

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
September 2, 2020**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 August 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Public Announcements / Comment:

The Town is seeking bids on the Sidewalk Renovation Project in Main Street Centerbrook. Information on the project can be found on the Town Web Site. The mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the project site on Friday, September 11th at 10:00 am. Bids are due by Friday, September 18th at 2:00 pm at which time the bids received will be immediately publicly opened and read aloud.

The Town is currently paving sidewalks in front of the Essex Ambulance Barn and finishing up the sidewalks along and in front of the Centerbrook Architects area.

The Town recently contracted and purchased Dude Solutions which is a software program to help simplify managing the maintenance, operations, and reporting of the Public Works Department. The kickoff meeting will be mid-September and employee training will be set up the end of September and early October.

The Town purchased 10 Verkada security cameras which will be installed during the month of September at the Town Hall, the Public Works Gate, the Animal Control Building, and the Transfer Station.

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OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions None

Planning and Zoning Ordinance

There was discussion on combining the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission Ordinances. There was also discussion regarding staggering the terms of the appointments which will be discussed further at the public hearing.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve and add the Ordinance Repealing Prior Ordinances Establishing the Essex Zoning Commission and the Essex Planning Commission and Establishing in Place Thereof a Combined Planning and Zoning Commission to a Public Hearing and a Special Town Meeting for the Legislative Body's approval. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

The Selectmen discussed and want to know what the proper procedures are for holding a Town Meeting during this pandemic. The Selectmen are interested in knowing how other Towns are handling and holding legislative body approval meetings. What is the process of getting ordinances approved if we cannot hold a live and in person meeting? Can you have a Town Meeting by Zoom. How do you validate that all attendees on Zoom are Essex residents? Mr. Needleman asked that the Town Attorney be contacted to determine how best to hold a Town Meeting.

Resolution – Equality Act

John Board reported he has requested Essex approve a resolution and support the rights, freedoms, and equality of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. Mr. Board would like to get as many resolutions approved from surrounding Towns as possible.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the Equality Act Resolution (copy attached). Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to hold and schedule a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Set Town Meeting 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 of 25 mph.

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Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set the River Road Speed to 25 mph. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Re-Opening Committee

Stacia Libby reported the re-opening committee met yesterday and there are concerns about the continuation of staffing Town Hall entrance because the students who were working as door greeters have gone back to school and are no longer available. Mr. Needleman stated that at this time he has no intention of hiring a door greeter and he would like the Park and Recreation department to continue coordinating the coverage.

Door Buzzing Entry System

The Selectmen discussed the possibility of obtaining a quote for a camera and an electronic locking system at the entrance of the Town Hall.

Connectivity Grant Discussion

The selectmen discussed the possibility of applying for the next Connectivity Grant to install sidewalks along River Road. There was further discussion regarding the bridge along this route that will need to be replaced in the next few years. The bridge replacement would include a pedestrian bridge and would not be part of the grant application.

Baptist Church Clock

Baptist Church Clerk Mary Ann Blank asked if the Town could help with costs associated with repairing a leak in the tower of the First Baptist Church. The Selectmen said that unfortunately, the Town only assists with the Town clock and not the church building or the church tower.

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



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Board of Selectmen:

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TOWN OF ESSEX

WHEREAS, members of this Board of Selectman support the rights, freedoms, and equality of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ+), and;

WHEREAS, the modern history of the LGBTQ community started with individuals who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969, and;

WHEREAS, decisive moments in the history are the story of the LGBTQ community and have put our nation on a positive course to achieving full equality, and;

WHEREAS, individuals of this town who are LGBTQ have made and continue to make, vital contributions to every aspect of our town, including in the fields of education, law, health, science, business, research, economic development, architecture, fashion, sport, technology, music, civil rights, politics, and;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in 2015 recognized the marriage of same-sex couples under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Essex:

1. Recognizes that LGBTQ rights are human rights and are Constitutionally protected;
2. Recognizes that all residents should be treated fairly and equally regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;
3. Agrees that the Town of Essex must strive to ensure that the promise of equality is realized for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX, that we hereby declare our endorsement and lend our support for the federally proposed Equality Act (H.R. 5, 119th Congress).

Norman M. Needleman
First Selectman

Stacia R. Libby
Selectman

Bruce M. Glowac
Selectman

