

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday,
July 25, 2019 at Charlestown Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Craig Marr called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
2. ROLL: Present were Chair Craig Marr, Dominic DellaVolpe, Donna Walsh and Victoria Wicks.
3. MINUTES FROM MEETING OF June 27, 2019 - The minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Mr. DellaVolpe.
4. TREASURERS REPORT: Mr. DellaVolpe will contact the Town Treasurer to ensure all Commission expenses are accounted for.
5. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: None
6. DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS FORUM TIMING AND RELATED TOPICS: The Commission members have tentatively set this year's business forum date for October 24, 2019. Several possible topics were discussed including cyber-security for small/home-based businesses, marketing services offered by various small business resources, and small business tax strategies. Donna Walsh will contact the URI Small Business organization and the SBA.
7. 2019 HOLIDAY RAMBLE UPDATE: Mr. DellaVolpe reported that signs have been constructed, the logo is near completion and Ms. Lauren Classey continues to reach out to businesses about participation.
8. DISCUSSION OF EXPANDING EIC BOARD TO NINE MEMBERS: No response has yet been received from the Town Council liaison to date and Mr. Marr will again follow up with the Town Council.
9. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Sean Juenger, Financial Advisor informed the Commission members of his business networking group that meets weekly at the VFW Post and offered assistance in the upcoming business forum. Mr. Frank Glista raised several topics for Commission consideration: a recommendation for the Commission to support low interest loans to help local businesses improve external appearance as well as other efforts to beautify the town based on a study produced by URI students in 2004; a recommendation for the Commission to support ecotourism; and a concern about the proposed language in the new Town Comprehensive Plan relating to usage of Ninigret Park and the risk it will limit usage to passive use only.
10. NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS - The Commission will meet August 22, 2019 at Town Hall. Agenda topics will include:
 1. Update from Ms. Classey on the Holiday Ramble
 2. Discussion of Business Forum topics for 2020 fiscal year
 3. Discussion of Commission member composition
11. ADJOURNMENT: The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn at 10:28 am from Donna Walsh and seconded by Victoria Wicks.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Wicks
Acting Secretary

APPROVED August 22, 2019