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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2020**

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

Stacia Libby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence None

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to enter Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

River Road Speed Limit

There was discussion that the speed limit on River Road is primarily 25 mph, but there are sections where the posted speed is 35 mph. There was discussion that the speed limit along River Road should be a consistent speed. The Selectmen will each drive this route and will bring their recommendations to the March 4th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to table the River Road Speed Limit discussion until the next meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

EDC – Essex Village Downtown Quick Build

There was discussion that the Economic Development Commission was seeking authorization from the Board of Selectmen under Traffic Authority to move forward with some of the UConn Senior Project Design ideas on Main Street in Essex Village.

Janet Peckinpaugh reported on the UConn Senior student project to the Selectmen. The Economic Development Commission felt that the angled parking and the pedestrian walkway improvements on the north side of Ferry Street are the most important projects they would like to see tested. The projects would be done by volunteers at an estimated cost of \$500. The Planning Commission is in support of some of the improvements. Ms. Peckinpaugh stated that the improvements would just be a test, and nothing done would be permanent.

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Chief Aron Schumacher spoke on behalf of the Essex Fire Engine Co., #1 and he shared some fire department safety concerns. There are concerns regarding the proposed angled parking because cars may block the fire hydrants. There were also concerns that the Essex fire apparatus is longer than the measurements used in the UConn plans. The Fire Department is concerned that the development of any street design change is designed for their truck movement and that the plans incorporate the required turning requirements.

Mr. Needleman reported that the Town's Risk Management Consultant from CIRMA suggested the improvements should be approved by both planning and zoning. He also stated the Town should consider entering into a contract with UConn and that the school provide proof of liability and workers' compensation to the Town. The most important thing to consider is safety of the students and volunteers. He would also like to see the written plan of the improvements that are being implemented prior to the start of any of the projects.

Mr. Needleman discussed the student recommendations with the other Selectmen, and they all agreed the improvements at the top of Main Street could be implemented as well as the suggested improvement on Ferry Street. Once the final plans are drawn, the Selectmen would like to set and hold a public hearing to present the improvements and to gather feedback.

The Selectmen expressed their thanks and appreciation to the students who worked on this project. The Selectmen want to be very thoughtful on the decision to implement some of the ideas. The Selectmen will revisit the top of Main and Ferry Street and walk and look at the areas under consideration for improvements before asking the students to do any more work. The Selectmen would like to meet and discuss these projects with the Public Works Director and the Town Engineer.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to recommend the following **Board of Selectmen appointment** to a Special Town Meeting on March 4. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Park and Recreation Commission

Carolyn Field (alternate member).

Norman Needleman reported the following First Selectman appointment:

Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC)

Sharon K. Lewis

Schedule Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting

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Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 4:55 pm in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Vendor Policy and Procedures Discussion

There was discussion regarding vendors in Town and/or food trucks. The Selectmen would like to review the current vendor permit application. Mr. Needleman requested that CCM be contacted to gather information on other Towns who have food trucks and their licensing procedures and compare costs and procedures to a Town similar in size to Essex.

Sustainable Fund Campaign – Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussion (SEED)

The Sustainable CT committee is seeking donations to support the development and implementation of the Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussion series. The series is to create awareness of the local drivers of climate change.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli