

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a special meeting on Friday, April 30, 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 9:01 AM.
2. **ROLL:** Present were Chairman Frank Glista, Don Smith, Ron Russo, Craig Marr, Betty Combs, Donna Walsh and Town Council Liaison, Tom Gentz. EIC member Janice Falcone was unable to attend. Nancy Letendre, Principal Planner at Mason Associates, Inc. and Jane Weidman, Interim Town Planner attended.

The Chairman asked for a motion to suspend the published agenda to allow Faith LaBossiere to present an update on the Bicycles Pathway Project. Craig Marr motioned to suspend and was seconded by Donna Walsh. The motion was unanimously approved by the commission.

Faith provided a narrative on the history of the pathway and the research that has been completed. She displayed a map of the proposal for Ninigret Park and the opportunities presented. A fund raiser "Parade of Bikes" is planned for Memorial Day.

3. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meetings of March 12, March 26 and April 2, 2015 were unanimously approved on separate motions from Ron Russo, seconded by Betty Combs, Craig Marr, seconded by Donna Walsh and Craig Marr, seconded by Donna Walsh.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

(a) **Business Leaders Input - 2015 EIC/CCOC "Business Survey"** - The Chairman reported that the survey was sent to 351 local and neighboring businesses. To date, 40 have been returned. The committee will spreadsheet the data and Nancy Letendre and Jane Weidman will investigate recommending outside sources to help in interpreting the data and drawing conclusions for the responses.

(b) **Town Business Map/Update** - The Chairman asked for help in identifying the exact locations of the brick and mortar business in town.

(c) **Comprehensive Plan Element #7** - Nancy Letendre, Principal Planner at Mason Associates, Inc., presented and reviewed what has been assembled to date on the Comprehensive Plan Element #7. Betty Combs suggested that the element include specific economic information. The Commission felt that the title "Economic Sustainability" was limiting and should be changed to include "and Opportunity". After the EIC has compiled the results of the Business Survey, Nancy Letendre will review them and add relevant comments to the plan.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dr. Lewis Johnson asked to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss town's Lighting Ordinance.

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS** - Set for 9:00 AM Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 10:58 AM on motion by Craig Marr, seconded by Betty Combs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary, Don Smith