

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, August 6, 2019 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; Selectman, Jeff Viens.

Members Absent: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman.

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter; Tim Anderson, Member of the Board of Trustees for the Columbia Congregational Church.

CALL TO ORDER: R. Hellstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** R. Hellstrom MOVED to add under Columbia Lake/Dam/Beach, 6.1 Application for Construction on Columbia Lake for Alfred Therrien, 132 B Route 87. MOTION CARRIED 3.0. R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve the Agenda as revised for August 6, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Approval of BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for July 16, 2019.** L. Napolitano MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for July 16, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **Columbia Congregational Church walkway.** T. Anderson explained about the plans and status of the repair of the church's front steps with the removal of the cement walkway from the center of the Church steps to the "Walk of Honor" pathway and replacing it with grass. M. Walter asked the BOS to make a motion approving the Church's plan and to authorize the Public Works department to assist with removing the walkway on the Town Green side of the "Walk of Honor." J. Viens MOVED to Approve the Church's plan and to let public works remove the walkway from the Lions Walk of Honor to Rte. 87. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.
6. **COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
 - 6.1 **Application for Construction on Columbia Lake for Alfred Therrien, 132 B Route 87.** J. Viens MOVED to Approve the application for repair to an existing seawall for Alfred Therrien, 132 B, Route 87, as stipulated under the recommendations from LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.
7. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:** None.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

8.1 Update on Tax Payments. M. Walter explained the Tax Office provided a report that showed the Town had record revenue payments made online of \$65,932.00 for a single day.

8.2 New Town Administrator Monthly Newsletter.

8.3 First Selectman, Steven Everett meet-and-greet, Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Conference Room at Town Hall.

A. Dunnack of 103 Lake Rd. stated that she received a letter asking her to join an online neighborhood Facebook page and asked if the BOS was aware of this. L. Napolitano stated that often neighborhood's will have their own Facebook page to keep neighbors informed.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 Thank you letter from Covenant Soup Kitchen.

9.2 Thank you letter from Windham Region No Freeze Project.

9.3 *Out and About* article on Columbia.

9.4 Article on the Spotted Lanterfly.

9.5 *The Chronicle* article on Algae found in Columbia Lake.

9.6 Proclamation for Peter Naumec.

9.7 Eversource tree work.

10. BUDGET:

10.1 Transfers: R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve the following transfers \$75.00 from Professional/Technical to Salaries, \$20.00 from Printing to Legal Notices and \$295.00 from Contracted Services to Professional/Technical for a total of \$390.00.

TRANSFER #/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPTION
2019 #065 / \$75.00	10-4132-500 / Prof/Tech	10-4132-010 / Salaries
2019 #066 / \$20.00	10-4135-520/ Printing	10-4135-130 / Legal Notices
2019 #067 / \$295.00	10-4420-515 Contracted Services	10-4420-500 / Prof/Tech

MOTION CARRIED 3.0

10.2 Refunds: R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve refunds of \$489.67 to Laura C. Lawton.

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$489.67	TOWN OF COLUMBIA	Laura C. Lawton

MOTION CARRIED 3.0.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve bills totaling \$277,426.45 consisting of 2018-2019 Emergency, 2018-2019 Regular, 2019-2020 Emergency, 2019-2010 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.

L. Napolitano asked if we could we please supply a record of tracking of the solar savings. M. Walter stated he will get that information and report back to the BOS.

12. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** No comments.
13. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** L. Napolitano stated that the Town did a really nice job paving the road on Cards Mill Rd.
14. **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).** R. Hellstrom MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 6:50 pm for Real Estate. MOTION CARRIED 3.0. R. Hellstrom MOVED to end the Executive Session with no action taken at 6:58 pm. MOTION CARRIED 3.0.
15. **ADJOURNMENT:** R. Hellstrom MOVED to ADJOURN 7:31pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, July 16, 2019 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; Selectman, William O'Brien; Selectman, Jeff Viens.

Members Absent: First Selectman, Steven M. Everett

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter; Horace Porter Facility Manager, Mike Sylvester.

CALL TO ORDER: R. Hellstrom called the meeting to order at 8:14 pm.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve the Agenda for July 16, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 2.1 **Approval of BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2019.** L. Napolitano MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 3.1 **Continuation of Tree Removal Funding Request and Setting Town Meeting for Fund Authorization and Transfer.** R. Hellstrom MOVED to set a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6:45 pm in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT for the following purpose:

CLAUSE 1: To appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Tree Removal Capital Account to cover the estimated cost of tree removal due to tree damage from gypsy moth and other insect infestations. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

M. Walter explained that Steven Everett accompanied the Tree Warden, Andy Andrews to view the trees on the town roads and it was clear that we are going to need an additional \$50,000. M. Walter stated that George Murphy, Public Works Director will be requesting in the next budget another \$50,000. L. Napolitano asked if the tree removal work would be in any of the Town's parks or open spaces. M. Walter stated it would not.
 - 3.2 **RFQ's for Horace Porter School: Emergency Generator, Surveillance Cameras, and Analog Phone System.** M. Walter provided the BOS with the list of bidders and lump sum prices for all three RFQ's. M. Sylvester explained the bidding process for the phone system and stated that Hilltop Technologies was the lowest bidder and recommended that we enter into a contract with Hilltop Technologies. R. Hellstrom MOVED to accept Hilltop Technologies bid proposal for the IP Phone System at a lump sum cost of \$11,945.04. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

M. Sylvester discussed the RFQ for the surveillance camera and stated that we asked vendors to provide a bid on the specific design manufacturer; Avigilon. We currently use the Avigilon system and are very happy with it. M. Sylvester explained that Steven Everett toured the school and seemed very happy with the system as well. He added that vendors were allowed to submit alternatives to the bid and bids ranged from \$74,000 to \$170,000. M. Sylvester's recommendation was to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Security Technologies, Inc. He added that Security Technologies, Inc. bid included the preferred Avigilon design manufacturer. R. Hellstrom MOVED to accept Security Technologies, Inc. bid proposal for the Security Camera System at a lump sum cost of \$104,352.80. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

M. Walter stated that we are going back out to bid for the generator because the bid's that were received were unacceptable for multiple reasons. M. Walter explained that when we go back out to bid, we will require bidders to include a maintenance agreement and we a list of acceptable generator brands will be provided.

4. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:

- 4.1 Approval of Application for Replacement of a Raft for Angela Sposito, 23 Woodland Terrace #1.** W. O'Brien MOVED to Approve the Application for Replacement of a Raft for Angela Sposito, 23 Woodland Terrace #1 as stipulated by LMAC. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

5. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 5.1 Appointment of Michael Maziarz to the Columbia Board of Education.** Tom Currier, Chairman of the Democratic Committee read the letter of interest from Michael Maziarz to be appointed to the Board of Education (BOE). R. Hellstrom MOVED to Approve the Appointment of Michael Maziarz to the Columbia Board of Education. MOTION CARRIED 4.0
- 5.2 Appointment of Terri Lasota, Building and Land Use Administrative Assistant.** W. O'Brien MOVED to Approve the Town Administrators recommendation to appoint Terri Lasota as the Administrative Assistant in the Building and Land Use department. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 6.1** Reminder of FiPAC Meeting on 7/17/19 with a Presentation from Trust for Public Land and Open Space Committee.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 7.1** Horace Porter School Superintendent, Maria Geryk's Letter of Acknowledgement for Beverly Ciurylo, Director of Finance.
- 7.2** Thank You Letter from Sexual Assault Crisis Center Eastern CT for donation support.
- 7.3** Monthly State Police Report.
- 7.4** Lamont Signs Crumbling Foundation Law.
- 7.5** Chronicle Articles including, Hop River Trail Improvements, 4th of July Parade & Eagles.
- 7.6** EHHD Opioid Misuse, Abuse & Overdose meeting on 8/16/19 @ 10:30am at Beckish Senior Center

8. BUDGET:

8.1 Transfers: R. Hellstrom MOVED the Transfers \$1,650.00 as presented.

TRANSFER #/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPTION
2019-062 / \$550.00	10-4410-630 / Rental	10-4410-600 / Repairs/Maint.
2019-063 / \$100.00	10-4410-630 / Rental	10-4410-610 / Bldgs/Grounds Rep/Maint.
2019-064 / \$300.00	10-4420-515 / Contracted Services	10-4420-500 / Prof/Tech
2020-003 / \$700.00	10-4260-230 / Electricity	10-4260-515 / Contracted Services

MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

8.2 Refunds: None.

9. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: R. Hellstrom MOVED to Authorize the 2018-2019 Emergency, 2018-2019 Regular, 2019-2020 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex totaling \$42,726.06 on the stated attachments. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

10. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: A. Dunnack said that she commends the Sustainable CT Committee for the initiatives they are implementing. She stated that she did not know about the Town Meeting for the sale of town owned property and was completely unaware. She stated that she would encourage the town to work with the Nicholes for a more suitable solution.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: W. O'Brien stated that he is upset with the steel building that is being built at 130 Pine St and it looks like a commercial business is being run out of that location. L. Napolitano stated that she is unhappy with the chemical usage on the park and rec fields. She stated that if the town keeps using chemicals on our athletic fields, she will not support any more athletic fields. She added that there are classes that the town land managers can attend regarding best practices for organic solutions.

12. 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 Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A). R. Hellstrom MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 8:52pm for Personnel. MOTION CARRIED 4.0. R. Hellstrom MOVED to end the Executive Session with no action taken at 9:12 pm. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

13. ADJOURNMENT: R. Hellstrom MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:13 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

Carol Price

From:

no-reply=invoicecloud.net@mg.invoicecloud.com on behalf of InvoiceCloud <no-reply@invoicecloud.net>

Sent:

Thursday, August 01, 2019 2:05 AM

To:

Carol Price

Subject:

Town of Columbia CT - Batch Close Notification

Attachments:

ICPayments-20190801010431.txt

TA



Town of Columbia CT:

Your current batch has been closed. The details of this batch are below:

PRIMARY DEPOSIT ITEMIZED VOLUMES

	Net Amount
MasterCard Volume	\$7,372.69
Visa Volume	\$17,859.42
Electronic Check Volume	\$29,185.85

ITEMIZED BANK DEPOSITS

	Net Amount
Primary Deposit	\$54,417.96
American Express Deposit	\$10,633.16
Discover Deposit	\$881.66

TOTAL DEPOSITS

\$65,932.78

Date/Time: 8/1/2019 1:54:18 AM

Sales Item Count: 147

Sales Volume: \$65,932.78

Credits Item Count: 0

Credits Volume: \$0.00

Total Item Count: 147

Total Volume: \$65,932.78

INVOICE TYPE BREAKDOWN

	Item Count	Net Amount
Motor Vehicle	124	\$23,752.37
Personal Property Taxes	6	\$2,548.15
Real Estate Taxes	17	\$39,632.26

TOTAL VOLUME

147

\$65,932.78



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COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 177
COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT 06237



PHONE
(860) 228-9306
(860) 228-9620

July 26, 2019

Town of Columbia
Attn: Mark Walter, Town Administrator
Columbia Town Hall
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237

Dear Mark:

On behalf of the Columbia Congregational Church and the Board of Trustees, I would like to keep you informed on our plans and status of the repair and update our Church's front steps, since it does encroach onto the Town Green. See attached design plan. The objective of this repair being to level the entryway by removing and then re-installing the granite steps on a more stable foundation and replace the current cement walkway leading from the side of the front steps to the Town Hall entry driveway. The pavers will be consistent with what has already been used for the "Walk of Honor" path leading from the gazebo to the Town Hall entry driveway.

In addition, we plan to remove part of the center cement walkway that leads from the front of the Church steps to the street (Route 87) and only that portion of the walkway between the Church steps and the "Walk of Honor" pathway.

The options we considered for the front walkway included,

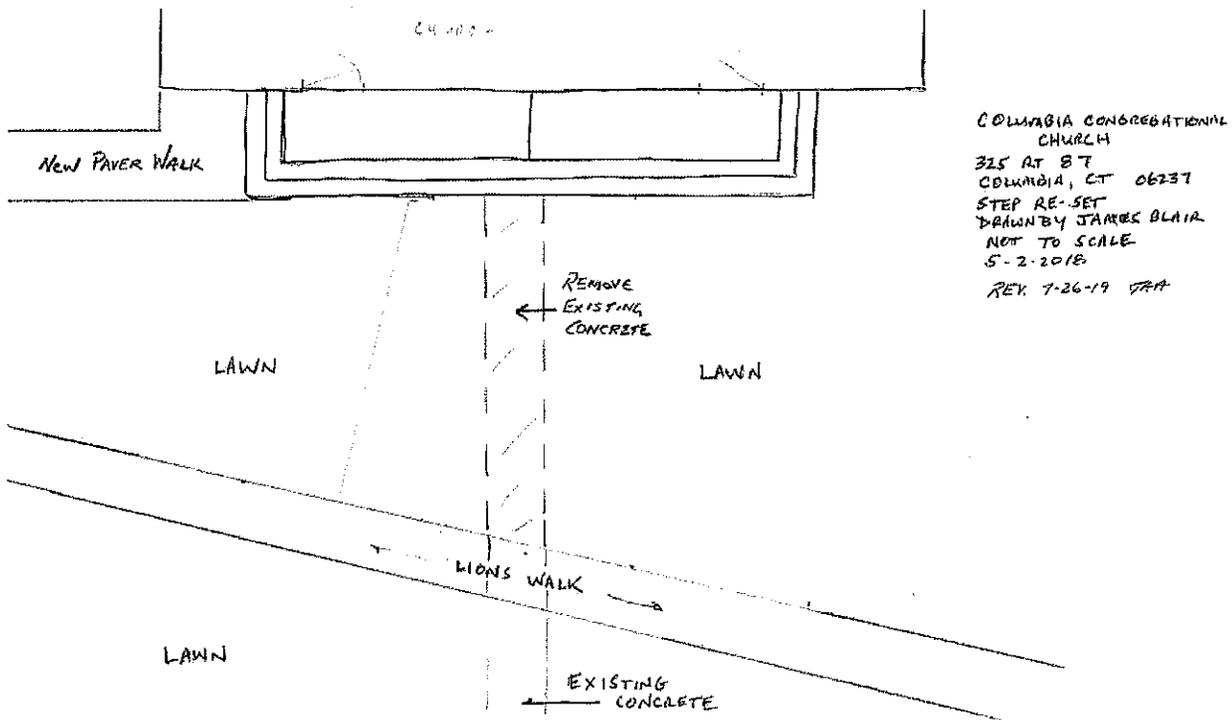
1. Removal of the cement walkway from the center of the Church steps to the "Walk of Honor" pathway and replacing it with grass.
2. Removal of the cement walkway from the center of the Church steps to the "Walk of Honor" pathway and replacing it with the same pavers as the side walkway.

3. Removal of the cement walkway from the center of the steps to the "Walk of Honor" pathway and replace it with two walkways with the same pavers as the side walkway, with each one centered on the left and right entry doors to the Church.

We decided to go with Option 1 above, replacing the small portion of the cement walkway with grass. The fate of the remainder of the cement walkway from the "Walk of Honor" pathway to the street we believe should be reviewed and a decision made by the Town.

Sincerely,

Tim Anderson
Board of Trustees





COVENANT SOUP KITCHEN

220 Valley Street

Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

860-423-1643 Telephone

860-423-1644 Fax

www.covenantsoupkitchen.org

July 7, 2019

Dear Town of Columbia,

On behalf of Covenant Soup Kitchen, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00. With these funds, we can continue our mission to provide food and access to basic human services to anyone in need in an environment of care, love, support and safety.

It is the continuing support from members of our community that enables us to be here each and every day to care for those in need. Your donation will touch many lives.

We welcome you to visit anytime to see our program in action and share in one of the 450,000 meals we expect to serve to our guests during the upcoming fiscal year.

With our most sincere thanks,

Kimberly A. Clark
Executive Director

Shirley Surette
Associate Director

Jan Czikowsky
Kitchen Manager

Covenant Soup Kitchen, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID #20-3498376.

No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift. This letter may be used as a tax-deductible receipt.



P.O. Box 46 Willimantic, CT 06226
860-450-1346 windham.nofreeze@gmail.com

Board of Directors

July 17, 2019

**Susan Beauregard
Chair**

Town of Columbia
Board of Selectmen

**Atty Joelen Gates
Vice chair**

323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway
Columbia, CT 06237

**Marian Brazziel
Treasurer**

**Paula Shepard
Secretary**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Windham Region No Freeze Project, its guests, staff and volunteers we would like to thank you for your 2019 donation (s) of \$500.00.

The goal of the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, Inc. is to continue to make a difference in the lives of homeless men and women in the Windham region by offering a safe place to sleep in the winter months. Your donation has supported this effort. Thank you again for supporting the Windham Region No Freeze Project this year.

Allison Heneghan

Bruce Kay

Bill Kirchherr

Fr. Larry LaPointe

Stephanie Lazarus

Sondra Reid

Dr. Gregory Shangold

Linda Stephens, LCSW

Shirley Shepard

Kim Silcox

School

Warmly,

Avery Lenhart
Executive Director

The Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. This contribution is a tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous contribution.

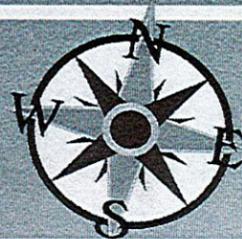


Once home to the Town Library, the History Place of Columbia preserves artifacts and documents that chronicle the centuries of life in the community.



Columbia Lake, now a recreational center, began as an impoundment to generate power for mills in the Willimantic area.

OUT & ABOUT



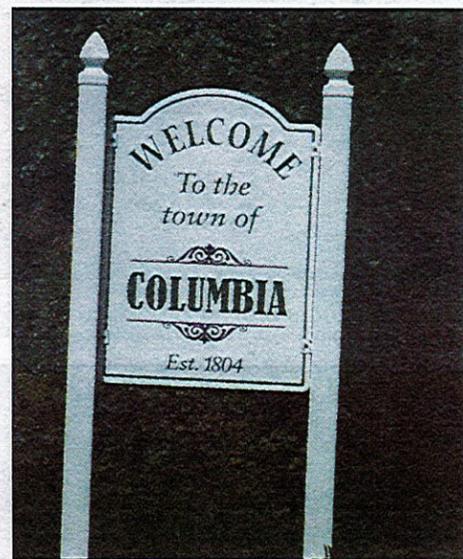
Hail, Columbia

By Greg Wismar

The incorporation of a new town gives the local residents a chance at a new identity, if they choose to take it. For decades the people in the northern section of the Town of Lebanon had been referred to as living in “the Crank” – even in official documents. When in 1715 the people of northern Lebanon petitioned to the town for the privileges of an independent organization, it is recorded that “at a Legall town Meting of Lebanon they then granted the petition of ye people at ye Crank either to be a society by themselves or a township ...” The people chose to be a society for almost a century but then in 1804 became a township, choosing the patriotic name of Columbia for the new community.

What had been known as “ye Crank” had begun as a purchase of land in 1699 by Deacon Josiah Dewey and William Clarke from Abimeleck, son of Attawanhood, Sachem of the Western Nehantics. It was doubly conveyed the following year by Owaneco, Sachem, son of Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegans. The concept of precise ownership of given territories that was part of English law was not fully comprehended by Native Americans, who had a more fluid understanding of territorial rights. Pieces of land were often sold and resold and then sold again by various tribes, which made for confusion and sometimes confrontations as well. The Crank, which received its name from a topographical bend in the landscape, included a number of hunting and fishing grounds as well as open territory that was readily cultivated as farmland by the first Colonial settlers.

Although there are numerous buildings that date back to the early history of Columbia, perhaps none is more interesting than a simple one-room schoolhouse



Road signs posted by entrances to the Town of Columbia welcome visitors to this rural Tolland County community.

Photos by Greg Wismar

now located on the Town Green. In a recent issue of Columbia Views, a quarterly magazine about the community, Town Historian Ingrid Wood writes: “Tucked away near a corner of the Town Hall parking lot ... is a newly re-painted 18th century schoolhouse known as the Indian Charity School from 1755-1769. It was rededicated 50 years ago as Moor’s Indian Charity School. But in 1769 Reverend Eleazar Wheelock moved his students, family and library from Lebanon Crank, Connecticut, to the Hanover, New Hampshire frontier to recreate a new vision for the Indian Charity School; and to found the Colony of New Hampshire’s very first college of divinity, Dartmouth College.”

Of the various schools established in the original 13 colonies of the United States for the purpose of educating Native American children, the Lebanon Crank school had been one of the most successful. The student body featured children from at least 11 tribes of Native Americans and included young women on the roster of students. The Indian

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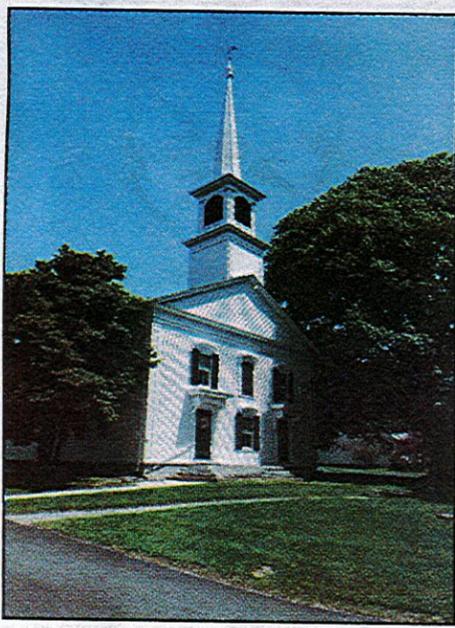
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The Columbia Congregational Church is one of the buildings preserved in the Columbia Green Historic District in this picturesque eastern Connecticut town.

School property was purchased by a farmer named Joshua More of nearby Mansfield in 1753 for 500 pounds and was conveyed to Parson Wheelock for carrying out his mission of providing education for the "salvation of Indian nations and other poor persons ... in reading, writing, and liberal arts and sciences and the practices of the Protestant Christian religion." More also bequeathed an adjacent 200 acre farm to help support the school program.

The Charity School is furnished in a way that recreates its years of educational service. In addition to the desks, books and charts, there are interesting historical displays about the workings of the school. On one detailed chart is a listing of the students who attended the school through the years, including commentary on where they came from, how long they stayed at the school and what happened to them once their association with the school ended.

One of the most celebrated graduates was a Connecticut Indian named Samson Occum. He made a preaching tour of England and generated significant donations for Rev. Wheelock's cause. Much of the funding Occum received was from the Earl of Dartmouth, so when Wheelock moved his Indian School north to New Hampshire, the selection of a name for the new college there was made in a way that honored the British benefactor.

After Rev. Wheelock moved to the Colony of New Hampshire, he was succeeded as minister of the local Congregational parish by the Rev. Thomas Brockway, a man of strong American Independence convictions. On Sept. 6, 1781, while preaching in the

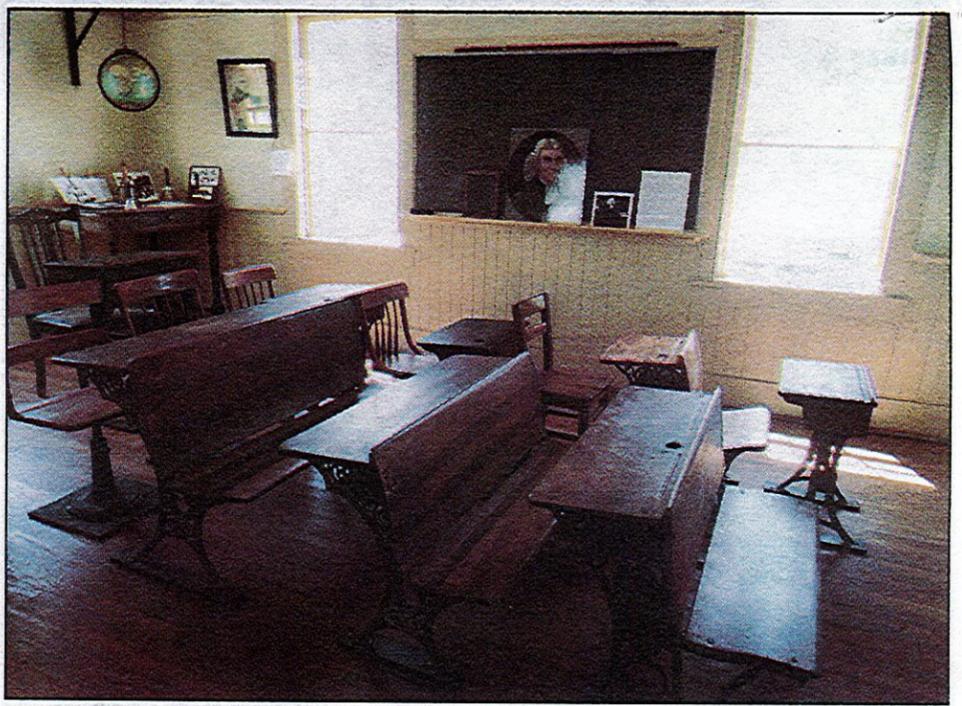
meeting house, Rev. Brockway set aside his prepared sermon and called for all able-bodied men and boys of the assembly to take up arms against the British in retaliation for the burning of New London. Mrs. Brockway conducted sewing and weaving bees to make uniforms — an activity that was prohibited in the Colony — and the family gave substantial funding to the Colonial cause in the Revolution.

Although not a large community, Lebanon Crank became a vital center of provisions for the Continental Army. It was a crossroads used by General George Washington as he traveled to the strategically important Trumbull War Office and local militia men received rifles, bayonets and gunpowder distributed by the French Army under Comte de Rochambeau.

Not all local residents remained in Lebanon Crank during the War years. Some relocated to Nova Scotia, to Pennsylvania and northward to New Hampshire and Vermont. A total of 43 buildings in the town center, reflective of the history of the community, are gathered into the Columbia Green Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

With the ending of the Revolutionary War and the start of the nineteenth century, Lebanon Crank changed gears. It chose the name "Columbia" because of its patriotic connotations and began to move from a wholly agricultural to a partially industrial economic base. Plentiful water sources with brooks running down from the hills made milling a most viable employment option. On one brook alone there were 11 mills! In the northern part of the town, the Hop River Village became home to the first large-scale cotton mill in Connecticut in 1837. Columbia Lake began as an impoundment dammed by the American Linen Company in 1865 to power textile mills in nearby Willimantic. Today, the lake serves as a recreational resource for the community.

For Out & About travelers seeking a small, traditional New England village to visit, Columbia is a great choice. The rural atmosphere of the region has been preserved and many of the area's historic buildings are being carefully maintained. An interesting and well-illustrated introduction to the community is the book "Columbia" in the "Images of America" series. Written by John Allen, De Ramm and Ingrid Wood of the Columbia Historical Society, the volume portrays this lively community in words and photos. Columbia is indeed a gem!



From 1755 to 1769 the one room schoolhouse on the Town Green of Columbia served Native American students; it was later used by the town for educating local children.



Veterans of the conflicts in which American soldiers were engaged are remembered at the Columbia War Memorial, located near the village's Town Hall.

Photos by Greg Wismar

Share Your Thoughts & Ideas! Send a Letter to the Editor

editor@heritagevillager.com

Or Mail to: Heritage Villager
Playhouse Corner • Suite 207 • Southbury, CT 06488

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The spotted lanternfly undergoes a rapid population growth. This image illustrates both the adult (left) and nymph stages.

Spring Brings a New Danger

Spotted Lanternfly on the Move

Written by Cathy Doodnauth, DEEP Division of Forestry; photos courtesy U.S. Department of Agriculture

Over the last few years, Connecticut has been hit hard by gypsy moth infestations, emerald ash borer invasions, and southern pine beetle outbreaks, all leading to high tree mortality. Now, Connecticut may have another invasive insect to worry about – the spotted lanternfly – a plant-hopping pest that has been hitchhiking its way through the Northeastern United States.

Spotted lanternfly originated in parts of Asia and is believed to have hitchhiked on a shipment to Pennsylvania in 2012. In 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of infestations in Berks County, and the insect has been on the move since. Today, infestations have spread to a total of 14 Pennsylvania counties and several states. Despite quarantines put in place, the pest

has made its way further – adults, dead and alive, were found in various counties in New York; in a home in Massachusetts; on a trap in Maryland; and a single, dead adult was found in Farmington, Connecticut in October 2018.

Most of the spotted lanternfly's movement to other states has happened within the last two years, highlighting how easily the insect can start infestations in areas that are unprepared for the level of damage it brings. This includes Connecticut, where statewide tree damage is already at a high due to gypsy moths, emerald ash borers, and recent storms.

DEEP recently conducted a hazardous tree survey on state properties and found almost 18,000 hazardous trees that are dead or dying. This number focuses on trees within high-use recreational state

lands, such as state parks, forests, and trails, likely leaving thousands more that are weak and dangerous around the rest of the state. The possibility of spotted lanternfly infestations can increase this number to the point of permanent changes to Connecticut's forests and a constant danger to people. As a heavily forested and densely populated state, the effects of spotted lanternflies can be devastating.

Impacts

The spotted lanternfly is dangerous for many reasons – the biggest of which is its rapid population growth. Egg masses are laid in fall and hatch in spring. Nymphs begin to feed on nearby plants and grow into the plant-hopping adults that will pester homeowners and impact our forests. With no native predators and a variety of

food sources, the insect population can grow exponentially, mirroring its growth in Pennsylvania. Clusters of this pest can lead to heavy damage to trees and decrease the amount of plants we rely on economically and ecologically.

While the pests usually prefer their native host – tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), another invasive species from Asia – they have adapted to plants commonly found in the United States. So far, the species has been observed on many of Connecticut’s native species, such as pine, beech, black birch, black cherry, maple, and pignut hickory trees, as well as various fruit trees and grain crops. The spotted lanternfly’s ability to feed on such a large variety of plants is alarming, and rightfully so – these plants contribute to our state’s economy and our ecosystem.

As a result, the insect poses a significant threat to Connecticut’s \$3.5 billion agriculture industry, which includes the \$74.5 million fruit industry and \$62.7 million commercial logging industry, all accounting for over 21,000 jobs.

Ecological impacts of the spotted lanternfly are still being studied, as the insect’s arrival in America is relatively recent. The most obvious impact is the loss of tree diversity due to the high rates of mortality caused by spotted lanternfly damage. Loss of plant biodiversity can negatively impact the overall health of for-

ests, other insects, and animals, and the ecosystem in general. Additionally, the spotted lanternfly negatively impacts native insects that are beneficial to our ecosystem. Infestations can damage plants that provide food for native species, which can cause declines in those populations. This decline can in turn impact any species that relies on those insects for food, causing a disruption of the food chain.

Another concern is the loss of mast, such as acorns and hickory nuts, for wildlife.

Social impacts also are important to consider. The spotted lanternfly causes trouble for homeowners whose backyards are infested. Many are unable to walk outside due to the hundreds of insects feeding on their plants. Homeowners in Pennsylvania have described the “rain of honeydew” that coats their yards, homes, cars, and themselves if they step foot outdoors. If spotted lanternflies infest state parks and forests, visitor numbers will decline, and outdoor activities will lose popularity due to the presence of these pests.

Damage

Spotted lanternflies cause damage through feeding and honeydew excretion. The sheer volume of spotted lanternflies found on a tree can be what leads to its death. The insect uses a piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed on the sap of trees and plants, leading to weeping wounds that give off fermented odor and attract more insects. Trees can still survive, but with hundreds of insects continuing to feed, it may succumb to the wounds.

Further damage is caused by the excretion of honeydew, a sugary and sticky fluid that promotes the growth of black sooty mold. The mold can completely cover the surface of plants, hindering photosynthesis and stunting growth, eventually leading to plant mortality.



Clusters of spotted lanternflies can lead to heavy damage to trees and decrease the amount of plants we rely on economically and ecologically.

Damage increases as the population increases. Egg masses can be laid on any and every smooth surface, whether it is the bark of a tree, the side of a vehicle, or outdoor furniture. Scientists in Pennsylvania believe that one female can lay up to two egg masses every fall. With 30 to 50 nymphs hatching per egg mass, trees can soon be overwhelmed and face mortality.

Keep this Pest Out of Connecticut

All hope is not lost. No further sightings of spotted lanternfly or its egg masses have been reported in Connecticut since the single adult was found this past October. While it may seem like the pest is closing in, there are ways to make sure it stays out of our state and forests. Pennsylvania and New Jersey have already set up quarantines in an effort to stop the spread of spotted lanternfly. Inspect everything when driving through any quarantine zones or transporting materials to stop the hitchhiking bug from spreading further. Do not bring firewood home from another state – you never know what insect pest is lurking in the wood. If there is tree-of-heaven on your property, remove it. Educate yourself and others on the threat of invasive insects to our beautiful forests.

Report any possible sightings of spotted lanternflies (take photos) to ReportSLF@ct.gov.



Report possible spotted lanternfly observations and send photos to ReportSLF@ct.gov.

Algae is found in local lake

LISA MASSICOTTE
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

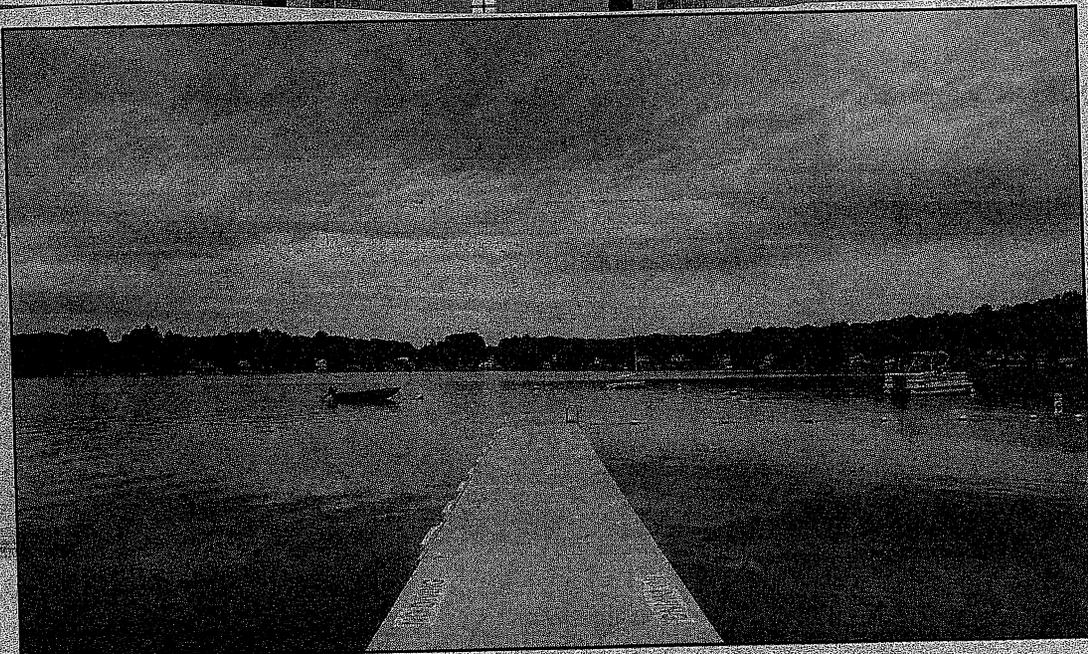
COLUMBIA — Suspected patches of algae in Columbia Lake were recently confirmed and residents are advised to swim clear of and report any possible patches to the town.

The Town of Columbia issued a recent notification stating reports of localized algae patches have been confirmed by local limnologist and lake consultant Dr. Robert Kortmann.

“As a precaution, Dr. Kortmann advises that people and pets avoid swimming in a patch if seen,” reads the notice.

While the algae is not toxic to swimmers, it can be an unpleasant experience and could contribute to the algae’s spread.

Boating can also contribute to algae’s spread



Residents have been advised to swim clear of algae in Columbia Lake after suspected patches of algae were discovered. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

and its advised boaters clean their boat/kayak after exiting the water.

Kortmann will continue to monitor the patches and take action if needed, according to the release.

Columbia Marine Patrol Officer Alisha Drabek said the algae patches are a grass-like color

and are visible all throughout the water column where light can reach.

Aside from the algae, Kortmann reported the lake’s water quality is “excellent” and shows signs of a healthy lake ecosystem, according to the release.

ALGAE, Page 4

Visible

Algae is found in Columbia Lake

Continued from Page 1

The notice states the algae patches initially reported by local kayakers have the tendency to disappear and reappear.

Drabek said high lake activity, mostly boat and Jet Ski use, triggers the algal blooms to appear.

She said the patches' locations have shifted heavily from week to week.

Heavy spring rains combined with the recent heat wave also help algae thrive, however, these elements also create good conditions for native plant growth, according to the town.

When native plants grow from the bottom of the lake, boats sometimes break them off.

This results in clumps of

floating native plants, such as pondweed, making their way to the shoreline, the notice stated.

These loose plant masses may be mistaken for algae.

Columbia Town Administrator Mark Walter said Monday the algae blooms seem to have vanished for now.

Despite this, the town encourages lake users who come across suspected algae float-

ing "under the water surface or on top of the water" to notify the Columbia Lake Association with a photo and the date and location of the sighting.

The Columbia Lake Association can be emailed at columbialakeassociation@gmail.com.

Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.

High lake activity triggers the algal blooms to appear.

Energy company increasing investment in tree work to address concerns

BERLIN, Conn. (July 29, 2019) – Environmental researchers and arborists around the state of Connecticut are working to raise awareness of the rapidly growing problem of dying, dead and hazardous trees. Together with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and local tree wardens around the state, Eversource is addressing the diseased or dead trees that are heightening concern. The energy company’s team of licensed arborists are experts at identifying weakened or hazardous trees that have been killed or stressed by the ongoing insect infestations and drought and threaten electric reliability for customers.



“Our year-round work to trim trees away from powerlines and to remove hazardous trees throughout Connecticut is more critical than ever because of the lasting effects of the drought combined with consecutive infestations by the gypsy moth and the emerald ash borer,” said Eversource Vegetation Management Manager Alan Carey. “In my travels around the state, I’ve seen the high tree mortality rate first hand. There are tens of thousands of dying or dead trees from the western side of the state to the eastern border that are weak and pose a real threat to the electric system.”

The concern about the large number of dead and dying trees also has the attention of researchers at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and UConn. UConn Associate

Extension Professor of Forestry, Thomas Worthley has extensively investigated the tree mortality epidemic in southern Connecticut.

“The massive amount of large, standing, dead trees throughout the area presents what could be described as a slow-moving environmental disaster,” said Worthley. “The number of dead trees that have the potential to affect roadways and power lines is beyond the current capacity of property owners and many town budgets to address.”

Eversource identified this issue early on and requested additional funding last year to address the ongoing problem. The energy company’s expanded tree work was recently approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). The additional funds will be used to hire additional crews to help remove significantly more hazardous trees at a faster rate.

“We have trees throughout the state that have been around for 100 years that are dying at rates higher than ever before,” said Eversource Arborist Susan Stotts. “When we’re out surveying, we look for trees with no or sparse foliage or large dead branches over the electric wires. Now we’re able to remove a lot more of those hazardous trees.”

Click [here](#) to see how Eversource arborists identify dead or dying trees.

For details on the company’s comprehensive vegetation management program, please visit Eversource.com.

Eversource (NYSE: ES), the #1 energy efficiency provider in the nation, transmits and delivers electricity to 1.25 million customers in 149 cities and towns, provides natural gas to 237,000 customers in 74 communities, and supplies water to approximately 198,000 customers in 51 communities across Connecticut. Eversource harnesses the commitment of about 8,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service. For more information, please visit our website (www.eversource.com) and follow us on Twitter ([@EversourceCT](https://twitter.com/EversourceCT)) and Facebook (facebook.com/EversourceCT). For more information on our water services, visit www.aquarionwater.com.

Patricia C. Bandzes

Community Relations and Economic Development-Connecticut | Eversource Energy
22 East High Street, East Hampton, CT 06424 | ☎ 860-267-3861 (office) | ☎ 860-777-5685 (cell)
✉ patricia.bandzes@eversource.com □ www.eversource.com

Report electric power outages: CT: 1-800-286-2000

Posted Refund Transaction (s) TOWN OF COLUMBIA
 Condition(s) : Bill : 2017-03-53375__
 Bill Name
 Dist/Susp/Bank Address

Int Date: 08/05/2019

Date: 08/05/2019 Page: 1

Prop Loc/Vehicle Info. UniqueID/Reason	Paid Date	Tax	Int	L/F	Total Adjusted	Overpaid Tax
2017-03-0053375 LAWTON LAURA C 20 LATHAM HILL RD COLUMBIA CT 06237-1408						
2015/5FRYD4H42FB013377 53375 Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	7/17/2018	163.22 652.89	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	163.22 652.89	-489.67
TOTAL	1	163.22 652.89	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	163.22 652.89	-489.67

REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND OF PROPERTY TAXES

Sec. 12-81(20), Sec. 12-124, 12-125, 12-126, 12-127, 12-127a, 12-128, 12-129 Rev. as Amended
 This is to certify that LAWTON LAURA C

has presented satisfactory proof that he/she is entitled to an exemption on the assessment list of 10/01/2017

- Sec. 12-81 (20) Servicemen Having Disability Rating.
- Sec. 12-124 Abatement to poor.
- Sec. 12-125 Abatement of Taxes of Corporations.
- Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property Assessed in more than one Municipality.
- Sec. 12-127 Abatement or Refund to Blind Persons.
- Sec. 12-127A Abatement of Taxes on Structures of Historical or Architectural Merit.
- Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneously Collected from Veterans and Relatives.
- Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.

LAWTON LAURA C
 20 LATHAM HILL RD
 COLUMBIA, CT 06237-1408

2017-03-0053375
 53375

/5FRYD4H42FB013377



2017030053375

To **CAROL W. PRICE CCMC** Collector of **TOWN OF COLUMBIA** State of Connecticut.

I hereby apply for abatement or refund* of such part of my tax as shall represent:

The service exemption of Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments. *Traded for lease, billed on Supplemental 2017 Grand List under Honda lease Trust*
 (State reason -- Cross out service exemption if it does not apply)

		Tax	Interest	Lien	Fee	Total	Overpaid Tax
Total Due	07/01/2018	163.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	163.22	
Total Paid	07/17/2018	652.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	652.89	-489.67 ***
Adjusted Refund		-489.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	489.67	

PLEASE READ, SIGN, AND DATE BELOW:

I am entitled to this refund because I made the payments from funds under my control, and no other party will be requesting this refund. I understand that false or deliberately misleading statements subject me to penalties for perjury and/or for obtaining money under false pretenses.

Laura C Lawton
 Print Name

Laura C Lawton
 Signature of Taxpayer

x 7/24/19
 Date

COLLECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNING BODY

To the First Selectman, or _____
 It is recommended that refund* of property taxes and interest in the amount of 489.67
 be made to the above-named taxpayer in accordance with the provisions of Section (s):

Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.

DATED AT TOWN OF COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT THIS 24 DAY OF July 2019

Carol W. Price
 CAROL W. PRICE CCMC
 (860) 228-0230

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNING BODY

The First Selectman, as authorized by the Board of Selectman, or _____
 approved on the _____ day of _____ 20____. It was voted to refund
 Property Taxes and Interest amounting to \$ _____ to _____.

 First Selectman

 Other Governing Body

 Clerk

**Cross out abatement or refund as required.

Mail To : CAROL W. PRICE CCMC
 TOWN OF COLUMBIA
 323 ROUTE 87
 COLUMBIA, CT 06237-1156