

**Essex Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Essex Town Hall**  
**October 12, 2011**

**Present:** Chairman Lee Thompson  
Commissioners David Winstead, Mark Uihlein, Bob Laundry,  
and Lon Seidman

First Selectman Phil Miller was unable to attend

Commissioners Bill Foster and John Beveridge were excused from today's meeting  
Guests: Susan Malan, Ed Cook and Alvin Wolfgram

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Lee Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Thompson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2011 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Laundry 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:**

Members of the public introduced themselves.

Susan Malan

Alfred Wolfgram

Ed Cook

**Old Business:**

*Boat Launch Ramp/Novelty Lane Project-Lee Thompson*

The crew is working on Novelty Lane. We were very fortunate, the lowest bidder, Readco Management Company is a great company. The northern Main Street upper ramp has developed a crack, probably as a result of Irene. We have received two replacement bids for it. There was one for \$5,700.00 and the other was \$11,000. DEEP has approved the \$5,700. Bidder and work will start next week

*Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding*

It looks like we will be getting approval for the valve.

Pratt Street flooded fourteen times in the last three weeks.

Sue Bailey from the DEP is working with Bob Doane, the Town Engineer, on the application.

*Tri Town Trolley*

OPM has not acted on the STEAP grant applications to our knowledge.

There is meeting of the Planning Commission to review the Transportation Study October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

**New Business:**

*Zoning Issues/ZBA-Mark Uihlein*

I made a complaint regarding **retail in the light industrial zones**. There were some pretty unsightly signs. It was not the most attractive entry into Essex. I went to the Zoning Commission and then the matter went before the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance which was denied. I started looking at the process and history of this. We don't have very good definitions around certain types of businesses. I think we need to tighten the definitions and there needs to be enforcement of the existing regulations.

Alfred Wolfgram – we are always open to suggestions. But in any town, no matter how strict the regulations are, people always have the option to go to ZBA. Some of this falls under 'Off Premise Signs.'

Discussion regarding signage regulations.

Norman Needleman arrived 4:25pm

Enforcement is the issue. We have the regulations but they need to be enforced.

Norman Needleman – I just came to inquire about the Novelty Lane Project.

Chairman Thompson – it will hopefully be finished this week or next week at the latest.

Susan Malan – I just wanted mention that there was some confusion regarding the Dogs on the Dock event. A person was trying to bring in his sailboat during the event and because there was no signage, he had no idea that the boat launch was closed for public use. It would be beneficial to have some sort of signage to notify boaters.

Chairman Thompson – the scarecrow festival was very successful.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Winstead, it was voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge