

**Essex Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Essex Town Hall
May 11, 2011**

Present: Chairman Lee Thompson
Commissioners John Beveridge, David Winstead, Mark Uihlein
Bob Laundry and Lon Seidman
Selectman Norman Needleman representing the First Selectman

Commissioner Bill Foster was excused from today's meeting
Guests: Alvin Wolfgram, Susan Malan, Joseph Sanbrook and Marily MacKinnin

Approval of Minutes:

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

Call to Order:

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

Communications/Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Novelty Lane Project-Lee Thompson

There is \$35,000.00 remaining on grant. The wall that was built encroached halfway into the pentway. We were going to cover it but now we have found that the drain pipes from the house are connected to the downspouts and pipe and it has flooded the bottom of Novelty Lane. It appears that the Harbor management Commission is going to demand that the wall be removed. There has been serious deterioration since last spring. We have to complete the grant by the end of the year. Harbor Management is doing everything they can to get the issues resolved. Novelty lane is not a public street. By usage and by the Town plowing and signing the street has become a town street down to the stop sign. And the surveys going back to the 1800s overlap. We should have a design in about a week.

Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding

Chairman Thompson has had contact with the DEP. I think we can prove that the ponding on the other side of Pratt Street is from storm sewer and is not a tidal pond. Nothing is growing in the pond except one stalk of wild rice which has disappeared.

New Business:

Satellite Parking-Possible Alternative to Bushnell Location

We are having a meeting with the railroad regarding the cross road between 153 and 154. It looks like we would get approximately 30-40 cars in there as a satellite parking lot. We also still have the availability of the lot at exit 3.

Norman Needleman arrived 4:08pm

Commissioner Beveridge - Although I am not licensed at site engineering, I would be more than happy to sketch something up for site capacity.

Chairman Thompson – yes, please.

STEAP 2012

We received a letter from the Governor stating that STEAP grants will be available in 2012. We need to get them in by mid June. We could look for funding for a trolley, a parking lot, bus shelters, signage and an intratown transportation system.

Essex Trolley-Price Quotations

We received quotes for a new trolley. A new Freightliner, diesel, automatic transmission, 30 passenger would be \$164,000.00 with an additional \$6,000.00 for a wheelchair lift and \$6,000.00 for air conditioning. . The Estuary Transit District has offered to operate it for us. There will be advertising space on the sides and we could look into adding bicycle racks.

Susan Malan – is there a green alternative?

Chairman Thompson – we can look into that.

Norman Needleman – perhaps you should present a brief outline of this idea at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

2 Hour Parking Ordinance

In August 2006 the Board of Trade wrote the Board of Selectmen regarding the parking ordinance. In June 2008 the Economic Development Commission wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding the parking ordinance as well.

Discussion regarding parking issues and alternatives.

Joseph Sanbrook, former police chief of Fairfield – Fairfield has parking lots for employees and they must purchase a sticker to utilize the lot. There is also a two hour parking limit which is enforced by chalk marks. They had signs of the rules made and posted throughout town which helped.

Commissioner Uihlein – we have residential and commercial parking needs so we need to work out a system that is fair.

Marily MacKinnon – maybe you could ask the Congregational Church to set aside some spots for merchants a fee. Has anyone sent a letter to merchants regarding street parking?

Chairman Thompson – we have had various meetings, etc. with them about this.

Alvin Wolfgram – it comes down to enforcement.

Discussion regarding enforcement.

Norman Needleman - you may want to address the Board of Selectmen with your concerns.

Also, perhaps a subcommittee including the various commissions and agencies should be formed to address the parking issue.

Upon a motion by John Beveridge, seconded by Lon Seidman it was voted (5-1) for the Economic Development Commission to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending

that they address this issue of parking with particular emphasis on implementing the parking ordinance.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beveridge made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Commissioner Seidman and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge