

Disclaimer. Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2021**

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

Bruce Glowac called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen remote public access meeting. This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom Meeting.

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

Others in attendance: Kelly Sterner, Tracey Celentano, and Christopher Diakopoulos

First Selectman Needleman announced that audio attendees will be muted during the meeting except during public comment. Attendees were asked to please identify themselves for the record prior to making any comments.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the April 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence None

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to appoint William Paul Herlihy as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

There was discussion of publicizing all Town board and commission vacancies on the Town's social media. The Selectmen agreed to post the Park and Recreation alternate positions right away.

Schedule Public Hearing None

Disclaimer. Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 4:55 pm in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Capital Project List – American Rescue Plan

Mr. Needleman requested the Finance Director put together a list of priority capital projects for the Town. Some of the items on the list are police body cameras and servers to store the video, a new ambulance, air packs for the fire department, new Knox boxes, new radios, new auditorium and conference room technology, and a new truck for public works. It is anticipated that Essex will receive approximately \$658,351 from the American Rescue Plan funds and the Middlesex County funding is anticipated to be \$1,293,218. The total funding is anticipated to be \$1,951,568.

Employee Recognition – Outstanding Effort during COVID-19

Mr. Needleman mentioned that he would like to acknowledge employees for the work that is and was done during COVID-19. The Essex Town Hall, Essex Ambulance, and Essex Fire Department have gone above and beyond. There was discussion that the Selectmen would like to give a token of appreciation to everyone who worked through the pandemic. This would be a way of showing gratitude to everyone who worked for the Town and for coming in, working, and putting themselves at risk. The Selectmen discussed something worth considering is possibly showing their appreciation by giving everyone a gift card with funds from the American Rescue Plan, but we need to wait and see what the guidelines are. Mr. Glowac and Ms. Libby agreed that this would be an ideal way to recognize employees of the Town, but the gift card recipient list would need to be compiled carefully to ensure no one is left out.

Economic Development Commission – Ferry Street Project

There was discussion of creating a walking path for pedestrians on Ferry Street in Essex Village. This idea was researched and laid out with the UConn Engineering students. The Selectmen liked the idea in general and recommended the Town purchase flower boxes and flowers, rather than making the boxes. There was also discussion of signage on Ferry Street and/or purchasing some type of flashing signs to alert drivers when the road is turned into a two way when there is water over the road and cannot be driven on. The Selectmen further discussed that installing a permanent sidewalk along Ferry Street is a great idea and funds could be applied to that project during the next Connectivity Grant. There was discussion as to who would be responsible for the maintenance of the flowerpots. Maybe the Town could ask the Essex Garden Club to do the flowerpots on Ferry Street. The Town will purchase the flowerpots and the flowers.

Daffodils in Essex

The beautiful yellow daffodils around Essex look fantastic.

Student Presentation – DeVinney Property

A family has reached out to the Town to see if there is any interest in purchasing their vacant parcel of land located on South Main Street by the Old Saybrook line. The UCONN Landscape Architecture students, Class of 2022, developed conceptual designs and planting plans for the property for a school project, which will be presented on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 1 pm to 2:30 in the Essex

Disclaimer. Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

Town Hall Auditorium. Currently, the Town and the Land Trust do not have any interest in purchasing the land.

Transfer Station

Mr. Needleman reported that he had met with Bill Armstead to discuss the possibility of installing solar panels on the Transfer Station property. There is approximately .59 acres. There was discussion that if they built a small array on the property, it may work to power the transfer station, the town garage, and the animal control office. The Town will investigate this idea and will look at the current electricity usage over the course of the last year at the transfer station, public works, and the dog pound.

Public Works Offices and Break and Shower Room

Mr. Needleman reported that at some point the Town should make an investment and do some improvements in the public works offices and break room and some improvements to the animal control office.

Public Hearing

Public Hearing for the budget is Thursday, April 22 at 7:30 via Zoom and in-person in the auditorium.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli