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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
October 4, 2017**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Bruce Glowac, Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman

Norman Needleman called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the September 6 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence:

Sister Cities Essex Haiti

Jenifer Grant and her guest Mitch Honan presented an update to the Selectmen on the Sister Cities Program in Haiti. One of their primary goals is to empower the partners in Haiti and to expand their competencies. Another goal is to make people more aware of the strength and beauty of the country of Haiti. Some of the projects were the creation of the Deschapelles Library, an early education teacher training program, and music and sport programs. Haiti is doing quite well, everyone is busy and happy with the program. She is looking at sustainability, one is the financial stability. They have very good support. The Selectmen thanked Jenifer for all her hard work and congratulated her on the success of the program. Jenifer reported the thanks goes to the team. They have a great team.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Building Committee

Bruce Glowac reported that the committee has continued to focus on the remaining Town Hall renovation work. Riggio Construction is still preparing an estimate on costs to renovate the bathrooms in Town Hall. Once the estimates are received, a cost comparison will be made with other alternatives so that a decision can be made as to how to proceed.

Bids were received for the back entrance to the Town Hall. The project was awarded to Martin Laviero. The renovation will make the rear entrance 100% ADA accessible.

Plans for removal of the old underground fuel storage tank at the Town Hall are still being explored along with alternates to an underground tank. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the fall.

Improvements to the rear stairwell are also being investigated.

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There was discussion on the Walnut Street Bridge progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to re-appoint Winifred Olson as the Regional Mental Health Board representative for a two-year appointment to become effective June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2019. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to accept the resignation of Robert Ward from the Conservation Commission, effective December, 2017 with gratitude for his service. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to accept the resignation of Jerri MacMillian from the Conservation Commission with gratitude for her service. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to accept the resignation of Jerri MacMillian from the Gateway Commission with gratitude for her service. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to disband the Bridge Committee that was created on March 19, 2014. Members of the committee were Al Wolfgram, Bruce Glowac, Kelly Sterner, John Guskowski, and David Caroline. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to accept the resignation of John Bairos from the Planning Commission with gratitude for his service. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

The First Selectman appointed Erin Bogan as a regular member to the Planning Commission that will go to a Special Town Meeting.

The First Selectman appointed Gary Riggio as a regular member to the Planning Commission that will go to a Special Town Meeting.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to update the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Members of the committee will be the Emergency Management Director, Deputy Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, Ambulance Chief, Fire Marshal, Harbor Master, First Selectman, and Town Staff as needed. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 6:45 pm. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

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November Board of Selectmen Meeting

The Selectmen discussed moving the November 1st Board of Selectmen meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to cancel the Wednesday, November 1, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Special Meeting for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Nature Conservancy

There was discussion that on October 2nd the Nature Conservancy posted No Dogs Allowed signs on the Preserve property. The Selectmen are disappointed that the decision to post the signs was not relayed to anyone, nor any public hearing held to notify surrounding Towns of this new change in use of the property. The Selectmen are not happy with the process. If something has been used a certain way for 40 years, the changes should have been presented better and it has been a past practice for 40+ years.

Viney Hill Brook Park

Norman Needleman reported the water was tested all summer long and the results have been good. There was discussion on future uses for the park.

Comstock / Ivory Street

There was discussion on whether it would be beneficial to install a temporary stop sign at the intersection of Comstock Avenue and Ivory Street due to the increased traffic flow from Walnut Street being closed. The Selectmen will investigate and look at options to reducing speed in this area.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli