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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
July 15, 2020**

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

Norman Needleman 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.

The Board of Selectmen and attendees went around the room and announced themselves.

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 Bruce Glowac to approve the Agenda. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the June 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Norman Needleman announced the Town Hall will be opening the auditorium to Essex Boards and Commissions on Monday, July 20, 2020 for meetings. There will be guidelines, which will be sent to Board and Commission Chairmen.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions None

Planning and Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Needleman reported that the Town is working on merging the Planning Commission and Zoning Commissions. The Town attorney is working on the ordinance. The combined planning and zoning ordinance will be presented at the August 19th Board of Selectmen Meeting. A Public Hearing will be scheduled, and the ordinance will be approved at a Town Meeting.

There was discussion that the new Planning and Zoning Ordinance members will consist of select members from the existing two commissions. Members will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen who will then be approved by the legislative body at a Town meeting.

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There was discussion that the new Ordinance will have 10 members consisting of 7 regular and 3 alternates.

Ralph Monaco reported that he is the most senior member on the Planning Commission and has been on the commission for more than 16 years. Mr. Monaco reported that the Planning Commission has worked well, and the commission work has declined due to there not being any subdivisions, although work on the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is substantial. Mr. Monaco stated that he believes a combined P&Z is going to mean more work for the commissioners. Mr. Monaco reported that the Planning Commission doesn't always meet every month and he felt that the current Planning Commission is working just fine the way it is and has done so for many years. But he is deferring to the Selectmen in doing what is best for the Town.

Mr. Glowac thanked Mr. Monaco for his opinion and for his years of service. But Mr. Glowac does feel that merging the two commission is the best way to go and he believes it will help expedite planning and zoning processes.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

There was discussion of locations for an electric vehicle charging station. The Selectmen thought that downtown would be an ideal place. The Selectmen agreed that the installation of an electric vehicle charging station in the Town of Essex is a great idea.

Mr. Mark de Jongh, a member of Sustainable CT, stated they are looking at locations in Town. He reported that Sustainable CT saw a need of having a station because people come to this Town to shop and it would be nice to have a local charging station that can be used when people are shopping.

Locations that are being considered are in the Essex Post Office parking lot, the Ivoryton Green lot, and the commuter parking lot near Route 9. The Route 9 parking lot is not ideal because it is too far from shops.

There was discussion of costs associated in connecting the stations to a power supply. Mr. de Jongh reported the cost is approximately \$14,000. Half of the costs would be covered by a grant and the other half would be raised with donations and fundraisers.

Once installed, the charging station will take credit card payments. The Selectmen discussed whether the Town could pay for a couple of years, if it could afford to do so. The Selectmen agreed that it would be nice to do it as a trial for 6 months or a year. The estimated cost is \$2.50 for 3 hours of charging or \$1,000 - \$1,500 annually. There was further discussion of the possibility of giving the first hour of charge free and the owner paying for any additional hours.

The Board of Selectmen reported they would like to go out and visit the installation site once it is determined.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve and recommend the installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the Town of Essex in an agreeable location by all. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Mark de Jongh reported that once the money has been raised, they will schedule a meeting with the vendor at the proposed location and will invite and include the Board of Selectmen for a site visit.

Board of Selectmen Meetings

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to cancel the August 5, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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Neighborhood Assistance Act

Bruce Glowac reported that they received an application under the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. The Neighborhood Assistance Act is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to these entities. The application process requires a public hearing and approval by the governing body of the municipality.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act application. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Bruce Glowac reported that all Neighborhood Assistance Act applications that are submitted require that the Town hold a Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to hold and schedule the Neighborhood Assistance Act Application Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Set Town Meeting None

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

There was discussion of Natural Disasters during a pandemic and how the Town of Essex needs to be prepared when and if we open the tri-town shelter.

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/public-disaster-shelter-during-covid.html>

There was discussion regarding Alfresco Thursday and making sure everyone is practicing social distancing and wearing masks. There was discussion that there can be family groups together, but groups must be socially distanced.

There was discussion that the Town is receiving anonymous complaints about Essex residents traveling and posting photographs of their travels on social media. The Town strongly recommends that everyone who travels out of state and then returns to Essex quarantine for 14 days to help prevent the spread of COVID.

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli