

**Essex Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Essex Town Hall
September 14, 2011**

Present: Chairman Lee Thompson
Commissioners Bill Foster, Mark Uihlein, Bob Laundry,
John Beveridge and Lon Seidman

First Selectman Phil Miller was unable to attend

Commissioner David Winstead was excused from today's meeting
Guests: Susan Malan and Alvin Wolfgram

Call to Order:

Chairman Lee Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Thompson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Beveridge and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from Town Hall

n/a - First Selectman Phil Miller is not able to attend the meeting.

Communications/Public Comment:

Susan Malan and Alvin Wolfgram were present for the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA).

The WPCA has a management plan and we have been talking about doing a study and updating the plan. We would like the commission's support to go to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to do a study.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Beveridge, seconded by Commissioner Laundry it was voted to support the WPCA in the study and update of the facilities plan. Further discussion regarding sewers and the potential study was held.

Old Business:

Novelty Lane Project-Lee Thompson

Three bids were received. Readco Holdings in Old Lyme was the low bidder at \$19,010.77 which would leave us with a surplus of about \$6-\$7,000. The project should start around the first of October to be completed by October 28th. We have approval of all the neighbors. Brewer's is going to give us space for equipment and material storage. The Harbor Management Commission will have the responsibility to oversee the project..

Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding

Pratt Street flooded eleven times in the last month due to Irene and the subsequent flooding in Vermont. A DEEP representative has been here and I think they have a better understanding now. The valve would have stopped about 80% of the flooding in recent weeks. It is not a good situation, Pratt Street is sinking again. The application is being prepared by the Town Engineer and we await the decision of the DEEP.

Essex Village-Main Street Retail Status

Discussion regarding rent and openings. Seline's Sweet Shop has replaced The Peddler and Silkworm has been sold. We still have three retail openings.

STEAP grant submission-Tri Town Trolley

OPM hasn't released any information yet.

Commissioner Foster – I just wanted to share some information I have found. I looked up the absorption rate of residential real estate in the last twelve months. We are at 17 ½ month inventory, 21 months in Chester, 16 ½ in Deep River, 14 months in Old Saybrook, 21 ½ months in Westbrook, 18 ½ months in Old Lyme and 14 ½ months in Madison.

Commissioner Seidman suggests that someone from CL&P come in to discuss power outage:

Chairman Thompson stated the new Health Director did a great job after Irene.

New Business

Susan Malan and John Beveridge – The Car Clubs and the Essex Historical Society have a planned event on October 16th on the Essex Historical Society property.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Commissioner Beveridge, it was voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge