

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4530 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Betty Combs called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
2. ROLL: Present were Chair Betty Combs, Janice Falcone, Craig Marr, Donna Walsh, Dominic DellaVolpe and Town Council liaison Tom Gentz. Don Smith was unable to attend.
3. MINUTES FROM MEETING OF September 22, 2016 – The minutes from September 22nd were approved unanimously on a motion from Craig Marr, seconded by Donna Walsh.
4. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS (CURRENT MEMBERS) MEMBER REPLACEMENTS - Betty informed us that Ron Russo decided not to be re-appointed to the EIC and that we currently have one vacancy.
5. REVIEW EVALUATION OF CHARTS PROJECT – Donna Walsh met with two artists and received feedback from a survey. Artists were pleased but requested one venue and a different date next year. Betty made a motion that the EIC continue to lead the CHARTS Project for 2017 – Craig seconded and all in favor.
6. LOCAL BUSINESS PROJECT – Dominic presented a summary of the responses from the April 2015 survey. The EIC unanimously decided that the results from the survey be shared with business owners at the Local Business Forum (see 7. below).
7. PLANS FOR THE LOCAL BUSINESS FORUM – EIC tentatively set a date of January 24, 2017 (snow date January 31, 2017) to hold the Local Business Forum at The Breachway Grill from 10:00 – noon. Craig motioned that the EIC invite Elizabeth Tanner from the RI Commerce Corp. to attend our next monthly meeting and potentially get her on the agenda for the Forum. Donna seconded the motion; all in favor.
8. FRIENDS OF NINIGRET PARK: No report
9. PUBLIC COMMENT: Faith LaBossiere presented on behalf of the Bicycle Pathway Ad Hoc Committee to introduce the mission and progress of the Committee and ask for EIC support.
10. NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS - Set for 9:00 am Thursday, November 17, 2016 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room. December meeting set for December 22, 2016. EIC will invite the Town Planner, Jane Weidman, to present and review the Charlestown Comprehensive Plan with us at our November meeting. As noted above, Elizabeth Tanner will be contacted to present at the EIC November 17, 2016 meeting. Tom Gentz is stepping down from the Town Council and will no longer be attending EIC meetings.
11. ADJOURNMENT: At 10:22 am on motion by Craig Marr seconded by Donna Walsh. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic DellaVolpe