

## Sep 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m. EDC Meeting Minutes - Virtual

- Attendees:
  - Jodi Harris, Tina Lane, Martha Mazzarino, Georgeanne Richards, Desiree Comb, Ryan Madrigal, Resident Shelly Bradbury, Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, Town Planner Dana Menon, Selectman Ruth Pereen
- Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by Chairman Harris.
- Public Comment: None
- Minutes from the 8/11/22 virtual meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting
- Centennial Grove Pavilion
  - Brendhan reported that Dan Mayer identified an area to place the structure. It will be moved left of the original pavilion where the grade is easier to make it ADA compliant.
  - Dan offered to donate his time like to clear the undergrowth to open the view to the lake
  - Footings can be poured in late fall for a spring project. Raw wood is split ready for the joiner.
  - Possibly available for use Summer '23 if ATM approves tight tank and bathroom structure
  - Jodi reported that she, Ruth, Brendhan, Donna Roy and Dan Mayer discussed that a monolithic slab floor would be easier to clean and longer lasting than a wood floor. Inside and outside lighting, bathroom and trash decisions need to be made
  - Donna had suggested the cottage has corporate events potential for us in the late afternoon to evening rentals
- Economic Development Conference recap – Dana Menon
  - Dana presented a brief overview slide show of her 4-day training in New York. She will make the presentation available to committee members and has much more detailed info for those interested
  - Jodi asked what she viewed were the 3 key items relevant to Essex
    - Business retention and expansion including improved connection to Chamber and Enterprise Center resources
    - Doing Business in Essex Guide. Website improvements and updates will make it easier for businesses to access information
    - Strategic Plan and Work Plan for consistency through committee chair and staff changes
- FTM warrant update – Brendhan Zubricki
  - BOS is on board with EDC recommendations. Brendhan has drafted the articles for their review at 9/26 meeting
    - 1. Auth BOS to convey identified town parcels on Gregory Island
    - 2. Creation of Stabilization Fund to establish, maintain & beautify areas under the town's ownership and control that contribute to placemaking
    - 3. Funding for near term improvements to maintain & beautify areas under the town's ownership and control
    - 4. Add money to the 160K grant, 50K state earmark and any contributions from Light up Essex, to complete more lighting outside the grant
      - Zone 1- area with existing conduit funded by grant
      - Zone 2 - area with existing conduit without funding
      - Zone 3 – areas on either end where conduit ends
        - Jodi asked if solar could be considered in this zone. Brendhan reported there are options that are not tried & tested. The solar lights should look like the selected wired lights

- Ryan inquired about the large parcels on Southern Ave. Brendhan said that there are too many abutters to track down. Jodi suggested finding a volunteer to do title searches and Brendhan said that would be ok if such a volunteer exists.
- Ryan inquired about parcels entering Conomo. Brendhan shared that wetlands, no year round water or sewer & bedrock are issues at those parcels
- Jodi opened the discussion for specific projects for FTM request
  - Ryan inquired about many project possibilities. Questions and responses include:
    - Small parcel across from police station? Parcel was town dog pound and is land locked by privately owned land
    - Parking at Googan's Galley? Parking along the road in this area was included in the downtown parking study
    - Boardwalk across the marsh (tennis court to pocket park)? Many parcels are privately owned preventing this
    - Pocket parks: do they have to be green, or can they be a patio area with table and benches? They do not have to be green space
  - Tina asked where the pocket parks are located. Brendhan listed: In front of the Village Restaurant, traffic islands at Southern Ave, Martin St, Western Ave, Spring St, benches all along the causeway
    - Jodi inquired about chain link fence by Sea Meadow. Shelly was invited to comment about laser cut panels instead of a chain link fence at Eben's Creek to enhance the look. Jodi offered that could be considered for the fence near Sea Meadow
    - Coordination of plantings at pocket parks could create a theme for the town beautification effort and assist in wayfinding.
  - Dana asked about defining an edge for the boat parking area by the tennis courts. Brendhan said that the DPW would need to be included in that discussion
  - Tina suggested highlighting the staircase access from the Village to the town lot could join the causeway area to the Memorial Park space. Brendhan shared that the staircase is not maintained year-round. Ryan said that the lot is already very full in the summer.
  - Potential use of the green space at the new pumper building was discussed. Suggestions to create a gathering space included Bocce court, tables, benches, and shade trees.
  - Jodi encouraged committee members to take pictures of the sites along the causeway for short term projects
- Next EDC meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, 10/13/22 at 7:00.
- Meeting Adjourned 8:46

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Lane