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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 1, 2022**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen in person and remote public access meeting via Zoom.

In attendance: First Selectman Norman M. Needleman, Selectman Stacia R. Libby, and Selectman Bruce M. Glowac.

Others in attendance: Finance Director Tracey Celentano, Officer Paul Kenefick, and Kelly Sterner.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the May 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence None

Public Announcements / Comment:

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Open Town Board and Commission positions can be found at
https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3116/f/uploads/boards_and_commissions_website_30.pdf

The application to join a Board or Commission can be found at:
https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3116/f/file/application_to_volunteer_for_board_or_commission_fillable_4_13_18.pdf

The following are Board and Commission openings:

- Conservation Commission – Regular Member
- Conservation Commission – Alternate Member
- Inland Wetlands Commission – Alternate Member
- Park and Recreation Commission – 3 Alternate Members
- Planning and Zoning Commission – 1 Regular Member

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American Rescue Plan Funds:

Members of the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall ("EVMH") reported to the Board of Selectmen that because the Hall was shut down due to the pandemic and even though they have economized as best they could they are having a tough time making ends meet. The members also reported that during the time the Hall was closed, some important repairs were done.

Some of the capital improvements that were completed over the last couple of years was the installation of a security system which was installed by members. Installation of a kitchen cold room, and new vinyl shutters outside, remodeling of both the men's and lady's room. The replacement of the back deck and the installation of a new handicap ramp were both Eagle Scout projects. The members reported they have been good stewards to this building that is owned by the Town of Essex.

Members have been donating their own personal funds, but the EVMH is having trouble keeping up with their expenses. Most EVMH fundraising events at this establishment involved food, but due to covid, these events were either cancelled or extremely limited.

The Selectmen discussed the possibility of the EVMH keeping the Board informed of all future Capital Budgets so that the Town may be able to help with future projects. The Selectmen also discussed creating a EVMH line in the annual budget under Social Services in future budgets.

The members stated their Operating Budget is primarily dependent on the fundraisers and since they were not able to generate any funds from their fundraising, they were here this evening requesting assistance from the Town. The members have a tremendous amount of pride in the club.

Selectman Bruce Glowac, strongly suggested to the EVMH members that they put together a capital plan for the Hall which should include the improvements to the kitchen, and he recommended they approach the Essex Foundation with a request for the capital improvements. The Essex Foundation does not seed operating costs, but they will fund special projects or capital improvements and capital projects.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to recommend to the Board of Finance an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. Said funds would be used to support the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, a local nonprofit, to respond to the negative financial impact of the COVID pandemic. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Resolution - Affordable Housing Plan

Section 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes require, as of July 1, 2017, that every municipality prepare or update and adopt a plan to increase the number of Affordable Housing Developments in that municipality every five years.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the Resolution Approving an Update to the Town of Essex Affordable Housing Plan for 2022-2027 (copy attached). Stacia Libby seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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Neighborhood Assistance Act

Bruce Glowac reported that they received an application under the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. The Neighborhood Assistance Act is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to these entities. The application process requires a public hearing and approval by the governing body of the municipality.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act applications. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Bruce Glowac reported that all Neighborhood Assistance Act applications that are submitted require that the Town hold a Public Hearing.

Public Hearing

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 6:55 pm for the Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications in Conference Room A. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 4:55 pm in Conference Room A. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The Selectmen reported they still have had no final word on the Route 153 Rumble Strips, but the Public Works Director did get a notice from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation that they are planning on paving Route 153 very soon.

The Selectmen would like to review the Plan of Conservation and Development to confirm and address that sewers are not mentioned in the plan and if they are, to amend the plan.

The Selectmen discussed that it appeared that Scotch Plains business appears to be doing well and the noise levels are low with minimal complaints.

There was discussion that the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall is open and all are welcome.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli



Selectmen's Office

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Stacia R. Libby
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RESOLUTION APPROVING AN UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF ESSEX AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN FOR 2022-2027

Whereas, Section 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes require, as of July 1, 2017, that every municipality prepare or update and adopt a plan to increase the number of Affordable Housing Developments in that municipality every five years; and

Whereas, the Town of Essex, working through its Planning Commission, prepared and adopted the Town's first Affordable Housing Plan on March 14, 2019 and is thus in compliance with the Statutes; and

Whereas, the Town of Essex has opted to participate with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) in developing a Regional Housing Plan, which includes a new, updated Affordable Housing Plan Annex that satisfies the requirements of Section 8-30j; and

Whereas, the Town of Essex has conducted public information sessions and workshops in association with the update of this Affordable Housing Plan, including presentation and input of the Planning & Zoning Commission, who forwarded the draft Affordable Housing Plan update to the Board of Selectmen for consideration and adoption;

Whereas, it is desirable and in furtherance of both Town and State principles to actively promote the creation and establishment of more affordable housing opportunities in the Town of Essex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ESSEX BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town of Essex adopt this update to the Town of Essex Affordable Housing Plan as part of the RiverCOG Regional Housing Plan and submit it to the State of Connecticut as an update to its statutorily-required Affordable Housing Plan with an effective date of June 1, 2022.

I, Joel Marzi, the Clerk of the Town of Essex, do hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Town of Essex at a meeting of its Board of Selectmen duly convened on May 18, 2022 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.


Joel Marzi, Town Clerk

(SEAL)

