

## **Economic Improvement Commission Minutes**

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 23, 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 9:03 AM.
2. ROLL: Present were Chairman Frank Glista, Janice Falcone, Betty Combs, Bob Beggs, Ron Russo and Town Council Liaison, Paula Andersen. Don Smith was absent.
3. MINUTES: A motion to accept the minutes of December 5, 2013, was unanimously approved on a motion from Betty Combs and seconded by Ron Russo.
4. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:
  - (a) Friends of Ninigret - It was reported that the Town Council amended Ordinance #361 Chapter 158 (Friends of Ninigret) to allow an increase in membership from 3 to 5.
5. OLD/BUSINESS:
  - (a) Business Use Table/Guide/Website - The commission prioritized items that it wishes to see on the town's web site. Chairman Frank Glista will provide Ken Swain, web site coordinator, with a detailed list.
  - (b) Sign Ordinance - A Special EIC Meeting will be scheduled to review the ordinance and identify problem areas.
6. SPECIAL PROJECTS:
  - (a) Fire Station Park - No updates.
7. NEW BUSINESS:
  - (a) Business Leaders Input - Dave Gilstein, Charlestown Gallery and Kate Bussey, Mills Creek Natural Market gave brief overviews of their businesses and stated that the impact from tourism is extremely beneficial to all local businesses. Concerns were expressed about the lack of cohesiveness (no true "downtown" area) with our businesses, signage, detailed maps and overbearing regulations.
  - (b) Ninigret Master Plan - Town Council Liaison, Paula Andersen discussed the revised Ninigret Park Master Plan and potential fee structure for park usage.
  - (c) Marketing Strategy - Advertising, maps and signage were all discussed.
8. COMMUNICATIONS: The chairman read from recent newspaper articles that dealt with tourism and economic improvement.
9. OPEN SESSION: No comments.
10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
11. NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS - Set for 9:00 AM Thursday, February 27, 2014 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room.
12. ADJOURNMENT: At 11:00 AM on motion by Betty Combs seconded by Janice Falcone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Acting Secretary, Frank Glista