

**T.O.H.P. Burnham Library**

Present: Chairman Jeffrey D. Jones, Selectman Lisa J. O'Donnell, Selectman Susan Gould-Coviello, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham.

Also Present: Bill Bradford, Jean Grobe, Jay and Lynne Havighurst, Kristen Weiss, Lee Spence, Robert Coviello, Westley Burnham, Kim Drake, Corey Jackson, Dexter Doane, Bill French, Jason Heath, Simone Early, Michael Strohman, and Scott Woodward.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the T.O.H.P. Burnham Library and announced that the Board would hear Public Comment.

Bill Bradford came before the Selectmen to say that the Essex Lions Club is unhappy with the placement of their shipbuilding monument over at Town Landing and that they would like to move it to a piece of land next to the new Riverside Bistro restaurant on the causeway. They have gotten permission from the new owner of the restaurant. Mr. Bradford said that he met recently with the Building Inspector to ask about set-backs, etc. and the Building Inspector expressed no concerns about locating the monument next to the restaurant. Mr. Bradford said that he wanted to inform the Selectmen of the Essex Lions Club's intention to move the monument to either the restaurant location or across the street to land owned by Ed Perkins next to the Spar Pit. The monument could be moved next the restaurant as soon as the dumpster that is occupying that space currently is removed. Mr. Bradford said that ideally, his group would like to see the monument placed on Mr. Perkins' land, but that there are a lot of conservation restrictions to work through before that can happen. In the meantime, they would like it placed next to the restaurant. The Selectmen said that they would take the matter under advisement. Mr. Bradford thanked the Selectmen and left the meeting.

At 7:01 p.m., the Chairman entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing concerning the formation of a Cultural District. The motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted. The Chairman asked Jean Grobe to briefly describe her progress regarding a proposal to establish a cultural district in Essex. Jean said that she and a group of business people in Town have been working with the State to complete an application to establish a cultural district in Essex. She introduced Jay and Lynne Havighurst, Kristen Weiss from Cogswell's Grant, and Les Spence, the new president of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum. They are currently working on a map of the proposed district and it is almost completed. Those present spoke about the benefits to the Town that might be realized by having a designated cultural district. Following a question and answer period, the Chairman entertained a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to appoint Jean Grobe to the Essex Cultural Council. Ms. Grobe will serve as the liaison between the Selectmen and the Council on this project. Selectman Gould-Coviello read a proposed resolution of the Essex Board of Selectmen to create a Cultural District. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve and sign the resolution. Another motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve and sign a letter of support for the proposed district outside of a Selectmen's meeting once it is available. Everyone thanked the Selectmen and Jean Grobe, Jay and Lynne Havighurst, Kristen Weiss, and Les Spence left the meeting.

In other business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$109,883.74.

The Selectmen were reminded that the next Board of Selectmen's meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the T.O.H.P. Burnham Library on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The members of the Planning Board joined the Selectmen along with the candidates for appointment to a vacant Planning Board seat. Everyone present introduced themselves and then the Chairman suggested that each candidate tell those present about themselves and their reasons for seeking the appointment to the Planning Board. This was followed by questions to the candidates. At the conclusion of the question and discussion period, it was decided to vote for each of the candidates by Roll Call Vote. The first vote resulted in a tie and it was decided to vote once more in the hopes of having one candidate achieve a majority vote. The second Roll Call Vote resulted in Simone Early receiving the majority of votes. The Selectmen congratulated Ms. Early on her appointment and thanked the other two candidates for their interest. The Chairman also urged the two candidates to consider running for election to the Planning Board at next year's May elections. The Planning Board members and candidates left the meeting.

The Selectmen discussed Mr. Bradford's proposal to move the shipbuilding monument to the causeway. The Selectmen had reached agreement in the past to the effect that after the pocket parks have been established, the Town Landing area would be redesigned with the monument becoming the centerpiece for that area. They agreed that they are still in favor of the monument as part of the new Town Landing landscape. They agreed to ask the Town Administrator to communicate their opinion regarding placement of the monument to Mr. Bradford, although the Essex Lions own the monument and they will be placing it on private land.

On a related matter, Mr. Bradford had voiced concern about the old information booth at Town Landing detracting from the monument. The Selectmen resolved to determine who owned the booth/shed and to see if it could be recycled for another use at a different location such as Centennial Grove.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa J. O'Donnell