

**Essex Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Essex Town Hall
June 8, 2011**

Present: Chairman Lee Thompson
Commissioners Bill Foster, David Winstead, Mark Uihlein
Bob Laundry and Lon Seidman

First Selectman Phil Miller was unable to attend

Commissioner John Beveridge was excused from today's meeting
Guests: Susan Malan

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 May 11, 2011 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Seidman and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from Town Hall

n/a - First Selectman Phil Miller is in Hartford.

Communications/Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Novelty Lane Project-Lee Thompson

We are still waiting to hear from the Harbor Management Commission. They ran into problems with the wall which has drains from the house and has flooded the bottom of the pentway.

Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding

Chairman Thompson is still waiting to hear from the DEP.

Essex Village Retail Condition

Two more retailers are leaving which leaves eight open stores. We made our point with the Board of Selectmen regarding the parking situation. It has been turned over to the Town Planner. Further discussion regarding the condition of retail in Essex Village.

STEAP grant-Trolley and Satellite Parking

Chairman Thompson spoke with two other towns that have electric trolleys. The consensus appears to be that they require a lot of maintenance, labor and battery maintenance. He also spoke with E-Bus and it would be \$315,000.00 for an Ni-cad electric bus.

Parking Ordinance-BOS Meeting

The Board of Selectmen is moving forward to review the two hour parking ordinance.

Potted Plan Tour

Bill Foster reports that some of the feedback was that some of the displays were not as nice as expected. There needs to be more coordination and understanding between the Board of Trade, the merchants that are going to be the featured sights and the designers. But there was a lot of attendance and the two speakers were very good. There is enough positive feedback to do it again next year and strive to make it better.

New Business

Architectural Sub-Committee Meeting-Bill Foster

The women from the EPA sent me a link to where you can apply for EPA grant money so you can get a professional person to help. We are still laboring under ancient zoning regulations which contradict our development visions. The zoning regulations really need to be updated. **CREPRA** may be able to help and there may be EPA grant money available to help get a professional person to work on this.

Bob Laundry – Liaison for the Planning Commission

I have been sharing the information regarding the parking concerns with the Planning commissions. They are looking for some objective data. They also think that signage is an issue, that there are not clear signs where to park.

Chairman Thompson –. The lack of parking is having a major impact on the retail situation. During discussion at the Transportation Studyreview, we strongly disagreed with the suggestion that there was no parking problem. Chairman Thompson promised to send the parking survey done by EDC. It covers sixteen days and clearly shows the business district is short of parking. Further discussion regarding parking issues.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Commissioner Uihlein it was voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge