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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 19, 2019**

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

Bruce Glowac called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Agenda with one change, to move Traffic Authority after Public Announcement. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the June 5 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence None

Public Announcements / Comment: None

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to enter Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Dover Street

Town Attorney David Royston reported that the Town needs to do additional title work regarding who has rights to Dover Street and what would be required to treat abutting owners fairly and consistently.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to table Dover Street to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

River Road Sidewalk

Bruce Glowac reported that he and the Public Works Director Ryan Welch, and the Town Engineer Bob Doane, and the Town Planner John Guskowski met on River Road on May 29th to discuss River Road Sidewalks. They walked from the end of the sidewalk on North Main Street along River Road up to Heritage Cove. It appears that a sidewalk along this route is plausible, but at a significant cost. There was discussion that the project would entail installing a separate pedestrian bridge on Falls River bridge.

Mr. Doane presented to the Selectmen the River Road Sidewalk Project preliminary plans. Mr. Doane apologized to all homeowners along the route where he needed to place stakes with bright orange markers. Bob staked the right-of-way and reported that the placement of the stakes was necessary because we need to balance all the obstacles.

Mr. Doane reported that the width of road on River Road varies. Some areas of the roadway are extremely narrow, and other parts of River Road are quite wide. The Town would like to install a 4'

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sidewalk and a snow shelf along one side of River Road. The road by Heritage Cove has a very wide width and the area by Book Hill is narrow. Ideally the Town would like to have a uniform road width from Dennison all the way to Heritage Cove. The Book Hill area intersection will need to be rebuilt. On Falls River Bridge a pedestrian bridge would be installed that would be able to support a vehicle that could plow.

Mr. Doane reported that an aluminum 55' pedestrian bridge would cost around \$25,000. Improvements of the abutting area and painting of the bridge would cost another \$25,000. Reconstruction of the road is \$180,000 and approximately \$250,000 for the sidewalk. The total cost to reconfigure the roadway and to install a sidewalk from Dennison Road all the way to Heritage Cove is approximately \$500,000.

This sidewalk project, although feasible, is very expensive and the project is like a puzzle where all the pieces need to fit in. Bob Doane can be reached at 860-767-0138 to answer any questions.

A resident asked if there was any consideration being made pertaining to the run off coming down from Book Hill. Mr. Doane reported the Town is aware of the run off and they are looking at reshaping the crown of Book Hill and installing additional catch basins.

Mr. Needleman stated that he envisions connectivity throughout the entire Town and would like people to be able to walk from Bushy Hill Road down to the river. Mr. Needleman reported the Town would look for funds for this project through grants.

Mr. Glowac stated that this project is still in the talking stage. Mr. Glowac reported this was looked at over 20 years ago. All the Town is doing at this point is seeing if installing sidewalks along River Road is possible. This is merely Phase 1 – investigating, Phase 2 is a preliminary plan, Phase 3 is a public hearing, Phase 4 - the Town would look for funding sources. Mr. Glowac stated that this is a process, a step-by-step process.

Mr. Doane stated that he would like to meet and speak to the Planning Commission, so they are aware of this proposed project. There was an inquiry if the Department of Transportation would need to be made aware of this project, and Mr. Doane reported he would investigate, but he suspected that DOT would not object to making any roadway safer.

Mr. Glowac reiterated that we are still in the feasibility stage and we are looking to minimize any impact to residents and he would like to keep moving forward at investigating the feasibility of the project.

Act on Walnut Street Improvement Plan

The Selectmen discussed the proposed easement acquisition on Walnut Street to realign the road and improve traffic safety. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to issue a favorable comment on this proposed easement, finding no inconsistencies with the Plan of Conservation & Development.

A resident of Walnut Street reported their concerns with existing conditions of speeding vehicles and large construction trucks already going through Walnut Street. There is a concern that reducing the curve would cause cars and trucks to go faster. The Selectmen and the Planning Commission both reported the alignment would improve traffic safety, not make it worse.

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Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the easement across the land of Mark J. Reeves on Walnut Street to realign the town road and improve traffic safety. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to exit Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

The First Selectman appointed Augie Pampel as the Essex Tree Warden for a one-year term to become effective July 16, 2019 through July 16, 2020.

An Ordinance Creating an Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to table the Ordinance Creating an OPEB Trust to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

July 3, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to cancel the July 3, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

October 2, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to move the time of the October 2, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Fire House Fuel Storage Tank Removal and Replacement

Mr. Glowac reported the Essex Fire Department is working on removing their underground storage tank and replacing it with an above ground convault tank.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance a transfer from fiscal year 2018-2019 Board of Finance contingency budget line (10409-508400) to the Municipal Property Improvements budget line (10494-508800) of a sum not to exceed \$40,000. Said sum to be used for the removal of the underground storage tank, installation of a above ground convault tank and pad, and some paving work at the Essex Fire Engine Company #1 Saybrook Road station. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Town Meeting on Wednesday, July 17th, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. in Conference Room A. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment: None

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LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) Pride Month

The month of June is Pride Month around the country and in the State of Connecticut. The Town of Essex is an inclusive community and will recognize Pride Month by flying the rainbow flag at the Essex Town Hall.

UCONN Presentation – The Village of Essex, Transportation Master Plan by Andrew Clark, Yogesh Yagnik, Stephanie Bogue, Sheila Khayami from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Connecticut

Andrew Clark presented to the Board of Selectmen the Village of Essex Transportation Master Plan. The students did an objective study of the area and came up with their recommendations. The plan included parking ideas, safety concerns, and a beautification project on Main Street in Essex. He presented two options. The plan and options can be found on the Town's web site under the Economic Development Commission. The Selectmen thanked Andrew for his team's vision.

Janet Peckinpugh asked the Selectmen for permission to work with UCONN again with another student on another project next year. The application is due at the end of June. The Selectmen agreed and approved that the Town apply.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Finance Director Kelly Sterner reported there is open Wi-Fi in two of the three parks. The third park is having Wi-Fi installed this week.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli