

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 MINUTES
April 3, 2024**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Norman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen in person and remote public access meeting via Zoom.

Others in attendance: Finance Director Tracey Celentano, Kelly Sterner.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business 7H. Thatchbed Island. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes and the March 13, 2024 Budget Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Norman reported he met with residents and had a compliment on public works crew and town hall employees.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Committee: Mr. Glowac reported the RFP for the public safety complex was posted and the Town received 9 responses. The plan is for the committee to look over the bids and the committee will meet next week and will select three firms to interview.

Signage Selectman Stacia Libby reported she has been meeting with Public Works Director Ryan Welch and a representative from Signs and Graphics. A quote for \$2,900 was received with a proposal to repaint and change out the hardware and move the sign in front of the Firehouse. The refurbished sign would be installed 10' from the curb so it would be out of State's right of way.

Selectmen Glowac and Needleman discussed additional details that should be incorporated into the signs or details that should be omitted from the signs and potential other locations for Welcome to Essex signs.

Selectman Libby reported she would go back to the Public Works Director with these new ideas.

250th Anniversary – July 4, 2026 Selectman Libby reported she met with a small group this afternoon to start the initial planning. There was discussion that there should be a commission that

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

should be appointed with terms that would end on December 31, 2026. Eventually a letter will be sent to everyone involved to start thinking of a variety of ideas for this year long event. The next planning meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2024 at 3 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to accept the resignation of Brian Weinstein from the Harbor Management Commission. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to appoint Kenneth Thompson as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried. This appointment requires a Town Meeting.

VACANCIES:

Park & Recreation Commission

Vacancy (alternate)

CT Water's Customer Advisory Council (CAC)

Connecticut Water & Marine Water is asking the Town to appoint a resident of the community who is a customer of Connecticut Water to serve on CT Water's Customer Advisory Council (CAC). The purpose of the council is to enhance communications with their customers and communities. The meetings are held every 3 to 6 months via Zoom. Please let Selectman Needleman know if you are interested in representing the Town of Essex or call 860-767-4340 x 112 for more information.

Open Town Board and Commission positions can be found at

https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3116/f/uploads/boards_and_commissions_website_30.pdf

The application to join a Board or Commission can be found at:

https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3116/f/file/file/application_to_volunteer_for_board_or_commission_fillable_4_13_18.pdf

Board of Selectmen Meetings

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to move the Board of Selectmen Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm to May 22 at 6:00 pm. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. All in favor.

Sidewalk Deep River Road Centerbrook

There was discussion of the hazardous condition of the sidewalk near the Veterans Hall. The sidewalk is on a state road and the Town would need to submit an encroachment request to DOT to do any repairs. There was further discussion of the Town just removing the sidewalk to alleviate the hazards and restoring the area back to a lawn.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to remove the hazardous sidewalk contingent on Department of Transportation's approval. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

American Rescue Plan Funds:

Terry Stewart, from the Harbor Management Commission, reported on the dock on Mack Lane that comes off its pilings from time to time. The dock needs to be stabilized by adding necessary pilings and bringing the dock up to DEEP standards.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve and recommend to Board of Finance an appropriation in the amount of \$12,500 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the repairs to the Mack Lane Dock. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Capital Asset Management Policy

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to table the Capital Asset Management Policy (on file in the Town Clerk's Office). Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to move the scheduled April 17, 2024 Public Hearing to Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Public Hearing to discuss the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management 2022 Small Town Economic Assistant Program (STEAP) Grant program and to solicit citizen input on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 immediately following the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Thatchbed Island

Jeff Going gave updates on the Thatchbed Island project. Mr. Going reported the project is expected to take three years with a budget around \$800,000 - \$900,000. Mr. Going reported that he is working on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) pre-proposal grant application with Carey Duques and John Guskowski. Kathleen Staley has also been assisting with the narrative.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and recommend the Town apply to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

There was discussion of applying for another grant that could possibly cover the cost of dredging. The current cost of dredging is approximately \$50 a cubic yard and there are approximately 7,000 cubic yards dredged.

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

There was discussion of applying for the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPPP) Round 4 (2024). These funds are to improve the economic viability of harbors and waterways.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and recommend the Town of Essex apply to the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program Found 4 (2024). Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Selectman Needleman mentioned that he would submit a letter of recommendation from his senate office for one or both grant applications.

General Discussion

Selectman Needleman reported the MIRA contract was renewed for one more year.

There was discussion of the rising water on Ferry Street. There is going to be a need over the next 20 years to mitigate climate change. The road will eventually wash away or we will have to install some type of buffers or find some type of mitigation.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli