

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2017
- 4. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 2018-2019 Municipal Holiday Schedule
 - 6.2 Willimantic Classic Road Race
 - 6.3 Agenda Memorandum of Agreement for Homeland Security
 - 6.4 Funding for Defibrillator for the Senior Van
 - 6.5 Randazzo Rd Issue
- 7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH**
- 8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
 - 8.1 Appointment of Ingrid Wood for Town Historian.
 - 8.2 Appointments for Recreation Commission: Cindy Postemsky, Millie Ramsey, Nikki Keldsen, and Kelly DeForest.
 - 8.3 Appointment of Nancy Yale for Animal Control Officer.
 - 8.4 Appointment of Andrea Drabicki for liaison for Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG).
 - 8.5 Appointment of Halloran & Sage for Town Attorney.
 - 8.6 Appointment of Jerry James for Emergency Management Director.
 - 8.7 Appointments for Town Meeting Moderators: Millie Ramsey and Mark Vining.
 - 8.8 Appointments for Columbia Commission on Aging: Catherine Rowe, Paula Callahan, Millie Ramsey, Margaret (Maggie) Ewald, Edith Prague, Jill Livingston, and Lyn Buonocore.
 - 8.9 Appointments for Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWCC): Claude Garritt, William Ross, Carol Jaswinski, and Ian Dann.
 - 8.10 Appointments for Szegda Farm: Rob Hellstrom, Gary King, Tom McGrath, Nancy (Massey) Schwartz, David Szegda, and Anthony Ortiz.
 - 8.11 Appointments for Youth Services: Denise Morell, William O'Brien, Melissa Petrone, Daniel Leavitt, Carol Wiggins, Trooper Greg DeCarili, Maureen Allen, Alyssa Gwinnell, Rebecca Allen, Marc Volza.

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

9.1 Flanders River Road Bridge

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 State Police Monthly Services – December 2017

10.2 The Chronicle article 12/26/17 regarding Town of Columbia

10.3 Thank you letter to Saint Columba Church for their donation to the Columbia Fuel Assistance Fund

11. BUDGET:

11.1 Transfers:

11.2 Refunds:

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

15. Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A)

14. ADJOURNMENT

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: First Selectman, Steven M. Everett; Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; Selectman Robert Brogue; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; Selectman, Bill O'Brien.

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter; Karl Then; Ryan Linares, Representative from Greenskies, Ann Dunnack

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES:** BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2017: R. Hellstrom MOVED to approve the 11/21/17 Regular Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:2

S. Everett MOVED to add 6 items to 7.0 Appointments/Resignations that included 7.1 Dr. Mark Desroscher – Town Moderator; 7.2 Open Space Committee (OSC); 7.3 Conservation & Agriculture Commission (CAC); 7.4 Appointment of Deputy Selectman; 7.5 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC); 7.6 Land Management Advisory Commission (LMAC) MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 4.1 **2018 BOS meeting schedule:** S. Everett MOVED to revise date changes from July 3rd and 17th to July 10th and 24th. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. S. Everett MOVED to approve the 2018 BOS meeting schedule. MOTION CARRIED 5.0
 - 4.2 **Final Approval: Contract for Solar Services at the Horace Porter School:** W. O'Brien MOVED for the Town of Columbia to enter into a contract with Greenskies for Horace Porter Solar Power and Service Agreement and to authorize Steven M. Everett to sign the contract. M. Walter stated that the contract we are approving will have a contracted rate of .0524 kilowatt hours, which is a great improvement over the 12.5 per kilowatt hour we are currently paying. Savings are forecasted over 20 years at over 732k. Discussion was had with Greenskies representative, Ryan Linares over other details of the contract. MOTION CARRIED 5:0
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Approve resolution for Key Bank to update signers:** R. Brogue MOVED to approve the resolution to update signers for Key Bank. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
6. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:** None.
7. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
 - 7.1 **Dr. Mark Desroscher – Moderator:** S. Everett explained that Dr. Desroscher is a Republican and that currently there are 2 unaffiliated Town Moderators; therefore, Dr. Desroscher will be able to serve as a Town Moderator as stated in the Charter, Section 8.22. Town Moderators for Town Meetings: There shall be a panel of three (3) permanent Town Meeting Moderators, no more than two (2) of whom shall be from any one political party. The panel of moderators shall serve for a term of four years. MOTION CARRIED 5.0
 - 7.2 **Open Space Committee (OSC):** S. Everett MOVED to approve the following members; Joan Hill, Donald Schofield, Walter Tabor, Christopher Tolsdorf, Shirley King, Paul Ramsey, and Ann Dunnack and to add Donald Cianci to the OSC committee as an Alternate. MOTION CARRIED 5.0
 - 7.3 **Conservation & Agriculture Commission (CAC):** S. Everett MOVED to approve the following members; Ann Dunnack, Thomas McGrath, Christopher McGrath, Anthony Ortiz, and Christopher Tolsdorf. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.1

- 7.4 **Appointment of Deputy Selectman:** S. Everett MOVED to approve Robert Hellstrom as the Deputy Selectman. MOTION CARRIED 5.0
- 7.5 **Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC):** S. Everett MOVED to approve the following members to EAC; Bryan Tarbell, Carole Williamson, Carol Coley, and Andrea Drabicki. MOTION CARRIED 5.0
- 7.6 **Land Management Advisory Commission (LMAC):** S. Everett MOVED to approve the following members; Phyllis Dunn, Henry Beck, Jr., John Burrell, Karl Then, Michael Gnazzo, Steve Harrington, James Santos, Dan O'Neill, David Vanderbilt, Carl Foster, and Robert Powell. MOTION CARRIED 5.0

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 8.1 **Sherry Major to be added as a floater for the Senior Center for kitchen help.**
- 8.2 **Highlights of CCM Convention:** The legislation agenda will be focusing on land use, arbitration, prevailing wages, etc.

M. Walter added to the TA Report the following: Invitation to LMAC meeting, Flanders River Road Bridge Opening, and new Firehouse Heat System.

An invitation to the boards and commission to the December 6th, LMAC to hear Dr. Greg Bugbee will presentation regarding the wetland invasive species, Phragmites and provide insight as to how to eradicate this plant.

Flanders River Road Bridge project was budgeted for \$25k; currently the budget for the project has come in at \$30,400.00. A final bill has not been submitted from Coventry as of the date of the BOS meeting.

Made Selectman aware of the failing heating pump at the new Firehouse.

9. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

10. BUDGET:

- 10.1 **Transfers:** Additional funding is needed to remove several damaged trees in town, due to environmental issues and damaging insects. Town-wide road tree surveys were performed and it was determined that over 63 trees will need to be removed or pruned. All funds for this have been expended already this year. As a result the Tree Warden has requested the BOS appropriate additional \$9,900.00 funding for this year. R. Hellstrom MOVED to have the additional funding approved. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.1

- 10.2 **Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to approve the following refund:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$104.93	Town of Columbia	Toyota Lease Trust
\$122.77	Town of Columbia	Toyota Lease Trust

MOTION CARRIED 5.0

- 11. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to approve the payment of bills. MOTION CARRIED 5.0

- 12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 13.1 **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)**

- 14. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett adjourned the BOS meeting at 7:46

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

2018 -2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY	OBSERVANCE
Christmas Eve	Sunday, December 24, 2017 (observed Friday, December 22, 2017)
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25, 2017
New Year's Eve	Sunday, December 31, 2017 (observed Friday, December 29, 2017)
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King's Day	Monday, January 15, 2018
President's Day	Monday, February 19, 2018
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28, 2018
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4, 2018
Labor Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Columbus Day	Monday, October 8, 2018
Veteran's Day	Sunday , November 11, 2018 (observed Monday, November 12, 2018)
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 22, 2018
Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23, 2018
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24, 2018
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25, 2018
New Year's Eve	Monday, December 31, 2018
New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Town Administrator

From: Marc Scrivener [mascrivener@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:32 AM
To: Town Administrator
Cc: Kim Bona; Peter Starkel; Willimantic Classic
Subject: Willimantic Classic Road Race 2018

Dear Town Administrator Everett,

I'm writing on behalf of the Willimantic Athletic Club (WAC). For our sixth year, we are planning to conduct a foot race starting and ending at Jillson Square in Willimantic, which we have scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2018.

People who request an early start (usually walkers) can depart at 7:30 AM (open roads--on their own). The half marathon will begin at 8:30.

We will venture slightly into Columbia via Cards Mill and Baker Hill Roads.

Please see the course descriptions below:

Also please note that we intend to make use of the new recreation trail connection through the Willimantic Rail Museum.

The Half Marathon course route is as follows: Thread City 13.1

- Start at Jillson Square, taking a right onto Main Street
- Left onto Bridge Street
- Right onto the Airline Trail, just past the railroad tracks on Bridge Street
- Continue down the trail past the historic Railroad Museum, and over the footbridge on the left.
- Continue to the Kingsley Road gate.
- Proceed ACROSS Kingsley Road and back onto the Airline Trail, exiting the trail and turning right onto Village Hill Road
- Right onto Cards Mill Road
- Right onto Baker Hill Road, continuing on Kingsley Road and Pleasant Street, returning to Willimantic.

Once we have your traffic committee's approval, and that of neighboring communities, we will apply for a state permit for the use of the rail trail and state roads.

We will also add you as an insured on our insurance certificate and send that to you at least one month in advance.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Marc Scrivener
Vice President
Willimantic Athletic Club

Sent from personal email address of:

Marc A. Scrivener, BSBM, MM, 26.2, 50k
PO Box 106
Willimantic CT 06226
860.933.5144 (Cell)

Twitter: mascrivener

<http://www.facebook.com/marc.scrivener>

www.willimanticdowntown.org

<http://www.willimanticathleticclub.org/>

Be miserable. Or motivate yourself. Whatever has to be done, it's always your choice - Wayne Dyer

ACTION REQUIRED: FY 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program MOAs

From: "Caplet, Mike" <Mike.Caplet@ct.gov>
To: "Caplet, Mike"
Cc: "Iezzi, Carla" <Carla.iezzi@ct.gov>, "Richards, Darlene" <Darlene.Richards@ct.gov>, James Butler <jbutler@seccog.org>, John Filchak <John.filchak@necog.org>, "Stewart, Rita" <Rita.Stewart@ct.gov>, "Drozynski, Robert" <Robert.Drozynski@ct.gov>, Groton Town <jsastre@groton-ct.gov>, "Licata, Michael" <mlicata@windhamct.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: FY 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program MOAs
Date: Dec 6, 2017 3:44 PM
Attachments: Blanket Resolution.docx Region 4- FY 2017 HSGP MOA.PDF

To:
Region 4 Municipal/Tribal Nation CEOs
Region 4 Municipal/Tribal Nation EMDs

The Regional Collaboration sub-grant under the 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program has been awarded to the Region 4 REPT.

Attached please find a blanket resolution document and the Region 4 2017 MOA document for Region 4 towns.

ATTACHMENT 1: Memorandum of Agreement Document

This document is a requirement for regional Homeland Security Grant Funds and serves the following functions:

- I. Details state use of local Homeland Security funds and the administration of the DEMHS Region 4 Homeland Security Grant Program;
- II. Details the terms of custodial ownership of assets purchased with regional Homeland Security funds.

The attachment is a fillable PDF that auto populates data into the document. Please fill out the data sheet on the first page to auto populate the document, then print and follow the instructions on the page two checklist.

ATTACHMENT 2: Blanket Resolution Template

All memoranda of agreement require an authorizing resolution. We strongly recommend that you use the blanket resolution template (a blanket does not specify a grant year) as this is the language approved by the Office of the State Attorney General. If you have a blanket resolution with the same town CEO from the previous HSGP MOA's, you may attach a **SEALED** copy to this MOA. If the CEO has changed, or if the resolution references a specific grant year, you must submit a new **SEALED** blanket resolution. Please note: if the municipality's current resolution references Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, we would ask that you pass a new blanket resolution that references Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (attached).

Completed MOA's and Resolution are due on or before **February 2, 2018** to the Region 4 REPT Fiduciary Agent:

Mr. James Butler

Executive Director
Southeastern CT Council of Governments
5 Connecticut Avenue
Norwich CT 06360

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document or the Homeland Security Grant Program, please feel free to contact the DEMHS Grants Unit at 860-685-8461.
Thank you.

Rita M. Stewart
Emergency Management Program Supervisor
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
860-685-8461

Mike Caplet

DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Cell: (860) 250-3449

24-Hr. Pager: (860) 708-0756

Region 4 Office:

CSP Troop K, 15-B Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT 06415
(860) 465-5460

Division Office:

1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Mike.Caplet@ct.gov

<http://ct.gov/demhs>

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**FFY 2017 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
PROGRAM Region 4 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
CHECKLIST**



Please use this checklist to insure completion and accuracy of the following agreement.

1.

Instructions for: TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Received by: Jerry James

For the MOA:

- A municipal point of contact been identified in Part III, Section L.
- The Chief Executive Officer has signed and dated the agreement.
- The Chief Executive Officer's name and title has been typed in the space provided.

Authorizing Resolution Attached

The Blanket Resolution Template includes the recommended language for the resolution. If you do not use this template, the resolution must reference the FFY 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program. No

other resolutions will be accepted.

Please note: The Fiduciary and Municipality shall complete Appendix A Custodial Ownership and Memorandum of Agreement (Appendix A), for any municipality that takes ownership of equipment purchased with 2017 HSGP funds by the REPT. *(These documents are not attached to this MOA, but will be sent directly to the Fiduciary)*

Once complete, mail the complete MOA package to: James Butler, Executive Director, Southeastern CT Council of Governments, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360

2.

Instructions for the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Received by: _____

Review and Signature

- The Chief Executive Officer has signed and dated the agreement.
- The Chief Executive Officer's name and title has been typed in the space provided.
- The Region 4 REPT Chair has signed and dated the agreement.
- The Region 4 REPT Chair's name has been typed in the space provided.
- All of the items listed on this checklist have been completed and are correct.

Once complete please contact your DESPP/DEMHS Program Manager to schedule a MOA review meeting.

Please note: The Fiduciary shall complete Appendix A, Custodial Ownership, for any Municipality that takes ownership of equipment purchased with 2017 HSGP funds by the REPT. *(These documents are not attached to this MOA, but will be sent directly to the Fiduciary)*

DUE DATE: February 2, 2018



**FFY 2017 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
PROGRAM Region 4 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**



Data Sheet

Step 1- Fill out this datasheet form to auto populate MOA document in this PDF file.

THIS DATASHEET MUST BE COMPLETED ELECTRONICALLY

Step 2-After populating the document, print out entire MOA and obtain the correct signatures as outlined by the completion checklist on the following page.

Town Information: 	
Person Completing Document:	Jerry James
Municipality Name:	TOWN OF COLUMBIA
Town CEO Name:	Steven Everett
Town CEO Title (ie. Mayor):	First Selectman

***Municipality Name - Municipalities can enter the name as either the long or short name, for example: enter name as either "New Haven" or "City of New Haven"**

Point of Contact Information: 	
POC Name & Title:	Mark Walter Town Administrator
Address:	323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237
Email:	townadministrator@columbiact.org
Phone:	(860) 228-0110
Fax:	(860) 228-1952

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

REGARDING USE OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2017 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING AND CUSTODIAL OWNERSHIP OF REGIONAL ASSETS IN DEMHS Region 4

I. AGREEMENT REGARDING THE USE OF FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS TO SUPPORT REGIONAL SET-ASIDE PROJECTS

A. Introduction

The following facts are understood and agreed to by all parties:

1. The parties to this part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), including the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), the municipality of TOWN OF COLUMBIA, the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary) and the Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (Region 4 REPT).
2. DESPP is the designated recipient and State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security for Federal Fiscal Year 2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Award No. EMW-2017-SS-00063. DEMHS is the division of DESPP responsible for program management of the grants, including consulting with the DEMHS Advisory Council, and the DEMHS Regional Planning Teams to provide a coordinated and integrated program of emergency management and homeland security.
3. The DEMHS Coordinating Council, now known as the DEMHS Advisory Council, has approved the allocation formula for grant funds available under the SHSGP;
4. DESPP/DEMHS is retaining pass-through funds from 2017 SHSGP in the total amount of \$1,473,804 on behalf of local units of government, for the following six regional set-aside projects designed to benefit the state's municipalities:
 - a. Expand Regional Collaboration;
 - b. Connecticut Intelligence Center/Fusion Center/Critical Infrastructure;
 - c. CBRNE Detection;
 - e. Metropolitan Medical Response System;
 - f. Citizen Corps. Program; and
 - g. Medical Preparation and Response
5. DEMHS – in coordination and cooperation with the municipalities located within DEMHS Region 4 including TOWN OF COLUMBIA – has created, and established bylaws for, the Region 4 REPT, a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional regional group to facilitate planning and resource coordination within DEMHS Region 4.
6. TOWN OF COLUMBIA is eligible to participate in those Federal Fiscal Year 2017 SHSGP regional allocations made through the Region 4 REPT and not included in the set-aside projects, in the amount of \$353,659 for Region 4 which will be made available to the jurisdictions in Region 4 in the manner recommended by the Region 4 REPT in accordance with its approved bylaws, upon execution of the grant application and as accepted by the SAA.

B. Purpose of Agreement

The SAA and TOWN OF COLUMBIA enter into Part I of this MOA authorizing the SAA to act as the agent of TOWN OF COLUMBIA and allowing the SAA to retain and administer grant funds provided under 2017 SHSGP for the six regional set-aside projects listed above, and also for The Southeastern CT Council of Governments to provide the financial and programmatic oversight described below.

C. SAA and TOWN OF COLUMBIA Responsibilities.

The SAA agrees to administer the SHSGP grant funds of \$1,473,804 in furtherance of the six regional set-aside projects listed above.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees to allow the SAA to provide financial and programmatic oversight of the \$1,473,804 for the purpose of supporting the allocations and uses of funds under the

2017 SHSGP consistent with the 2017 State Homeland Security Grant Application that has been reviewed and approved by the federal Department of Homeland Security and supported by the Initial Strategy Implementation Spending Plan (ISIP) as part of the Biannual Strategy Implementation Report (BSIR) approved by the Emergency Management & Homeland Security Council, now known as the DEMHS Advisory Council. TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ agrees to allow the SAA to hold, manage, and disburse the grant funds that have been reserved for the six regional set-aside projects listed above.

D. Southeastern CT Council of Governments & TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ Responsibilities.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ also agrees to allow the Southeastern CT Council of Governments to provide financial and programmatic oversight of the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 regional allocation not included in the six regional set-aside projects in the amount of \$353,659 targeted to member municipalities in DEMHS Region 4 and recommended through the Region 4 REPT in accordance with its approved bylaws. Such funds will be applied to specific projects developed and approved by the Region 4 REPT and DEMHS.

II. AGREEMENT REGARDING CUSTODIAL OWNERSHIP OF REGIONAL ASSETS

A. Introduction

The following facts are understood and agreed to by all parties:

1. The parties to this part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), including the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), the municipality of TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____, the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary), and the DEMHS Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (Region 4 REPT).
2. DESPP is the designated recipient and State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security for grants awarded beginning in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2004, up to the present time. DEMHS is the division of DESPP responsible for program management of the grants, including consulting with the DEMHS Advisory Council, and the DEMHS Regional Planning Teams to provide a coordinated and integrated program of emergency management and homeland security.
3. TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ has agreed to operate as the custodial owner of the asset(s) described in Appendix A, on behalf of TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____, the region, and if necessary, the State. (Please note: If a town takes ownership of assets, the Fiduciary will assist them in completing Appendix A. The Appendix will be added to this MOA).
4. The parties also agree that TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ may operate as the custodial owner of additional assets purchased on behalf of the Region from FFY 2017 grant funds, as approved by the Region 4 REPT, and DEMHS, which assets will be added to Appendix A by the Fiduciary within thirty (30) days of approval by the Region 4 REPT.
5. The Region 4 REPT has been established to foster regional collaboration and mutual aid through, among other things, collaborative plan development, resource sharing and coordination.
6. The Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary) has agreed to operate as the fiscal agent for the federal SHSGP grants awarded to DEMHS Region 4 for Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

B. Purpose.

DESPP/DEMHS, the Region 4 REPT, Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary), and TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____, enter into Part II of this MOA regarding asset(s) for which TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ agrees to be the custodial owner, and which are described in the approved 2017 Subgrant Application and will be added to this MOA as Appendix A.

C. Agreements and Responsibilities of the Parties.

1. Definitions.

As used in this MOA:

- The term "authorized training" means training that is authorized by DESPP/DEMHS.
- The term "custodial owner" means a political subdivision or tribe that has agreed to accept title and responsibility for the asset(s), subject to possible redeployment under the terms outlined in Paragraph C(4) below.

2. Responsibilities of DESPP/DEMHS and Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary)

In its role as SAA, DESPP/DEMHS will subgrant funds to Southeastern CT Council of Governments which, as the Region 4 Fiscal Agent, will procure the asset(s) listed in their approved Subgrant Application (which will be added to Appendix A).

3. Appendix A.

The parties agree that decisions regarding the placement of regional assets in TOWN OF COLUMBIA may be made after the execution of this agreement and that Appendix A shall be completed accordingly. TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees to be bound by the terms of this agreement for any asset added to Appendix A. The parties also agree that Appendix A must be signed by the DEMHS Deputy Commissioner, the chair of the Region 4 REPT, and the Chief Executive Officer, or his/her designee, of TOWN OF COLUMBIA.

4. Responsibilities of Custodial Owner

TOWN OF COLUMBIA understands that it is the Custodial Owner, on behalf of itself and the Region, of the asset(s) which will be added to Appendix A, as may be amended pursuant to Paragraph C(4) above. As Custodial Owner, TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees:

- a. To safeguard the asset(s) in a secure location, including, for example, providing refrigeration or protection from the elements, if appropriate;
- b. To regularly test, use and maintain the asset(s) in working order. It is understood by the parties that trained personnel of TOWN OF COLUMBIA's municipal agencies may use the asset(s) for appropriate emergency response/emergency management purposes, including authorized training and exercise;
- c. To provide the asset(s) in a timely manner, in working order, and with appropriate staffing, if necessary, when deployment is requested: under the terms of this MOA; under a mutual aid agreement, including a civil preparedness mutual aid agreement approved by DESPP/DEMHS, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-7(d); under the terms of the intrastate mutual aid system, Connecticut General Statutes §28-22a; or at any time by the State of Connecticut, including DESPP/DEMHS;
- d. To provide the asset(s) in a timely manner, in working order, and with appropriate staffing, if necessary, when deployment is requested for authorized training and/or exercise;
- e. To maintain records of the use of the asset(s), including deployment for an actual incident or for authorized training, and to provide these records to DESPP/DEMHS as requested;
- f. To maintain an inventory of the asset(s), including a unique tagging system (including the DEMHS logo) so that the asset(s) can be easily identified as separate from the Custodial Owner's other property, and to provide that inventory to DESPP/DEMHS as requested.
- g. To maintain all necessary insurance regarding the asset(s) and their use;
- h. To cooperate with any state or federal audit of the asset(s) and/or their use;
- i. To abide by the bylaws and/or procedures established under any applicable State of Connecticut or regional plan;
- j. That the State, including DESPP/DEMHS, does not guarantee any further funding for, or provision of repairs to, the asset(s) beyond the terms of this MOA;
- k. That all maintenance and operations of the asset(s) by TOWN OF COLUMBIA shall conform to the manufacturer's recommendations. If appropriate, TOWN OF COLUMBIA shall maintain trained personnel available to transport and supervise the operation of the asset(s). All personnel or agents of TOWN OF COLUMBIA performing any maintenance or repair services in connection with these asset(s) shall be fully qualified and authorized or permitted under federal, state, and local laws to perform such services.

5. Responsibilities of the REPT.

The Region 4 REPT understands and acknowledges that, in accepting responsibility as the custodial owner of the asset(s), TOWN OF COLUMBIA is furthering regional collaboration and mutual aid on behalf of all of the members of Region 4.

6. Assignment of Asset(s).

If TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ does not comply with the requirements under this MOA, or terminates its involvement in this MOA, then DESPP/DEMHS, in consultation with the REPT Chair, may redirect the asset(s), preferably to a different town within the Region. Whenever possible, DESPP/DEMHS will provide 60 days' notice before re-assigning the asset.

III. GENERAL TERMS OF AGREEMENT APPLICABLE TO ALL PARTS OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**A. Effective Date.**

The terms of this agreement will become effective when all parties have executed it.

B. Authority to Enter Agreement.

DESPP/DEMHS is authorized to enter into this Agreement through the Deputy Commissioner of the DESPP/DEMHS pursuant to the authority provided under Connecticut General Statutes §4-8 and Titles 28 and 29. The Municipality of TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ is authorized to enter into this agreement through its Chief Executive Officer, authorized pursuant to the attached [original or certified copy of resolution, ordinance or charter provision]. The other persons executing this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on behalf of their respective entities hereby represent and warrant that they have the right, power, legal capacity, and appropriate authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the entity for which they sign, as indicated by valid resolutions, if necessary.

C. Duration of Agreement.

Part I of this MOA, as modified with the consent of the parties, remains in full force and effect until the end of the grant period, or any extension thereof, covered by this MOA, unless cancelled by the SAA, giving TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ written notice of such intention at least thirty (30) days in advance. Any party may terminate its involvement with Part II of this agreement upon sixty days' written notice to the other parties. DESPP/DEMHS reserves the right to cancel any funding under this MOA without prior written notice when the funding is no longer available.

D. Amendment of the Agreement.

This agreement may be modified upon the mutual written consent of the parties.

E. Litigation.

The Parties agree to good faith consultation with one another to resolve disagreements that may arise under or relating to this MOA before referring the matter to any other person or entity for settlement. The Parties agree that any disputes under Part II, Paragraph C.6 shall be resolved by DEMHS. The Parties also agree that the sole and exclusive means for the presentation of any claim against the State, including the SAA, arising from this agreement shall be in accordance with Chapter 53 of the Connecticut General Statutes (Claims Against the State) and the Parties further agree not to initiate legal proceedings in any State or Federal Court in addition to, or in lieu of, said Chapter 53 proceedings.

F. State Liability.

The Parties agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Connecticut with regard to the activities described within this MOA, and recognize that the State does not waive its right to sovereign immunity with regard to any provision of this MOA. The State of Connecticut assumes no liability for funding under the terms of this MOA until TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____, through the Region 4 REPT, is notified by the SAA that this MOA has been approved and executed by DEMHS and by any other applicable state agency.

G. Audit Compliance.

If TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ through the Region 4 REPT, agrees to serve as a host or custodial owner of equipment purchased with the grant funds referenced in this MOA, then TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ must comply with the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984, P.L. 98-502 and the Amendments of 1996, P.L. 104-156 and with the Connecticut Statutes §7-396a and 396b, and the State Single Audit Act § 4-230 through 236 inclusive, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____ agrees that all fiscal records, if any, pertaining to the projects shall be maintained for a period of not less than three (3) years from the date of the signing of this MOA. Such records will be made available to state and/or federal auditors upon request.

H. Lobbying, Debarment, and Suspension.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA commits to compliance with the requirements under 28 CFR Part 66 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants to States); 28 CFR Part 69, New Restrictions on Lobbying; 28 CFR Part 67, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Government-wide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants); Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87, addressing cost principles for grants to state and local governments; 28 CFR Part 70 (Common Rules for Administrative Requirements for Grants to Non-Profits); OMB Circulars A-122 and A-21 addressing Cost Principles for Grants to Non-Profit Entities and requirements included in the Department of Homeland Security Office of Grants and Training Financial Guides.

I. Executive Orders.

This contract is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. Three of Governor Thomas J. Meskill promulgated June 16, 1971, and, as such, this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended by the State Labor Commissioner for violation of or noncompliance with said Executive Order No. Three, or any State or federal law concerning non-discrimination, notwithstanding that the Labor Commissioner is not a party to this contract. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that said Executive Order No. Three is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. The parties agree and abide by said Executive Order and agree that the State Labor Commissioner shall have continuing jurisdiction in respect to contract performance in regard to non-discrimination, until the contract is completed or terminated prior to completion. TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees, as part consideration hereof, that this contract is subject to the Guidelines and Rules issued by the State Labor Commissioner to implement Executive Order No. Three, and that it will not discriminate in its employment practices or policies, will file all reports as required, and will fully cooperate with the State of Connecticut and the State Labor Commissioner.

This contract is also subject to the provision of Executive Order No. 16 of Governor John G. Rowland promulgated August 4, 1999 adopting a zero tolerance policy for workplace violence, and as such, this contract may be cancelled terminated or suspended by the State for violation of or noncompliance with said Executive Order No. Sixteen. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that said Executive Order No. Sixteen is incorporated herein by reference and made a part thereof. The parties agree to abide by such Executive Order.

The contract is also subject to provisions of Executive Order No. Seventeen of Governor Thomas J. Meskill promulgated February 15, 1973, and, as such this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended by the contracting agency or the State Labor Commissioner for violation of or non-compliance with said Executive Order No. Seventeen, notwithstanding that the Labor Commissioner may not be a party to this contract. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that Executive Order No. Seventeen is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. The parties agree to abide by such Executive Order and agree that the contracting agency and the State Labor Commissioner shall have joint and several continuing jurisdiction in respect to contract performance in regard to listing all employment openings with the Connecticut State Employment Service.

J. Non-Discrimination Clause.

In accordance with Public Act 88-351, the Town agrees and warrants that, (a) For the purposes of this section, "minority business enterprise" means any small grantee or supplier of materials fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, if any, or asset(s) of which is owned by person or persons: (1) Who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 32-9n; and "good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations. "Good faith efforts" include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements.

For purposes of the section, "Commission" means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

For purposes of this section, "Public works contract" means any agreement between any individual, firm or corporation and the State or any political subdivision of the State other than a municipality for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public building, highway, or other changes or improvements in real property, or which is financed in whole or in part by the State, including but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees.

The Town agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such Town will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group or persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Town that such disability prevents performance of the

work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut. The Town further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Town that such disability prevents performance of the work involved: the Town agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Town, to state that it is an "affirmative action – equal opportunity employer" in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Commission; the Town agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such Town has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract of understanding and each vendor with which Town has a contract of understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission advising the labor union of workers' representative of the Town's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; the Town agrees to comply with each provision of this section and Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 46a-56, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 89-253, 46a-68e and 46a-68f; the Town agrees to provide the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Town as related to the provisions of this section and section 46a-56. If the contract is a public works contract, the Town agrees and warrants that he will make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subgrantees and suppliers of materials on such public works project.

Determination of the Town's good faith efforts shall include but shall not be limited to the following factors: The Town's employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.

The Town shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.

The Town shall include the provisions of subsection (b) of this section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation or a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subgrantee, vendor or manufacturer, unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Town shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 47a-56, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 89-253; provided, if such Town becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation with a subgrantee or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Town may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation prior thereto to protect the interest of the State and the State may so enter.

The Town agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this section as they exist on the date of this contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this contract and any amendments thereto.

Pursuant to Public Act 89-227, as amended, as of January 1, 1991, no agency of the State of Connecticut may purchase new products packaged in or composed in whole or part of polystyrene foam if such foam is manufactured using chlorofluorocarbons (CFC). Manufacturers are required by the Act to provide information regarding the CFC content of polystyrene foam used in such products or packaging to any person selling the product who requests such information. By submitting an offer to sell to or accepting an order from the State of Connecticut the vendor certifies that no CFC are used in the manufacture of polystyrene foam contained in such products or packaging.

K. Non-discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation.

1. The Town agrees/warrants that in the performance of the contract such Town will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation.
2. The Town agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such Town has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Town has a contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Town or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor

MOA union or workers' representative of the Town's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;

3. The Town agrees to comply with each provision of this Section and Sections 46a-68f of the General Statutes and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Sections 46a-56, 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the General Statutes;
4. The Town agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Town as related to the provisions of this section and Section 46a-56 of the General Statutes.
5. The Town shall include the provisions of paragraph (1) of this addendum in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subgrantee, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Town shall take such actions with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance in accordance with Section 46a-56 of the General Statutes; provided, if such Town becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subgrantee or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Town may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.

L. Points of Contact.

1. The Point of Contact for the SAA	
Name & Title: Deputy Commissioner William J. Hackett	
Address: 1111 Country Cub Road, Middletown, CT 06457	
Emails: william.j.hackett@ct.gov and rita.stewart@ct.gov	Phone: 860-685-8531
	Fax: 860-685-8902
2. The Point of Contact for TOWN OF COLUMBIA (Please fill in the following fields)	
Name & Title: Mark Walter Town Administrator	
Address: 323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237	
Email Address: townadministrator@columbiact.org	Phone: (860) 228-0110
	Fax: (860) 228-1952

M. Other provisions.

Nothing in this agreement is intended to conflict with current laws or regulations of the State of Connecticut or TOWN OF COLUMBIA . If a term of this agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals on the dates written below:

THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA _____

By: _____ Date: _____
 Its Chief Executive Officer
 Duly Authorized
 Typed Name &
 Title: Steven Everett First Selectman

The Southeastern CT Council of Governments

By: _____ Date: _____
 Its Chief Executed
 Officer Duly
 Authorized
 Typed Name _____

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

2017 HSGP Omnibus MOA THE Region 4 REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING

TEAM By: _____

Date: Its Chair
Duly Authorized
Typed Name: _____

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION/
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

By: _____
William J. Hackett
Duly Authorized

Date: _____

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

Town of Columbia

CERTIFICATION:

I, Robin M. Kenefick, the Town Clerk of Town of Columbia, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Town of Columbia at its duly called and held meeting on Month and Day, Year, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Columbia may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Steven Everett, as First Selectman of Town of Columbia, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Columbia and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Steven Everett now holds the office of First Selectman and that he has held that office since November ~~21~~²⁷, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this day of
Month Year.

Robin M. Kenefick, Town Clerk



Columbia Commission On Aging

Catherine Rowe, Chairperson

27 Lake Road

Columbia, CT. 06237

January 5, 2018

Dear Members of The Board of Selectman,

As members of the Columbia Commission on Aging, we would like to ask for support and funding for a portable Defibrillator for the Senior Van.

The cost would be approximately \$2,500.00. It was recommended by Peter Starkel that there should be one on the van for the safety of the passengers being transported. Our Commission on Aging budget, as you know, is nowhere close to covering that expense.

We would hope that you would consider financing this needed emergency equipment as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Rowe, Chairperson

Members: Lyn Buonocore, Paula Callahan, Maggie Ewald, Jill Livingston, Millie Ramsey and Edith Prague.

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

1. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- Appointment of Ingrid Wood for Town Historian.
- Appointments for Recreation Commission: Cindy Postemsky, Millie Ramsey, Nikki Keldsen, and Kelly DeForest.
- Appointment of Nancy Yale for Animal Control Officer.
- Appointment of Andrea Drabicki for liaison for Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG).
- Appointment of Halloran & Sage for Town Attorney.
- Appointment of Jerry James for Emergency Management Director.
- Appointments for Town Meeting Moderators: Millie Ramsey and Mark Vining.
- Appointments for Columbia Commission on Aging: Catherine Rowe, Paula Callahan, Millie Ramsey, Margaret (Maggie) Ewald, Edith Prague, Jill Livingston, and Lyn Buonocore.
- Appointments for Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWCC): Claude Garritt, William Ross, Carol Jaswinski, and Ian Dann.
- Appointments for Szegda Farm: Rob Hellstrom, Gary King, Tom McGrath, Nancy (Massey) Schwartz, David Szegda, and Anthony Ortiz.
- Appointments for Youth Services: Denise Morell, William O'Brien, Melissa Petrone, Daniel Leavitt, Carol Wiggins, Trooper Greg DeCarili, Maureen Allen, Alyssa Gwinnell, Rebecca Allen, Marc Volza.



Commanding Officer
Lt. Rafael Medina

State of Connecticut



Connecticut State Police Troop K - Colchester



Executive Officer
MSgt. William Kittle

Date: 12/01/17

Mr. Steve Everett
Columbia First Selectman
323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway
Columbia, CT 06237

Dear Mr. Steve Everett

This correspondence is an effort to keep you apprised of the monthly police services occurring within the Town of Columbia.

During the month of November 2017 the Columbia Resident Trooper as well as Troop K Troopers responded to 286 Calls for Service in the Town of Columbia. Of these Calls for Service the most notable are:

Accidents:	<u>1</u>
Burglaries:	<u>0</u>
Larcenies:	<u>2</u>
Other Criminal:	<u>2</u>
Other Non-Criminal:	<u>4</u>
Non Reportable Matters:	<u>175</u>
Other Noteworthy Events (List):	
One narcotics arrest	
Three medicals	
One juvenile disturbance	

In addition to the above investigations Troopers conducted the following motor vehicle enforcement:

On-Sight DWI:	<u>2</u>
Traffic Citations:	<u>75</u>
Written Warnings:	<u>29</u>

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Medina
COMMANDING OFFICER
Troop "K" Colchester, CT

15A Old Hartford Road
Colchester, Connecticut 06415
Phone (860) 537-7500
FAX (860) 537-7550

the Chron

Serving the Communities of Eastern Connecticut

Vol. 135 No. 302

Tuesday, December 26, 2017



Ekaterine Tchelidze | Staff

ABOVE: There was a changing of the guard in 2017, as Republican Steven Everett, left, was sworn in as first-selectman by Columbia Assistant Town Clerk Gail McGrath. RIGHT: Everett replaced the retiring Carmen Vance, a Republican. Here, she shows off a gift at her retirement party. BELOW: One of the most heartwarming stories of 2017 was the bald eagles at Columbia Lake.

COLUMBIA

2017

In Review



Ekaterine Tchelidze | Staff

Columbia soared in 2017

By EKATERINE TCHELIDZE
Chronicle Staff Writer

COLUMBIA — Columbia was thriving with accomplishments this year.

In finances, the town was one of the first to adopt a spending plan for this fiscal year, approving an \$18 million school and town budget in May.

That took a huge load off the shoulders of town officials, unlike other towns that delayed the budget process due to state revenue uncertainty.

As a result, Columbia was able to focus on areas of improvements instead.

"It was a really successful year," Columbia Town Administrator Mark Walter said.

In crime, the first part of the year featured a trooper-involved shooting at the Hop River Motel on 152 Route 66 in April.

A car theft suspect from New Mexico suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was taken into custody.

(Columbia, Page 4)



Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

Columbia soared during the past year

(Continued from Page 1)

Politically, the Republican majority remained on the board of selectmen, with Steven Everett elected as the first selectman in November.

Everett replaced long-time first selectman Carmen Vance, who retired this year from leading the town.

Columbia Lake

Columbia Lake and its beach were the center of attention almost all year.

It began with a family of bald eagles that settled on the lake.

Bald eagles Bertha and Harry hatched their first eaglet on the lake, named Charli Mac after longtime town residents, during the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

It prompted town officials to urge residents at the lake to refrain from any festive fireworks.

The eagles caused so much excitement in town over Independence Day weekend that the news reached talk show host and comedian Jimmy Fallon, who mentioned it in his monologue on "The Tonight Show."

Fallon joked Columbia would miss out on one of the most patriotic scenes possible — eagles and fireworks over a lake.

In reality, it was believed the fireworks would have scared the eagles away and, possibly, frightened the young eaglet into falling out of the nest and getting injured.

In other lake matters, the Lake Management Advisory

Committee informed the board of selectmen Columbia Lake, one of a few lakes statewide that hadn't had an invasive plant species, now did.

The president of the Columbia Lake Association, Mary Roickle, told the board in October an invasive grass reed called phragmites australis was found in the lake.

Walter said the amount of phragmites was small and now was the time to get rid of it.

He said the town must determine a cost estimate and it will host a public hearing to inform the residents about it sometime next year.

This year, the town also started its long-awaited beach project, which is currently in full construction.

The under-\$100,000 project includes building sidewalks, a retaining wall to prevent sand erosion and making the beach handicapped-accessible.

Walter said the project should be done by spring.

The money for the project was budgeted for in the 2017 fiscal year budget, Walter said.

"It's actually going to look really, really great," he said.

Town buildings

The town has also completed renovations to the town hall building, which included drainage work, repainting chimneys and emergency escapes and redoing the entire siding of the building.

Now, the building looks like new, with a plastic wood

siding, which will last much longer than actual wood.

Lighting at the town hall and Beckish Senior Center was also converted to LED, saving the town \$400 a month in energy bills.

The same conversion is currently underway at Horace W. Porter School and will be completed in 2018.

One of the biggest accomplishments this year, Walter said, was the completion of the recreation park master plan for years to come.

"It's a fantastic plan, it's just very expensive," Walter said.

He said the master plan will be reviewed by the board of selectmen before it's presented to townspeople, who will tell officials what they would like to see as far as recreation is concerned.

This will also happen early next year, Walter said.

One thing that didn't happen this year was the conversion of the old firehouse into a town maintenance garage, which was talked about a lot.

Walter said the project is too expensive for the town to handle right now.

"I don't know how many years it will take, but eventually we'll have enough money to redo the facade and make it a true maintenance facility for the town," he said.

Education

Just like the town, the school district also saw major developments.

Walter said a solar project contract was signed and the school will soon have solar

panels on its roof.

"It's one of the biggest accomplishments we pulled off this year and it was great teamwork," Walter said.

The panels are expected to save the town anywhere between \$750,000 to \$1 million over the next 20 years.

The installation will begin next summer, Walter said.

He said the solar project will also have an educational aspect to it.

There will be a screen put up in the school building showing how much power is being generated, so students can learn how it works.

According to Columbia School Superintendent Laurence Fearon, 2017 was a productive year for the town's lone school, Horace W. Porter School, despite a state budget crisis that caused revenue worries.

The school is currently developing a science and social studies curriculum at both elementary and middle school levels.

"We are really aligning the curriculum to the new standards to provide science as a lab experience, not as a book experience," Fearon said.

The school also completed a future needs survey to gather information on what townspeople want to see in the district.

"I think we would've liked to see our future needs process move quicker, but, after the summer, the lack of state budget took over and that really was a difficult time," Fearon said.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA
323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237
(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

January 2, 2017

Saint Columba Church
P.O. Box 146
Columbia, CT 06237

RE: Donation for the Town of Columbia Fuel Assistance Fund

Dear Ms. Petrolito-Ritchie,

We would like to thank St. Columba Church for their generous donation to the Town of Columbia Fuel Assistance Fund. With the winter season upon us your contribution to the towns Fuel Assistance Fund is very much appreciated.

We thank you and your parishioners again for your donation to our community.

Sincerely,

Mark Walter
Town Administrator