

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

Last week, the Boards of Finance and Selectmen, led by Board of Finance Chair Duncan Wilber and Selectman Ernie Marmer, engaged in extensive negotiations with Wind Colebrook South (WCS), owners/operators of the wind turbine facility on 17 and 29 Flagg Hill Road in Colebrook, to attempt to resolve WCS's nine-year tax appeal which went to trial again in May of this year—and two other tax appeals WCS had filed for subsequent tax years. Those negotiations resulted in WCS making several concessions to the Town which they previously had refused to make, and those concessions enabled both Town Boards to vote unanimously to agree to the major terms of a 20-year Tax Stabilization Agreement with WCS.

The Agreement would settle the three pending tax appeals, save the Town the ongoing legal expenses those appeals require, and guarantee a predictable source of tax revenue of \$4.9 million from WCS over the 20-year period from 2015 through 2034. The major terms of the Agreement were agreed on subject to a formal, written Tax Stabilization Agreement being prepared by counsel and approved by both Boards, as well as by a Town Meeting.

The Town Affordable Housing Committee met this week to discuss a community-wide survey. The objective is to identify those who may benefit from affordable housing assistance—and to increase awareness for potential solutions.

Each year in Colebrook, we dispose of approximately 50 tons of food waste through curbside pickup—comprising about 10 percent of our municipal solid waste stream. Our newly-formed Town Composting Advisory Committee is exploring the potential for food composting in Colebrook—and the possibility of making the practice available for interested Town residents. The committee is studying how other small towns in Connecticut are approaching this challenge and looking into grant opportunities available through the United States Department of Agriculture.

Although composting is not yet a reality, we can all help to manage the Town's trash collection bill (and its impact on our taxes) by using our blue containers for recycling. Every ton we recycle is a ton we don't pay to have shipped out of state.

Electronic devices can be recycled at the Town Garage (43 Sandy Brook Road) in the storage unit container to the right of the garage. Leave your items outside the storage unit to be packaged and handled.

Local taxes are due—and are considered late if not paid by August 1st. The Tax Collector's office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during July, 9 a.m.-noon and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Thursday, August 1st.

As the hot weather continues, we remind you that the Community & Senior Center is a Town cooling station for residents, open from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m.-noon on Fridays.

For those of you who participated in our June 20th ceremony with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz honoring Colebrook's Vietnam-era veterans, photos from the event can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Town events:

The Colebrook Historical Society (CHS) will host a "Friday Night Gathering" on July 26th from 7-9 p.m. The evening will begin at the at the Seymour Inn with conversation and refreshments. At approximately 7:30 p.m., the group will move next door to the Colebrook Town Hall upstairs meeting room for a presentation by special guest, author/historian Peter Vermilyea entitled, "*The Hidden History of Litchfield County*."

Vermilyea teaches history at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and the University of Connecticut. He is the author or editor of five books, including *Hidden History of Litchfield County*, which won the 2015 Culture Max Award and, most recently, *Litchfield County and the Civil War*. A Q&A session will follow the presentation and the evening will conclude with a return to the Seymour Inn for more refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

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

Cordially,

Brad

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