

Essex Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Essex Town Hall
April 13, 2011

Present: Chairman Lee Thompson
Commissioners John Beveridge, David Winstead,
Bob Laundry and Bill Foster
Selectman Norman Needleman representing the First Selectman

Commissioner Lon Seidman Mark Uihlein were excused from today's meeting
Guests: Selectman Joel Marzi and John Ackerman

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Thompson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Beveridge, seconded by Commissioner Foster and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lee Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Report from Town Hall:

Mr. Needleman reports that Phil Miller is waiting for a letter from Attorney Royston regarding the Novelty Lane Pentway..

Communications/Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Novelty Lane Project-Lee Thompson

Anne Penniman has been selected as the landscape architect.

When the plan is ready, a meeting will be held with the neighbors to review the project and hopefully get agreement to proceed without costly legal negotiations

There is about \$34,000.00 left in the grant which is hopefully enough for the project. There will be a \$1,000.00 contingency. The grant does not cover legal fees.

Discussion of design and features followed.

The chairman assisted the Harbor Management Commission in writing a grant request for the ramp on Bushnell. It is for a storage rack, top dressing the parking lot, shrubs and the base for the observation platform. The granting agency is NOAA thru CREPA. The grant for \$8,000 was awarded and EHMC will execute the grant before June 30, 2011

Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding

Chairman Thompson is awaiting a reply from the DEP.

New Business:

Satellite Parking-Possible Alternative to Bushnell Location

Pursuant the Transportation Study the access road for 153/154 may be closed. It could hold approximately 30-40 cars as a parking lot. We would have to put in street lamps and close off parts of it.

The Board of Trade is going to write a letter in support of this project according to Commissioner Foster. Commissioner Laundry brought this matter up for discussion at the Planning Meeting.

Essex Village Retail Zoning

There are 8 stores currently open. There are multiple real estate agencies with many agents and since there is no parking, they often park on the streets for extended periods of time. The apartments don't have parking. We may need to activate the two hour parking ordinance until the parking situation is resolved and/or the trolley is active. There is currently a two hour parking ordinance but it is not enforced.

Discussion regarding parking issue and options.

Commissioner Winstead inquired about the status of the paving on Industrial Park Road.

Mr. Needleman replied that they have discussed it and they are being very frugal with the road maintenance budget because of budgetary concerns.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beveridge made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Commissioner Laundry and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge