

**Disclaimer.** Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 5, 2018**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to approve the Agenda with an addition under Traffic Authority, Pratt Street Parking. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to approve the August 1 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence:**

**Essex Land Trust Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance – Public Notice**

The Essex Land Trust is applying for accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance and the public comment period is now open. To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit: [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org) or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org).

**Thank You for the Bike Rack at the Essex Fire Department**

Thank you to Kelly Simpson-Angelini and Marissa Mathews who have donated a bicycle rack that will be in the lot by the Essex Fire Department.

**Public Announcements / Comment:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Capital Committee:**

Bruce Glowac reported that the Town Hall restrooms are complete and the hallway area in front of the Town Clerk's office near the elevators had new flooring installed. The improvements to the Town Hall look great. All projects will be wrapping up soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions** None

**South Cove Property**

There was discussion pertaining to a one (1) acre parcel of land on a cove that was recently offered to the Town to purchase. It is a nice waterfront piece of land, but during low tide a mud flat forms in front of the parcel that goes out approximately 200'. It is a beautiful piece of land, with a beautiful view. The Selectmen discussed this beautiful parcel of land and noted the terrain is steep, the corner on the road way is dangerous, and the property would need a lot of Town maintenance and improvements. This parcel of land is not contiguous with another parcel of Town land. The Selectmen discussed and agreed that the Town not pursue the purchase of acquiring this parcel now.

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### **September 19, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

There was discussion of possibly cancelling the September 19, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting. It was decided that the meeting would not be cancelled.

**Public Hearing** NONE

**Set Town Meeting** NONE

### **TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**

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

#### **Speed Limit Change Request – Route 153 / Westbrook Road**

Mr. Needleman received a request from a resident asking for a reduction in the speed limit along Route 153 / Westbrook Road. There was discussion that the speed is 35 mph on some parts of this route and 40 mph in other areas.

There was discussion that although the State of Connecticut has done extensive surveys along this route to determine speed limits, it was noted that this part of town is not pedestrian friendly. The Selectmen understand that the pedestrian traffic density has increased along Route 153 and warrants the State of Connecticut taking another look at the speeds along this route.

A resident made a request to the Selectmen to possibly installing “Engine Braking Prohibited” signs near residential homes along Route 153. Trucks use their Jake brakes to slow their rig down to a safe speed and the Jake brakes make a loud machine gun like sound.

Mr. Needleman reported that he would investigate what steps need to be taken to request a reduction in the speed limit along Route 153 and/or to request that the State of Connecticut come out and look. There was discussion that making such a request to the State, although not impossible, would be difficult, especially since it is a state road and goes through two towns.

#### **Pratt Street Parking**

Mr. Needleman reported that a parking spot on Pratt Street was accidentally painted and made into a no-parking spot. There is extremely limited parking already along this route and the Selectmen believe the space should revert back to a parking spot. The Selectmen all agreed to visit Pratt Street and look at the parking issues the parking issue and this item will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

The Selectmen unanimously agreed that any time there is a request to turn a parking spot into a non-parking spot in the future, the request must go through Traffic Authority.

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

**Public Comment / Announcements:** None

### **SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

There was discussion that Comstock Park is being used at night and there are some safety concerns. There was further discussion about Viney Hill Brook and the Town costs associated with opening and closing the gate every day. The Selectmen discussed increasing the police patrol in these two parks.

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There was discussion of ramping up security and possibly hiring another part time office to do more night patrol. The Town has no option but to respond to this issue of car thefts and now house break-ins.

There was discussion of obtaining a banner to educate people to lock their houses and cars. The banner would be used to help educate and remind residents to lock their cars and not to leave valuables in their cars.

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria P. Lucarelli