

**Essex Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Essex Town Hall**  
**March 9, 2011**

**Present:** Chairman Lee Thompson  
Commissioners John Beveridge, Lon Seidman,  
Mark Uihlein, Bob Laundry and Bill Foster

Commissioner David Winstead was excused from today's meeting  
First Selectman Phil Miller did not attend

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Lee Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Thompson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Beveridge, seconded by Commissioner Laundry and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Communications/Public Comment:**

None

**Old Business:**

*Novelty Lane Project-Lee Thompson*

It looks like we will have \$34,000 left from the main street ramp. We still have \$25,000.00 on holdback and we will have to wait for low tide to see what the condition of the concrete is.

*Novelty Lane –*

Chairman Thompson - we don't have to go out to bid for a landscape architect. I have called six and none are interested in a small, \$2,000.00 job in Essex. We will be able to go with Anne Penniman in town and she will do the plan. We will then meet with all the property owners. We are going to try to get a sign off agreement. The problem with Novelty lane is that none of the surveys are in agreement, they overlap. We are hopefully going to get a sign off that everyone agrees that this is a Town right of way. Nobody wants to take it through the whole legal process and change all the surveys.

*Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding*

Chairman Thompson is awaiting a reply from the DEP.

**New Business:**

*Satellite Parking-Possible Alternative to Bushnell Location*

Chairman Thompson - Mark had found a potential property on Bushnell, it is owned by the Essex Foundation. They aren't sure what they are going to do with it. We would have to buy it and have the barn removed to have it paved. The Town doesn't have the budget for it and there won't be any STEAP Grant for 2011-2012 and I am not sure what kind of Federal Funds there would be.

As a result of the Transportation Study a possible alternative was found. The access road from 153/154 may be closed per recommendation and that could be turned into a parking lot. I think we could get approximately 30-40 cars on it. I spoke with Phil and the Town Planner and they both thought it was a good idea. However, the Chairman of the Planning Commission may need convincing. There are only 160 parking spaces on Main Street.

#### *2011-12 STEAP Grant Status*

The Governor did not fund STEAP grants for this year and recommended none for next year.

#### *Essex Village Retail Zoning*

There is a new real estate office on Main Street with no parking.

The parking ordinances and zoning downtown have been essentially been ruled null and void.

#### *Transportation Study*

Susan Malan – it is a good thing. I think a lot of people misunderstand this. It is about bringing back the three villages. It is making them easier to travel thru, multi modal.

Techniques/methods similar to those used in densely populated European areas are going to be used: traffic rotaries, site lines, etc. The design is about keeping people connected.

Some businesses are concerned about interruption from construction

Commissioner Beveridge – I am still looking for a way to get a new tourist event here in town. I think the antique car club is a viable group of people. Maybe something could be combined with the wooden boat show, etc. I think we have a real asset there. They are always successful.

Cruise night, 125 cars every week. I feel we should try to get an event in town. Maybe David and I could work on this together.

Chairman Thompson – finding a venue might be an issue.

Commissioner Beveridge – if we establish a venue, this won't be hard to do. The cruise nights are so popular; people come from all over for them.

Commissioner Foster – what about pairing it with the Potted Garden Tour? We have BOT Special Events meetings every other Tuesday at 9am.

Commissioner Laundry will speak to the Planning Committee regarding parking needs.

#### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Beveridge made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Commissioner Laundry and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge