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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2017**

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

Norman Needleman called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the October 4 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence:

Thank You Letter

Robert Bradway from the Essex Stream Train sent a letter to the Selectmen complimenting the Town's public works crew for their professionalism during a road repair project at a railroad crossing. Mr. Bradway stated that the Town of Essex Public Works Crew is a pleasure to work with.

Public Announcements / Comment:

Sidewalk Request – River Road

Allie Westgate and Ellie Champion discussed the need for sidewalks along River Road. The residents of Heritage Cove are requesting sidewalks be extended from 5 River Road along and up to the Heritage Cove Driveway. Many of the Heritage Cove residents are avid walkers and they like to walk to Town. They reported walking along River Road is very narrow and dangerous. Mr. Needleman said it is a great idea and he would have the Town engineer take a look to see if it is at all possible. Bruce Glowac reported he is in full support of a sidewalk along River Road and he mentioned that he proposed this idea more than 20 years ago and he believes the Town engineer drew up a proposal and quite possibly still has the plans on file. The Selectmen's office will contact the Town engineer to obtain the prior plans. The Selectmen further discussed the possibility of funding this project with a STEAP grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Building Committee

Bruce Glowac reported that the Town Hall rear entrance work has started.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

The First Selectman appointed Hope Proctor as an alternate member to the Planning Commission that will go to a Special Town Meeting.

Permit Fees

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to waive all of the Town of Essex Permit Application Fees for the Essex Land Trust Project on its Cross Lots property. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Elevator Proposal

The Selectmen discussed options on whether to improve, upgrade, or replace the current Town Hall elevator. Replacing the elevator with a new one would take approximately (4) weeks and would cost more than \$140,000, which is not an option at this time. The elevator replacement proposal received included recommendations for the next six (6) years or 6 phases. Each phase would include minimal building disruption by performing the work on the weekends, which is the best option for the Town Hall at this time.

There was discussion on requesting funds from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund this year for the first phase of improvements. Mr. Needleman recommended that the Finance Director create a sinking fund line for elevator replacement in future budgets.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$35,000.00 for phase 1 of the Town Hall Elevator Upgrades. Said sum to be taken from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Charles Street – Discontinuance Resolution

The Selectmen discussed discontinuing the unimproved southerly extension of Charles Street. The Town would have no interest in improving the road. By discontinuing the unimproved portion of land, the property could be used as the driveway to the rear lot.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and adopt the concept of the attached Resolution for the discontinuance of a portion of Charles Street as a public highway subject to Mr. Norman Needleman making final language adjustments to the legal contract prior to all interested parties signing. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Schedule Public Hearing

Norman Needleman will hold a public hearing to answer any questions on the discontinuance of Charles Street.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

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Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2017 immediately following the Public Hearing in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Open Space Acquisition Discussion

There was discussion that the town was approached in acquiring a parcel of land. At this time the Town is not interested in acquiring the parcel.

Annual Town Meeting

There was discussion on upcoming appointments.

Nature Conservancy and Essex Land Trust

There was discussion on the decision by the Nature Conservancy to not allow dogs in Turtle Creek. The Selectmen discussed ideas on how to change that decision and allow dogs back in the park.

Viney Hill Brook Park

There was discussion on discontinuing water testing and letting the property go back to its natural state.

Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal Position

The Town received nine (9) applications for the two open positions of Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal.

Connecticut River Museum

Norman Needleman reported there was a swearing in ceremony for approximately fifty (50) new citizens at the Connecticut River Museum and Bob Siegrist was also present. Mr. Needleman said it was a nice ceremony and the new citizens were so grateful.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli

CHARLES STREET DISCONTINUANCE RESOLUTION

The Board of Selectmen hereby adopts the following Resolution for the discontinuance of a portion of Charles Street as a public highway, which discontinued portion is bounded and described as follows:

Said discontinued area is discontinued subject to the reserved rights and to the conditions of discontinuance as more fully set forth in the Charles Street Settlement Agreement attached here to and made a part hereof as agreed to by the Town of Essex and all the abutting property owners, Oliver J. Devin, Lauren K. Devin, Lorraine Varney and Donna Sheehan, the Executor of the Estate of Edward W. Varney, a/k/a Edward W. Varney, Jr.

Said discontinuance is subject to the provision of a map by Robert Doane, Jr. L.S. showing the physical facts as required by the Charles Street Settlement Agreement.