

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2106 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, Don Smith, Ron Russo, Donna Walsh, Craig Marr, Betty Combs, Janice Falcone and Town Council liaison, Tom Gentz.
3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MEETING:** Betty Combs motioned to accept the minutes and Craig Marr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**
 - (a) Friends of Ninigret - Ron Russo reported that the FON have quarterly meetings planned in 2016.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - (a) Business Leaders Input - 2015 EIC / CCOC "Business Survey" - The Chairman will check on Ken Swains availability and schedule for a future meeting.
 - (b) Town Business Map - The Chairman has maps available for the commission 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) 2008 Planning Department Survey - Impacts on Local Businesses During Major Festivals in Ninigret Park - The commission reviewed the study and the consensus was that business community would like more events since they benefit their businesses.
 - (b) Charlestown Arts / CHARTS - The commission reviewed their action items and reported on the progress. The date of September 3 was validated as the first choice and commission members will check with artists to determine availability; the locations of Quonnie Grange, Cross Mills Library, General Stanton Inn and the Charlestown Gallery were confirmed as available; St. Andrew's Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit could serve as back up locations; a modest registration fee of \$25 will be charged; commission members will solicit sponsors for the event; a reception will be held at the Charlestown Gallery after the event. Ron Russo will check on the signs.
 - (c) Eco Tourism - The Chairman will speak with the Conservation Commission on their evaluation of the potential for promoting Eco Tourism in Charlestown.
8. **COMMUNICATIONS:** The Chairman will contact John Riendeau, Director of Business Development for Rhode Island Commerce to speak at a future meeting. The Commission reviewed a memo from George Tremblay, Town Council member, concerning a proposal to require businesses to use paper bags and biodegradable containers to reduce the solid waste and pollution generated by the disposal of single use plastic bags and polystyrene containers. The commission felt that a unilateral action by Charlestown was not in our best interests. The commission also reviewed a proposal for a new fee structure for Ninigret Park which was based on the percentage of acre/hr. use of the park.
9. **OPEN SESSION:** No comments.
10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
11. **NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS:** Set for 9:00 am Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 11:02 am on motion by Janice Falcone seconded by Craig Marr. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary, Don Smith