

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4530 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Frank Glista called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
2. **ROLL:** Present were Chairman Frank Glista, Don Smith, Ron Russo, Donna Walsh, Craig Marr, Betty Combs, Janice Falcone and Town Council Liaison, Tom Gentz.
3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2015 & SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 MEETING:** Craig Marr motioned to accept the minutes and Donna Walsh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**
 - (a) Friends of Ninigret - Ron Russo reported that the FON is planning a festival for 2016.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - (a) Business Leaders Input - 2015 EIC/CCOC Business Survey - The commission will request that the Tax Assessor, Ken Swain help the EIC review and summarize the data in a future workshop. The CCOC would like a copy of the report.
 - (b) Town Business Map - The Chairman has distributed several thousand copies of the map to local businesses. The commission has more copies to distribute.
 - (c) Town Website - The work continues on categorizing the businesses in town.
 - (d) Comprehensive Plan - Nothing new to report on the Comprehensive Plan.
6. **SPECIAL PROJECTS/ACTION ITEMS:**
 - (a) Fire Station Memorial Park - No progress or update.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - (a) Eco Tourism - The commission reviewed the map detailing areas of open space and walking trails. There are many eco tourism opportunities in town which could be promoted through Parks and Recreation and the CCOC.
 - (b) 2008 Planning Department Survey - Impacts on Local Businesses During Major Festivals in Ninigret Park - The Chairman passed out a copy of the 2008 report by the Planning Department for the Town Council for the commission's review.
 - (c) Charlestown Arts/CHARTS - Leah Grear, co-founder of HOPARTS provided the commission with insight on the HOPARTS event and the organization. Leah emphasized the need to develop a mission statement to provide focus and create a sustainable event.
8. **COMMUNICATIONS:** John Riendeau, Director of Business Development Rhode Island Commerce has been asked to attend our February meeting.
9. **OPEN SESSION:** Janice Falcone discussed the land adjacent to the CCOC owned by Westerly Sanitation and the need to clean up the property.
10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
11. **NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS:** Set for 9:00 am Thursday, December 17, 2015 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 11:12 am on motion by Donna Walsh seconded by Janice Falcone. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary, Don Smith