

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4530 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Craig Marr called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.
2. ROLL: Present were Chair Craig Marr, Irwin Birnbaum, Town Council Liaison Deb Carney, Dominic DellaVolpe, Lorna Persson, Donna Walsh and Victoria Wicks.
3. MINUTES FROM MEETING OF November 21, 2019 - The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. DellaVolpe gave the Treasurer's Report. Expenses for the 2019 Ramble were on budget. The current EIC budget is on target for fiscal year 2020 and the 2021 budget request has been submitted at the same amount as the previous year. The budget report was approved unanimously.
5. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Ms. Carney informed the Commission that the Town has hired a new IT staff person and that the RFP for a Town-wide survey has produced three bids.
6. 2019 HOLIDAY RAMBLE REVIEW: Mr. DellaVolpe provided a review of the results of the recent Holiday Ramble from a report compiled by Ms. Lauren Classey. The report included lessons learned from the extension to two days and possible changes for next year. Commission members also discussed the possibility of supporting a similar event in spring or early summer in order to showcase local businesses before the regular summer season. A motion was made by Ms. Wicks and seconded by Mr. Birnbaum to recommend that the Town Council provide a citation in recognition of Ms. Classey's Chairmanship of the successful 2019 Holiday Ramble. The motion was passed unanimously.
7. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DETAIL REVIEW: The Commission members and Ms. Carney had a robust discussion of the current draft of the Economic Opportunity Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and intends to provide extensive comments after a working session at the next regular Commission meeting.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
9. NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS - The Commission will meet January 23, 2020 at Town Hall. Agenda topics will include an introductory conversation with the Town's new IT staff person and the Executive Director of the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce to explore synergies between the Town and Chamber websites and development of comments on the Economic Opportunity Chapter of the Charlestown Comprehensive Plan.
10. ADJOURNMENT: The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Wicks
Acting Secretary