

Released September 2016

ESSEX FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBER, GATEWAY BEAUTIFICATION PLANS

Strickland Hyde III joins leadership team, Matthew Verry contracted for landscape design project

Essex, CT – 2016 has been an active year for members of The Essex Foundation Board of Directors. Most recently they expanded the organization's leadership ranks with the election of Strickland Hyde III to the Board of Directors. They also furthered their commitment to beautifying the Route 9/Exit 3 gateway by hiring Matthew Verry Landscape Design to oversee the new project. The addition of Mr. Hyde to the Board brings the total number of members to seven, including President Bruce Glowac, Vice President Jay Tonks, Treasurer Herbert Clark III, Secretary Judy Bombaci, Eve Potts, and James Clark. Mr. Hyde, known as "Strick" to all in the community, is a life-long Essex resident and community volunteer. He is president of the Essex Fire Department Association, Inc, and recently retired from 45 years of service as a member and officer of the Essex Fire Department (Essex Fire Engine Company #1). Mr. Hyde was also an active member of the Essex Park and Recreation Commission, and part of the volunteer team that helped expand the town's youth camp and sports programs. He was first introduced to the Essex Foundation through his late brother David Hyde, who was a founder and past president, and looks forward to continuing the family legacy of community stewardship.

The gateway beautification project includes plans for a phased installation of plantings along the intersection of Route 153 and Route 154 in the Route 9/ Exit 3 underpass area. Mr. Verry, a graduate of the University of Connecticut's Landscape Architecture program, will be responsible for the planning and



coordination of the work. His company, Matthew Verry Landscape Design, was contracted to provide landscape design and oversee the state approval/plant installation bid process, which will happen over the next year. The Foundation's goal is to begin installation of some trees, shrubs, and flowering plants by early spring 2017.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA: *Essex Foundation board members welcome Strick Hyde to the charitable organization. Seated from left-right are Eve Potts, Strick Hyde, and Judy Bombaci. Standing from left to right are Jim Clark, Jay Tonks, Bruce Glowac, and Herb Clark.*