

**Disclaimer.** Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 4, 2023**

**Present:** Stacia R. Libby, Selectman  
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Stacia Libby called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Selectman Libby welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen in person and remote public access meeting via Zoom.

In attendance: Selectman Stacia R. Libby and Selectman Bruce M. Glowac.

Others in attendance: Finance Director Tracey Celentano, Chief Andrew Kressley, Robert Parkerson and Doug Senn from the Essex Fire Department, and John Noonan from the U.S. Coast Guard.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to approve the agenda. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion** was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the September 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence**

The Board of Finance voted to dedicate the 2022-2023 Annual Report to the Essex Historical Society and the Essex Land Trust for their completion of the joint project related to the history of Falls River and Essex; "Follow the Falls".

**Public Announcements / Comment:**

Emergency Management Day has been postponed due to weather to Sunday, October 15 from 11 am to 3 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Capital Committee:** Mr. Glowac reported the committee recently visited the dog pound and have determined the facility needs significant improvements. The pound is shared by Essex, Deep River, and Chester.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions** None

**Board and Commission Vacancies**

Conservation Commission – 2 Alternate Members  
Park and Recreation Commission – 2 Alternate Members  
Gateway Commission – 1 Regular Member  
Gateway Commission – 1 Alternate Member

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### **CT Water's Customer Advisory Council (CAC)**

Connecticut Water & Marine Water is asking the Town to appoint a resident of the community who is a customer of Connecticut Water to serve on CT Water's Customer Advisory Council (CAC). The purpose of the council is to enhance communications with their customers and communities. The meetings are held every 3 to 6 months via Zoom. Please let Selectman Needleman know if you are interested in representing the Town of Essex or call 860-767-4340 x 112 for more information.

### **Gateway Commission**

The Town is looking for two representatives, a regular and an alternate for the Gateway Commission. The commission meets once a month on the fourth Thursday at 7 pm at RiverCOG or via Zoom. Meetings typically last between 1 to 2 hours. At the meeting, the commission members review all referrals. Additional information on this commission can be found at <https://ctrivergateway.org/about/>. Please let Selectman Needleman know if you are interested in representing the Town of Essex or call 860-767-4340 x 112 for more information.

Open Town Board and Commission positions can be found at [https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3116/f/uploads/boards\\_and\\_commissions\\_website\\_30.pdf](https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3116/f/uploads/boards_and_commissions_website_30.pdf)

The application to join a Board or Commission can be found at: [https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3116/f/file/file/application\\_to\\_volunteer\\_for\\_board\\_or\\_commission\\_fillable\\_4\\_13\\_18.pdf](https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3116/f/file/file/application_to_volunteer_for_board_or_commission_fillable_4_13_18.pdf)

### **American Rescue Plan Funds:**

The remaining balance is \$236,084. These funds must be committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

### **Merit Service Plan**

Robert Parkerson and Chief Andrew Kressley from the Essex Fire Department reported the department is looking for a way to incentivize volunteers in staying active with the Department. The Department believes that increasing the merit service plan would make an impact and give the volunteers more reason to continue volunteering. The Departments spends a lot of time and money training people and in 3 to 4 years they leave the department. Having a better merit service plan could help retain volunteers. Doug Senn reported he believed that volunteers who have been volunteering for 6 to 8 years could also be incentivized in staying active longer.

Chief Kressley is also looking at increasing the life insurance. The Town currently provides life insurance for active members, but the current plan cannot be increased due to some rules embedded into the plan, so other insurance options are being investigated.

Selectman Glowac stated the Board of Selectmen are in full support of the Fire Department and their requests, but since First Selectman Needleman was not able to attend the meeting tonight, the Selectmen would like to table this until the next meeting.

**Motion** was made by Bruce Glowac to table this request until the next meeting. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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### **Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule**

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to move the October 18, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting to October 25, 2023. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. All in favor.

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to move the Board of Selectmen Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. All in favor.

### **Centerbrook Meeting House**

Selectmen Glowac and Libby are still waiting for the draft letter of agreement from Campbell Hudson's office. Selectmen Libby and Glowac and the Board of Finance are in support of the possibility of the Town acquiring the Centerbrook Meeting House, but they would like to review the agreement prior to making any decisions.

**Motion** was made by Bruce Glowac to table this request until the next meeting. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

### **Set Public Hearing – Public Informational Meeting**

**Motion** was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Public Informational Meeting for Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm to discuss the Short-Term Rental Ordinance Draft. Copies of said Ordinance are on the Town Website and on file in the Town Clerk's office. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Set Town Meeting** None

### **TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to enter Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **Signage Request**

The Selectmen received a request from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary requesting their sign be attached to an existing pole located on the Essex Fire Department / Town of Essex property on Route 154 (Saybrook Road). Selectman Needleman had stated he would like the Public Works Director Ryan Welch to investigate creating a better welcome sign at this location and possibly remove and replace the rusted posts currently in place with new posts and attach the Rotary International and the U.S. Coast Guard signs.

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to table this item. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to exit Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to move out of traffic authority at 5:35 pm. Bruce seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Public Comment / Announcements:** None

### **SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

**Motion** was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria P. Lucarelli