



Experience Essex

Essex Board of Trade
Serving the Villages of
Centerbrook ~ Essex ~ Ivoryton

Essex Corinthian Yacht Club **Friday, February 15, 2013, 9:00a**

Call to order: 9:08a

Terry Stewart, Commodore, Essex Corinthian gave a quick welcome to the Yacht Club.

- A. **Introduction of Members** See list of members at end of minutes.
- B. **Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes** Correction Trendowski didn't owe \$500. A Motion was made by ChrisQuinn to approve December 2012 minutes; Motion was seconded by Donna Torza; all in favor.
- C. **Old Business** None
- D. **Committee Reports**
 1. **Treasurer's Report** Chris Quinn reported that we have paid all our bills and member checks are still coming in.
 2. **Membership Team**
 - a. **Business After Hours** Feb BAH...thanks to Michael of Peck and Ficarra – it was great. March 7th BAH will be at Scensibles. Other BAHs...trying to coordinate dual sponsorship that have other smaller shops. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas on that. Several opening still. April will be at Pough Interiors; possibly doing a joint Bell Flower/Aegaen/Toys Ahoy – May; Mahoney & Sabol – June. July 11th is open; August is open; Leigh House (EHS) in August; December 5th at Boatique USA. Contact Donna Torza if interest in the open months.
 - b. **Annual Dinner Recap** Annual dinner meeting was successful and over 50 people; Oliver's did a great job; Pat Thompson joined us in memory of Lee. Thank you to the membership committee members for making a successful annual meeting dinner.
 3. **Special Events Committee** Judy Heiser noted that special events did not meet; Essex Ed is done...he seems to have received better attention than in

previous years. Now with various organizations helping out with Essex Ed, it has made such a difference in his appearance. Also working on an event in Spring...something spring-like (such as a contest for the entire town for decorating in a spring-like/summer manner). Idea comes from Marblehead, MA where they do *Boxes in Bloom* and have a town-wide contest.

4. **Town News** Norm Needleman reported that we are here and survived the Blizzard. Hope we didn't inconvenience too many with closing the street for snow removal. Reviewing sidewalk ordinance...town lawyers are taking a closer look with regards to getting them cleared, etc. Norm is concerned about the potential liability if not cleared. Norm noted the blizzard was another large natural event. In the budget process now and Norm noted what's happening at this point. Norm also noted that the Playhouse is getting ready for another season.
- E. **New Business** Mary Ellen Barnes (Essex Park & Rec) reported on Essex Go Bragh parade, Saturday March 16 at 10:30a. There will be activities following the parade again...Community Music School and would like others to get involved. The Gris will host something again as well; will not have the band in Griswold Square – will be inside; the festival will be at foot of Main Street park (parking lot). Community Fund will have balloons again and several organizations will march. Sissy Brown who served on park/rec for several years will be grand marshall. Priscilla Wood (CT Audubon/EcoTravel) reported that CT Audubon is having a concert this Sunday at the Gris...including a 50/50 raffle and entertainment; Priscilla also has newsletters if anyone would like to take one.) Judy Heiser also noted that the train has cleared their tracks for the Eagle ride/watching. Priscilla noted that they are now located at 30 Plains Road, Essex. Mike Peck took a moment and noted to Norm that the Town of Essex did a great job. He also noted that he joined the organization for “citizenship” – getting involved with Essex and is proud to be part of it. Involved not just for business but for good “citizenship”. Mike also made a note about our letterhead...the Village of Essex. Why can't we integrate the villages better? Jim added that we're fortunate to have seen the amount of changes we've seen even though it's still not as integrated as we'd like. We continue to work on it. Ivoryton is involved but still separated...somewhat geographical and it just seemed to make sense for Ivoryton to do their own thing (Ivoryton Alliance). We will continue to work on bridging the gap and we don't want them to think we've forgotten about them – Ivoryton and Centerbrook is just as important. Unfortunately, we can't make businesses join but know that they are welcome if they can. Judy Heiser noted that Ivoryton has done a super job in forming their alliance – illuminations, sculpture, road race, pumpkin

festival, etc. Judy would love to see more of a tie, which there is more than in prior years.

F. **General Discussion** Jim D'Alessio thanked those in the room who are representing the non-profits; it is very important to have the non-profit organizations represented. Letter received from Essex Land Trust expressing that they do not wish to renew for the \$25. The Essex Garden Club sent a letter regarding membership as well. Mark Bombaci noted that at the Community Fund, they're trying to increase our exposure...if members have any thoughts about how you perceive the ECF, please let him know. Priscilla Wood noted that it's important to support your non-profits even through the Essex Savings community fund...fill out a ballot and select your non-profits. Jim D'Alessio noted that the ballots will be going out for the open director positions. Susan Malan said the EHS and CT River Museum are hosting an event on Feb 28 – Battle Site Essex; the event is free.

G. **Meeting Adjourned** Chris/Judy to adjourn at 9:50am.

Members in Attendance:

Karen Senn	SENNsible Communications LLC
Priscilla Wood	CT Audio/EcoTravel
Elizabeth Alvord	Ivoryton Library
Susan Malan	Essex Historical Society
Michael Peck	Peck & Ficarra
Joel Marzi	Essex House of Framing
Jim D'Alessio	J. Alden Clothiers
Mark Bombaci	Essex Community Fund/Page Taft
Chris Quinn	Mahoney Sabol & Co. LLP
Donna Torza	Bell Flower Antiques
Sandy Brewer	Angelini Wines
Judy Heiser	Essex Board of Trade
Dee Ferris	Toys Ahoy!

Next Meeting: March 15, 2013