

## **Economic Improvement Commission Minutes**

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4530 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Frank Glista called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.
2. ROLL: Present were Chairman Frank Glista, Janice Falcone, Betty Combs, Don Smith, Ron Russo and Town Council Liaison, Paula Andersen. Bob Beggs was absent.
3. MINUTES: A motion to accept the minutes of January 23, 2014, was unanimously approved on a motion from Janice Falcone and seconded by Betty Combs.
4. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:
  - (a) Friends of Ninigret - The Town Council increased the membership of the F.O.N. from 3 to 5.
5. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
  - (a) Business Use Table/Guide/Website - GIS Specialist, Steve McCandless presented the GIS update on the town web site. This is a valuable tool for commercial and residential users in the town.
  - (b) Sign Ordinance - The EIC will meet on April 10 to review the sign ordinance.
6. SPECIAL PROJECTS:
  - (a) Fire Station Park - It was reported that the Fire District is getting close to making a decision on the disposition of the old firehouse.
7. NEW BUSINESS:
  - (a) Business Leaders Input - N/A
  - (b) Ninigret Master Plan - The Town Council will be reviewing the fee structure for Ninigret Park. It was reported that Parks and Recreation was preparing an advisory opinion.
  - (c) Marketing Strategy - The Charlestown Arts & Crafts Ramble Questionnaire was reviewed by the commission. It would ask local business owners to provide feedback on the Ramble to improve the event. Janice Falcone moved to canvass the local business. Betty Combs seconded the motion.
  - (d) Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations -
    - Ordinance #362 amending Zoning Ordinance District Map (Map 17, Lot 185)**  
This would change the zoning of parcel in question from commercial to residential. The commission's concern was that the change would reduce the amount of property available for commercial development.
    - Ordinance #363 amending chapter 218-39 – Zoning, Parking**  
This would change the rules regarding parking commercial vehicles on owned property.
    - Ordinance #364 amending chapter 155 –Nuisances**  
This would change the rules regarding extracted materials.
8. COMMUNICATIONS:
  - (a) The Chairman reported that he asked the Budget Commission to increase the EIC budget to \$1000.
  - (b) The Chairman will meet with the Chamber of Commerce Board and request that a member of their board become a permanent member of the EIC. This may require a change in our charter.
9. OPEN SESSION: Packet, including a business survey, was sent to commission members and will be reviewed at our next meeting.
10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
11. NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS - Set for 9:00 AM Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room.
12. ADJOURNMENT: At 11:32 AM on motion by Janice Falcone seconded by Betty Combs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary, Don Smith