbia Lake.~~

~~No person shall operate any~~piloted aircraft on or cause any aircraft to take off or land upon the waters of Columbia Lake except in an emergency. The use of drones is prohibited over Columbia Lake by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) who manage the waters unless specifically authorized by the DEEP Commissioner in a Special Use License.

D.

No person shall launch or operate watercraft for commercial use on or under the waters of Columbia Lake.

E.

Recreational watercraft on the waters of Columbia Lake shall be restricted to rowboats, sailboats, kayaks, nonmotorized paddle boats, canoes, sailboards, ~~and~~paddle boards, motorboats, pontoon boats, electric boats, electric kayaks, jet boats and jet skis known as personal watercrafts (PWC's).

~~motorboats.~~ The types of watercraft prohibited include: ~~houseboats that are used as a permanent or temporary residence, watercraft with habitable cabins, radio or remote-controlled motorboats and any craft~~ watercraft, watercraft containing fixed temporary or permanent sleeping arrangements, watercraft with any toilet facilities capable of direct overboard discharge.

F.

No person shall discharge from any vessel any sewage, treated or untreated, or any waste derived from sewage.

G.

The maximum length for all watercraft as listed on the original title or certificate of origin is 26' 0" feet or less.

H.

Section 190-5E and Section 190-5F shall not be applicable to a watercraft for its useful life up to ___ years; provided that it (i) had been launched and operated on Columbia Lake prior to November 2, 2023 in continuous compliance with all applicable state laws and town ordinances; (ii) was owned on November 2, 2023, and remains owned by the same resident, qualified nonresident or qualified temporary resident; (iii) no modification is made to such watercraft that increases in any fashion its nonconformity with such sections; and (iv) otherwise remains in compliance with all applicable state laws and town ordinances.

I.

The practice of wake jumping by any vessel shall be prohibited. For the purpose of this subsection, "wake jumping" means the maneuvering of a vessel within 100 feet of another vessel's stern and in its wake so as to jump or cause the overtaking vessel to become airborne over the vessel's wake.

§

~~§ 190-7. Connecticut Boater's Guide and local ordinances. [Amended 8-3-2021 STM]~~

~~Every boat owner is encouraged to obtain a copy of the Connecticut Boater's Guide, issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Every boat owner is encouraged to obtain from the Columbia Town Clerk's office copies of local boating and water safety ordinances.~~

§ 190-8. Penalties for ~~offenses.~~ Offenses.

Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be fined ~~not more than \$50~~ \$200. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation for each day it occurs. If any operating violation is deemed to be reckless or unsafe or if ongoing operating violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are reckless and unsafe, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator and/or the violating watercraft from being used on Columbia Lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.

§

§ 190-9.8 **When effective.**

The provisions of this article shall take effect in accordance with §-15-136 of the Connecticut General Statutes. (Date Effective After DEEP & Town Board of Selectmen Approvals)

§

§ 190-10.9 **Severability.**

If any provision of this article or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application hereof.

~~ARTICLE~~**Article III**
Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake

[Adopted_3-7-1964_TM; amended_5-13-1972_TM;_10-4-1976_TM;_11-16-1987_TM;
_11-15-1988_TM;_4-8-1991_TM;_11-16-1992_TM;_4-4-1995_BOS]

§

§ 190-11. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to regulate the operation of ~~motorboats~~motorized watercraft, water-skiing and other water activities ~~on Columbia Lake~~as defined below for ~~the comfort~~appropriate recreational use that ensures the protection and safety of the public and ~~the protection of property,~~as well as being environmentally safe, on Columbia Lake, a 281-acre waterbody with an average water depth of 14'.

§

§ 190-12. Definitions

MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT

Any watercraft propelled by machinery and powered by electricity, internal combustion, jet pump, steam, or other power sources.

WATER-SKIING

Per the Connecticut Sate Boating Regulations, a watercraft is considered to be engaged in water skiing when it is used to tow skiers, tubers or has anyone riding the wake of the watercraft, whether the towline is used or not. This encompasses all towed water sports including without limitation, waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding, wake surfing, and knee boarding.

§ 190-12 Regulation of ~~motorboats~~Motorized Watercraft on Columbia Lake.

A.

No person shall operate any ~~motorboat powered by an internal combustion engine~~motorized watercraft on the waters of Columbia Lake during the following hours: between April 1 and September 30 from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and between October 1 and March 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. The only exception for the April 1 and September 30 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. time frame is an electric trolling motor on the bow or stern of a watercraft which is a secondary means of propulsion to move the motorized watercraft through the waters quietly minimizing noise. The trolling motor speed can be no more than 6 MPH producing no wake to minimum wake.

B.

No person shall operate a ~~motorboat~~motorized watercraft on the waters of Columbia Lake in a figure-eight course or in unreasonable sharp turns. No person while operating a

motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake shall engage in unauthorized pursuit of another vessel or engage in unauthorized racing.

C.

A.—No person shall launch or operate, on the waters of Columbia Lake, a beatmotorized watercraft with an outboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 80, or a beatmotorized watercraft with an inboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 150.

Engine horsepower will be measured by the original engine manufacturer's horsepower. No modifications may be made to change any motorized watercraft engine operated on Columbia Lake. Motorized watercraft launched or operated on Columbia Lake may only have one engine, with the exception of a trolling engine capable of a speed of no more than 6 MPH.

D.

When a manufacturer specifies the power of an engine in units other than horsepower the units shall be converted to horsepower.

E.

During permitted hours of operation, no person shall operate any ~~motorboat~~motorized watercraft on the waters of Columbia Lake at a speed greater than ~~bare steerageway from 6 MPH between~~ sunset to 10:00 p.m. between April 1 and September 30 sunrise.

§

§ 190-13. Water-skiing regulations, Tubing And Other Water Activity Regulations

A.

Every person who operates a ~~motorboat towing a~~motorized watercraft with water-skiers skiers on the waters of Columbia Lake shall, if ~~such a~~ water-skier falls, cause the motorized watercraft to immediately return, and render assistance to the fallen skier, or cause another motorboat to be in attendance for that purpose.

B.

No person shall erect, and no person engaged in water-skiing shall use or attempt to use any structure for ski jumping.

[Amended_8-3-2021_-STM]

C.

At no time will a ~~motorboat~~motorized watercraft pull more than ~~two~~three water-skiers at any one time.

D.

No person shall engage in water-skiing, and no person shall operate a ~~motorboat~~motorized watercraft towing a person so engaged, on the waters of Columbia Lake after sunset.

E.

Any person engaging in water-skiing shall leave and return to the shore on a course as nearly perpendicular thereto as possible.

F.

A.—Any water-skier must terminate ~~his/her~~such person's forward motion at least 100 feet from shore

or from any swimming area.

G.

No person shall ~~engage in~~ launch or operate any device for airborne or underwater purposes such as a jetpack, flyboard, hydro or efoil boards, flyfish tubing, kite-skiing, or parasailing, on the waters of Columbia Lake.

§

§ 190-14. Restricted ~~and limited areas.~~ And Limited Areas.

A.

The Board of Selectmen may establish, on the waters of Columbia Lake, areas restricted to the use of persons engaged in swimming and bathing, to the use of ~~motorboats~~ motorized watercraft and ~~sailboats~~ sailing watercrafts, to the use of vessels other than ~~motorboats~~ motorized watercraft and ~~sailboats~~ sailing watercrafts, and to the use of persons engaged in water-skiing. The Board shall cause distinctive marking devices to be placed in such position that they clearly delineate the boundaries of such restricted areas and denote the nature of the permitted activity. No person shall operate any prohibited ~~vessel~~ watercraft or engage in any prohibited activity in any such restricted area.

B.

The Board may cause suitable marking devices to be placed on the unrestricted waters of Columbia Lake, not more than 100 feet from the shore and at intervals sufficiently frequent that at each marker adjacent markers are clearly visible. No person shall operate a ~~motorboat~~ motorized watercraft between such markers and the shore except when leaving or returning to a dock at the shore and except when the speed of the ~~vessel~~ motorized watercraft is reduced to bare steerageway. No person shall engage in water-skiing between such markers and the shore except when leaving or returning to the shore on a course as nearly perpendicular thereto as possible. No person shall engage in swimming or bathing beyond such markers except when accompanied by a ~~vessel~~ watercraft.

C.

Marking devices, when in place, shall not be removed, defaced, or relocated by unauthorized persons.

D.

Swimmers and persons using a flotation device beyond 100 feet from the shore must be accompanied by a ~~boat~~ watercraft and the ~~boat~~ watercraft must be within 25 feet of the person at all times.

§

§ 190-15. Marine ~~police officers.~~ Patrol Officers.

The Board of Selectmen, as provided by law, may appoint such ~~marine police officers~~Marine Patrol Officers as it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this article and the ~~motorboat~~watercraft regulations of the State of Connecticut.

§

§ 190-16. Penalties for ~~offenses~~**Offenses**.

Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be fined ~~not more than \$50~~\$200. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation for each day it occurs. If any operating violation is deemed to be reckless or unsafe or if ongoing operating violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are reckless and unsafe, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator and/or the violating watercraft from being used on Columbia Lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.

~~ARTICLE IV~~
Article IV CONDUCT AT TOWN BEACH

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article IV Conduct at Town Beach

[Adopted_12-3-1991_ TM; amended_4-4-2017_ TM;_5-10-2017_ TM]

~~§ 190-17. Glass containers.~~

§ 190-17 Glass containers.

The use of glass containers at the Town Beach is hereby prohibited. ~~§~~

~~§ 190-18. Launching of watercraft; inspections.~~ Watercraft; Inspections.

A. —

For the purpose of this section, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this Subsection- A:

BOAT LAUNCH —

The boat launch owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Columbia at the lake which is located at the end of Beach Road. For purposes of this section, "boat launch," in addition to the designated launch ramp, shall also include the launch of any watercraft from any other location at the Town beach located on Beach Road.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES —

Such procedures ~~as~~ shall be as established by the Board of Selectmen regarding the inspection of watercraft for nonnative aquatic species ~~and the general implementation and enforcement of this section, as the same may be amended from time to time in the manner as shall be provided in the Inspection Procedures.~~ required CT Boating Regulations vessel safety items and all approved town ordinances relating to watercrafts. The Inspection Procedures shall be published on the Town's website and otherwise available in printed format free of charge at the Town Hall or from a Town inspector authorized pursuant to Subsection- D.

LAKE —

Columbia Lake the 281-acre lake located within the Town.

LAKE WATERSHED —

That area of the Town included in the Columbia Lake Watershed Protection Overlay Zones LAR, LBR and/or LCR pursuant to Section 21.4 of the Town's Zoning Regulations, as from time to time amended.

NONNATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES —

Aquatic flora and fauna having the potential for rapid growth, dispersion, and displacement of native species within water bodies of the State of Connecticut, as identified from time to

time by the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or in the Inspection Procedures. "Nonnative aquatic species" shall also include any aquatic flora or fauna suspected to be such in the absence of a positive identification.

TIME PERIODS—

Such time periods as the Selectmen shall establish as part of the Inspection Procedures during which an authorized Town employee will be available at the boat launch to conduct inspections in accordance with the Inspection Procedures.

TOWN—

The Town of Columbia.

WATERCRAFT—

Any ~~boat, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, personal watercraft~~vessel designed to be propelled by machinery or other contrivance with mechanisms as hands, oars, paddles, or without an independent means of propulsion and wind action used or capable of carrying one or more persons being used as a means of traveling or transportation on and over or under the surface of a water body.

or on ice other than a seaplane on the water. For purposes of this ordinance
"Watercraft" shall also include any motor vehicle, a trailer or other equipment used to transport and launch a watercraft, all, or any portion of which is immersed in a water body during the course of such launching.

B. —

Use of launch ramp. Watercraft which require a powered vehicle to be launched at
the Town Beach must be launched and removed only from the designated launch ramp.

C. —

Inspection of watercraft is required at any location at which such watercraft is launched. On and after the effective date of this article, no
person shall launch any watercraft into the lake unless the following conditions are met:

(1)

Watercraft launched from the boat launch during one of the time periods shall be inspected at the boat launch ~~for the presence of nonnative aquatic species pursuant to the Inspection Procedures. A person otherwise entitled to use the boat launch to launch a watercraft shall have access to the boat launch for such purpose at all other times not within one of the time periods by complying with Inspection Procedures pertaining to access to the lake after self-inspection pursuant to the Inspection Procedures.~~

(2)

Any person otherwise ~~entitled~~ allowed to launch a watercraft into the lake from any location other than the boat launch shall only launch such watercraft after making a self-inspection of such watercraft in accordance with the Inspection Procedures.

(3)

If nonnative aquatic species are discovered on a watercraft during any inspection, ~~all signs of such nonnative aquatic species shall be removed from such watercraft by the inspector and applicable provisions of~~ will advise the Inspection Procedures shall be satisfied watercraft owner they cannot launch the watercraft. The watercraft must be removed from the launch area and utilizing the U.S. Fishery and Wildlife Clean, Drain, Dry 5-day procedures to kill the invasive species before returning for another inspection.

D. —

Designation of inspection officials; inspection schedule and fees. The Town's Board
of Selectmen shall designate one or more Town employees to administer the inspection program and procedures described in Subsection ~~C~~ C of this section. All such employees shall be under the supervision of the Town's Marine Patrol and shall receive such reasonably appropriate training as is necessary for the identification of,

and potential locations on watercraft of, nonnative aquatic species. Fees for such inspections as may be set by the Town's Board of Selectmen shall be specified in the Inspection Procedures.

E.

Penalties for noncompliance. Any person who places a watercraft into the lake without complying with all applicable provisions of this article shall be subject to:

(1)

The fine imposed pursuant to §-15-180 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as from time to time amended, as enforced by the Town's resident state trooper, Connecticut State Police, or Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Conservation Officer; and

(2)

Any additional fine or other penalty specific to this section as may be imposed by §-~~190-21~~22 of this article.

§

§ 190-19. Additional requirements for launching ~~boats~~ watercraft.

No person may launch a ~~boat~~watercraft without first determining if the launch area is vacant. All vehicles must stop at the designated area. All operators must walk to the launch area to determine availability of the area. No ~~boats~~watercraft may be launched without an individual walking beside the trailer to and from the launch area. Vehicles are not allowed to park or stand in the launch area for longer than it takes to launch a boat.

§

§ 190-20. Connecticut Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances.

At Inspection, every watercraft owner will be provided a copy of the Connecticut Boater's Guide, issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and copies of the Town of Columbia's watercraft and water safety ordinances.

§ 190-21 Alcoholic beverages.

The consumption or possession of alcoholic liquors or beverages by any person at the Town-owned public beach is not permitted at any time.

§

§ 190-~~21~~22 Penalties for offenses.

Any person, firm or organization may be fined an amount not more than \$~~50~~200 for each offense under this article. If any violation is deemed to be reckless or unsafe or if ongoing violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are reckless and unsafe, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator and/or the violating watercraft from being used on Columbia Lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AND REFERENDUM**

All qualified electors of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut (the “Town”) and any other persons entitled to vote upon any of the matters contained in this notice are hereby warned that a Special Town Meeting of the Town is to be held in the Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To elect a moderator.
2. To consider and discuss (but not vote on) the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250

The full text of the foregoing authorizing resolution is on file and open to inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut for the use or inspection of any interested person.

All qualified electors and persons entitled to vote in town meetings of the Town are hereby further notified that pursuant to Section 2.5(a) of the Town Charter, the foregoing resolution is being submitted to the voters at referendum for a “yes” or “no” vote.

The question to be voted upon is as follows:

- I. “Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,175,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND/OR UPGRADING OF HVAC SYSTEM AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,396,250’, be approved?
Yes ____ No ____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town appropriate \$6,175,000 for HVAC system and indoor air quality improvements at the Horace W. Porter School and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes up to \$3,396,250 to finance said appropriation?
Yes ___ No ___”

The vote will be conducted on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, during the hours from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office in accordance with applicable law. Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: Yeomans Hall 323 Route 87, Columbia, Connecticut. Voters approving the resolution will vote “Yes” and voters opposing the resolution will vote “No.”

3. To adjourn the special town meeting to a referendum vote on the above question to be held on the date, during the time and at the noticed polling place referred to above.

Dated at Columbia, Connecticut this ____ day of November, 2023.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman

Christopher Lent, Selectman

Lisa Napolitano, Selectman

William O'Brien, Selectman

Judy Ortiz, Selectman

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION (7)- MEETINGS:
1ST MONDAY 7:00PM; ADELLA G. URBAN ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES CONFERENCE ROOM

R - JOHN ALLEN-CHM	12/18/19-11/27/23
R - THOMAS ARCHAMBAULT-VC	12/18/19-11/27/23
D - RONALD J. WIKHOLM-SEC	12/18/19-11/27/23
U - IAN DANN	12/07/21-11/24/25
U - CLAUDE A. GARRITT JR	12/07/21-11/24/25
R - DAVID HOLCROFT	12/07/21-11/24/25
U - MARY ROICKLE	12/07/21-11/24/25

IWWC ALTERNATES (2)

U - JON DILWORTH	12/07/21-11/27/23
R - VACANT	xxxxxxx-11/27/23

RECREATION COMMISSION (7) 7/1/06 –MEETINGS: 1ST THURSDAY
(1 3 5 9 11) 6:00 PM; RECREATION DEPARTMENT

U - NIKKI KELDSEN	11/25/19-11/27/23
D - HEATHER PEKAROVIC	05/05/20-11/27/23
U - STEVE PIRO	11/25/19-11/27/23
R - JEFF BUSKEY-CHM	12/07/21-11/24/25
D - KELLY DEFOREST	12/07/21-11/24/25
D - CINDY POSTEMSKY	12/07/21-11/24/25
D - ANTONIO TIGELEIRO	12/07/21-11/24/25



Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth & Family Services
25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron, Connecticut 06248

AHM PROGRAM REPORT
October 2023

Executive Director Report: Tressa Giordano

Autumn at AHM has been bustling with excitement as our staff continues to serve our youth and families throughout our four towns. FRC programming is going strong, residents are loving our Health Matters programs, our school-based staff are very busy, and our outpatient clinical program continues to grow. We also celebrated the birth of Sherry's little baby girl, Sadie!

We have begun our second phase of consulting through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Social Enterprise Accelerator program. Mike and I have met weekly with our consultant, Larry, and have started to put together our business plan to help grow our outpatient clinical program. Ann Marie and I met with Sara Leonard, a fundraising consultant provided by the program. Sara will help us prepare for our fast pitch presentation which will be either January 23rd or January 24th of 2024. We will be meeting with Sara every other week.

Ann Marie, Gayle and I attended our first of three fundraising leadership seminars this month. Sara Tarca will be joining us for the next two.

Megan and I hosted three QPR and Narcan trainings this month: two for staff at RHAM, and one here at AHM for the community. We will continue to offer these lifesaving classes for the community as well as for schools and town groups.

This month, I chaired both our region's HAT meeting and our JRB hearing. I attended our CHEC meeting, Hebron and Andover's School Readiness meeting, the Northeast Network of Care meeting, the Catchment Area Council meeting, the Eastern Regional Truancy meeting, and our weekly CYSA professional development meetings. I also had a great meeting with representatives from the Marlborough Sustainability Committee. We also welcomed the new Douglas Library Director to the area by giving Drusilla Carter a tour of our building and a walk through all of our programs and services.

On October 14th, AHM was presented with a donation from the Northford Timber Builders at the Flour Girl's Barn Raising event. Watching the first pillars of this new building being put up by a team of volunteers was extremely inspiring. It was an honor to receive a gift from this amazing organization and be a part of the Flour Girl's history.

Megan and I have been busy interviewing candidates for our full-time therapist position and have narrowed our search.

Sadly, the weekend weather this fall has been extremely rainy and has impacted many outdoor events. AHM decided not to attend the Hebron Harvest Moon Fest due to soaking rain and windy conditions.

The month wrapped up with a successful drug take back event at RHAM high school, two very successful community trunk-or-treat events attended by our FRC staff, a story-walk in Columbia attended by Ann Marie and eight AHM staff attending the amazing CT Youth Services Association annual conference in Hartford.



Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth & Family Services
25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron, Connecticut 06248

Individual Giving & Event Planning Coordinator: Ann Marie Drury

Thank you to all who came out for our Cuisine for Charity event at Gina Marie's! It was such a fun night. Through the efforts of Gina and Troy, their staff, and our staff and board, we raised over \$5,700. That is incredible!

October has been a month of learning. First, on October 18th, I took part in the Social Justice Leadership Academy (SJLA) Learning Series Event: Supporting LGBTQ+ Communities. Damien Lopez, Transgender Advocate and Queer Author, led the training. Damien helped participants learn how to develop skills on how to cultivate a safe space for transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) individuals. They also discussed how we can increase our knowledge and debunk misconceptions and biases. I'm grateful that this training was made available to AHM staff.

Second, Tressa, Gayle, and I attended the first session of a three-part training series led by Consultant Shari Adams. This Nonprofit Support Program is offered through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. On our two-hour virtual training we explored the culture of philanthropy, what it means and how it relates to our organization. I found the information extremely interesting and we look forward to sharing what we learn in the next two sessions.

The Holiday Auction site is live! I am adding items as we receive them so check back often for updates. I would love to have all items in house by November 1st in order to be ready to go live on November 13th at 9am.

On October 25th I was at Columbia Rec Park for Storytime Walk through Rec Park. I led an AHM arts and crafts table. I met lots of families and shared information about AHM with Columbia residents.

Clinical Director: Megan Aldridge

We have been working hard to recruit new full- and part-time outpatient therapists this month. We have conducted several phone and in-person interviews, and are feeling hopeful that we'll have a strong addition to our team soon!

There are currently about 45 children and families waiting for therapy services. We continue to update our referral lists and connect families to alternative services as needed. New requests for therapy continue to come in regularly. Last month we completed 109 total sessions, with an 80% show rate.

School counselors and outpatient therapists are seeing an increase in significant mental health needs among students. Risk assessments are conducted regularly, and we are often connecting youth with higher levels of care. Schools are also reporting an increase in significant behavior problems from several students, including younger kids struggling to manage emotions and fleeing the classroom, hiding under desks, or refusing to do complete work. Our school counselors have been an essential part of the support teams within the schools to help teachers and administrators manage challenging behaviors in the classroom, and provide children and families with necessary support.



Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth & Family Services
25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron, Connecticut 06248

The SMART Recovery Teen group is back up and running at RHAM! Kristina Smith is facilitating the group again this year, and we are looking to spread the word. The group runs on Thursdays during rotating lunch periods. The schedule can be found on the AHM website.

Outpatient Therapist: Sherry Chen

No report - out on leave.

Outpatient Therapist: Clay Valentin

In the month of October, I facilitated 36 individual sessions and 4 family sessions. I am pleased to have an 89% show rate and hope we can finish the month off strong. I have been working with families on effective co-parenting, healthy communication, and using therapeutic space to grow as a family unit. Common themes within individual sessions include heightened anxiety, seasonal depression, and academic fatigue. A gentle reminder to check in with loved ones and yourself.

RHAM High School Student Support Services: Ryanne Gatti

With the school year well underway, a few AHM programs have begun their regular meetings here at RHAM High. The SMART Recovery program meets weekly during lunch periods and is available to support students with their personal goals. A small group of students is also meeting weekly with their mentors from the Lanterns program. October has been a busy planning month as well for the Power of Words team. Power of Words is being planned for November 2nd this year and will focus on building community, connection, and kindness here at RHAM. We are excited to see the event take place this year to support not just the sophomore class but also the middle school and elementary schools in district.

RHAM Middle School Student Support Services: Jayne Carlman



Happy October! This month has been an exciting time at RHAM Middle School as students are hard at work during the first quarter of the school year, school sports and clubs are in full swing, and the school is hosting its first spirit week! The Middle School also just wrapped up its beginning of the year food drive; students and families were able to generously donate for the community. Thank you to all those who donated!

Also, this month we opened the RHAM Middle School Raptor's Nest! In conjunction with the High School Raptor's Nest, the Middle School Raptor's Nest is a school-based food pantry that provides students with food, hygiene, and school supplies. The pantry is now open in the Middle School Guidance Office and is open to all students. Thank you to the Hebron Interfaith Human Services and RHAM Middle School for all their support and collaboration on this project!

Marlborough Elementary School Student Support Services: Michele Thorn

October has been moving right along. The students are settled in and comfortable so things are starting to become a little challenging with big emotions and behavior. The teacher and parent referrals are rolling in. Many students are experiencing anxiety and feeling overwhelmed with



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their school work and relationships with peers. I receive many calls after lunch and recess especially due to conflicts among peers and feelings of not fitting in. The students who I am getting called to support are experiencing very strong emotions such as loud crying and yelling. They are reacting to events that are typically little deals, but they see it as a very big deal. I am focusing quite a bit with the students on learning how to cope and learning how to think flexibly. I remind the students that it is certainly ok to have these feelings, but it is important to express them in an appropriate way. I let the students know that I am here to help them talk through their feelings and that we can work together to come up with some coping strategies to use when these strong feelings arise. An important coping strategy is 1) encouraging the student to name various emotions, 2) reviewing the appropriate reactions to these emotions, and 3) practicing what the scenario would look like. Some other coping strategies that students can use on their own are taking deep breaths, taking a walk and using healthy self-talk. If they have tried these ideas and still are not feeling regulated, then the best approach is to calmly ask to speak to an adult about their feelings. The hope is that students can learn to use these coping strategies to calm themselves down when challenges occur so they are able to better control their bodies and emotions so their day runs more smoothly. Something else that I have noticed more this year is that students of all ages are shutting down in class when the work feels too difficult for them or they do not understand a lesson. Students are having a challenging time taking a risk and trying something new. If they feel that they do not know how to do something and it isn't going to be perfect, they do not want to do the work at all. I spend time with the students - and their teachers and parents - to come up with ideas on how best to support these students and motivate them to be the best learners they can be. Some strategies we put in place are reminding the students that it is ok not to know how to do things and it is always ok to ask for help. All we can do is keep trying, be positive and encouraging, and make sure the students know they are supported and cared for. We take things one day at a time, and sometimes it is one moment at a time.

Hebron Elementary School Student Support Services: Meghan McKenna

We have had a great start to fall here at Hebron Elementary School! We had our first whole-school assembly on Friday October 13th to learn about Unity Day. Unity Day is celebrated every year to bring awareness to and unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion, and to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. On Unity Day, we wore the color orange which is a color that represents safety. The following week, October 16-20th, was a Unity Spirit Week with anti-bullying themes of dress planned for each day. Friday October 20th was HES's Monster Mash Halloween celebration, which occurred after school. Last year's "Boo Bash" was a huge success and we were excited to bring it back this year!

Gilead Hill School and Andover Elementary School Student Support Services:
Bethany Wolff

Gilead Hill School

October is always a fun month filled with the changes of the season and fall activities. Here at Gilead the SEL team has been busy planning a Unity Day that was celebrated on the 18th. The assembly consisted of the school psychologist teaching the students about Unity Day, the reason we wear orange on the day, and my reading of the book *The Belonging Tree* which focuses on building a community. The assembly ended with a song about being stronger together. The



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students also left with a cut-out hand to color or decorate that we will collect to create our own belonging tree. The SEL team meets weekly to review student concerns or needs. The teachers recently completed the DESSA, a social and emotional screening which flags students who may need additional supports. As a team, we have been reviewing those scores to provide appropriate interventions. This screening tool is used to create the cycles of students who would benefit from the grant-funded therapeutic play intervention Primary Project. I have connected with teachers and then families about kids who would benefit from the program. A few parents have reached out, looking for additional supports or outside resources. Most of my day is filled with individual check-ins with students, lunch bunches, social groups, and Primary Project kids. The staff and students are all looking forward to the pumpkin parade and activities at the end of this month.

Andover Elementary School

Andover is looking to meet the needs of the community by adding an additional pre-k class room. Therefore, there has been a large focus on space and staffing for this new additional classroom. The intervention team has met with teachers individually during SRBI meetings to review student concerns or needs. Due to concerns from teachers and parents who have reached out, I have added five new students to my caseload. I started a grade 3/4 girl group focused on coping with similar symptoms of anxiety or some big emotions that the students have been experiencing. The weekly team meetings with support providers have been a great addition for reviewing and updating student concerns. I also have been participating in a weekly communication log, followed by a monthly meeting with a family to build a strong connection between home and school. I typically spend some time responding to students who need support due to frustrations along with meeting with students individually or in a group.

H. W. Porter School Student Support Services: Christina Burdzy Herrick

This was a busy month at Porter! Planning is underway for the school-wide Look for the Good Program. This gratitude-focused program consists of a school-wide assembly, classroom-based lessons, daily announcements, student-created “you matter” letters, and daily student reflections. This 10-day program will begin on November 13th, World Kindness Day, and will culminate on November 22nd with the PBIS games of gratitude day. Planning is also underway for a middle school internet safety program to be held at the end of November. This month also brought the school-wide bullying prevention initiative as well as the school-wide SAEBRS (Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener) universal student assessment, training, and administration.

Tier 2 initiatives this month consisted of “personal space” classroom lessons for all Kindergarten classrooms. Kindergarten classes joined a “personal space camp” and all received a certificate of completion. Lunch bunch groups have also progressed, covering topics such as identification of emotions, self-reflection, perspective taking, and self-regulation.

Tier 3 services included IEP/504 mandated counseling, crisis intervention response and risk assessment, and teacher or parent referral-based service.

Family Resource Center Director: Rebecca Murray

Things are going well in the FRC, with a busy start to the fall.

Preschool: We are getting into a routine in the classroom! Children are getting used to the program, and are forming friendships within the class with cooperative play. RHAM students have started coming in to assist in the classroom during their free periods and lunch, and we welcome their help and participation. There were some special programs in October: Firefighters visited both classes and talked to children about fire safety. Children had an opportunity to see the fire trucks' ladders and hoses, and even sit in the fire truck! Cari and Heather also organized a trip to Paul and Sandy's Pumpkintown for families. This event was enjoyed by all!



Firemen talk to children and show the fire truck!



Heather Holbrook leading "Sharing" with the children. Children can bring something from home to show and discuss with the class!

FRC Groups: These are going well. This fall we have groups Monday-Friday. We have had a variety of educational, fun activities related to fall and to help children with skill development in different arenas, using many types of materials for children to explore. Ashlee organized a field trip to East Willow Farm in Columbia. Families got a tour of the farm and got to see animals, enjoy a snack, and take a pumpkin home!



Choosing a pumpkin at E. Willow Farm



Painting with Dad during Play and Learn group!



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Upcoming: We will start new Play and Learn, Sparkler, and Messy Hands sessions in November. We are planning programming for 2024.

Mentoring Coordinator: Laura Beeler

All mentors and mentees have resumed their meetings by now; everyone seemed happy to see each other again! The two summer sessions we held helped keep connections open over July and August, so perhaps this made the transition to fall easier. We were able to purchase some new card games, craft supplies, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) kits for our students to use at each of the schools. Mentors often bring their own excellent and creative ideas for activities, but it's nice to have some fun, new materials as a backup. As always, I thank all our mentors and school staff who help this program run smoothly!

Health Matters: Shamane Shepard

With most of our fall workshops currently full, I can say that this has been a successful season for our Health Matters program. This session included a combination of AHM staff and guest instructors. "THANK YOU" to our AHM staff who participated and/or taught Health Matters classes. As programming now begins for winter and spring sessions, I anticipate an increase in AHM family participation, and a variety of new and engaging activities for all ages. Furthermore, I strongly encourage our staff to join our Health Matters workshops, and/or share a skill or talent with our community. Lastly, as we strive for growth in participant attendance, please continue to share information about our Health Matters program!

CHOREs and TASKs Program Coordinator: Kristina Smith

Well it certainly has been a very soggy fall. Both CHOREs and TASKs have been a little on the slow side due to the weather. It has been particularly rainy on the weekends. Out of the 20 past weekends 16 of them have been rainy. I am hoping that the weather will improve, so that we can clean up some yards before the winter season. If you know of any teens who would like to join the program please contact kristinah@ahmyouth.org

Prevention, JRB, & Project Graduation Coordinator: Jennifer Boehler

AHM Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community

Prevention Programming

The AHM Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community:

AHM hosted the free viewing of **Screenagers: Under The Influence** on October 10th. Two families attended with 4 adults, 2 sixth graders, and 2 mid-schoolers in attendance. The movie inspired a 20-minute discussion afterwards that included everyone in the room. For more information about these extremely well-done documentaries visit

www.thescreenagersproject.com . You can come and watch **Screenagers: The Next**



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Chapter on Wednesday, November 8 at 6:30PM in the AHM Pac Room. There will be FREE movie-style popcorn for all!

Just Breathe Signage

- Fulfilled the Town of Columbia's request for signage for their parks and recreation area
- Gained approval from the RHAM Administration for the installation of signage on the RHAM High School and Middle School fields and in the school buildings.

Hosted a **Take-Back Event** in partnership with the CT State Police at RHAM High School on Saturday, October 28th. A total of 168 pounds of unused and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications were collected with 53 cars participating in this event. The majority of cars were from Hebron followed by Marlborough, Andover, Columbia and then 'other' surrounding towns.

AHM will represent at the 2024 CADCA National Conference held in Maryland. The AHM Team will include Tressa Giordano, Megan Aldridge, Jenn Boehler and Carol Rusch, RHAM High School's School Psychologist. The CADCA National Conference is four-days' worth of knowledge sharing, collaboration, skill-building, networking and a one-hour meeting with CT's state senators to advocate for policies and legislation related to substance use. CADCA stands for Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America. This opportunity is paid for by the Drug Free Community Grant.

SOAR Youth Leadership Group

We had a productive and fun getting-to-each-other kind-of meeting in October. Decisions were made on our monthly activities that were driven by bringing more positivity to the RHAM campus and providing self-care opportunities for students at our monthly meeting and providing two events that would be for students and teachers.

We sponsored a lunchtime activity that involved blue and gold silicone "I Appreciate You" bracelets; students, (some) teachers and (some) staff came to the SOAR table with our beautiful new tablecloth and simply took a bracelet to give to a friend, teacher or staff member that they appreciate! AHM is ordering more bracelets so we can engage more teachers and staff. EVERYONE likes to know they are appreciated - especially our teachers!

AHM scheduled **Hidden in Plain Sight** (HIPS) to be at the Hebron Harvest Moon Festival on 10/20 but due to inclement rainy and increasingly windy weather AHM did not participate. HIPS will be rescheduled.

Intervention Programming

The AHM Juvenile Review Board had two successful closeouts during the month of October.