

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4530 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Craig Marr called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.
2. **ROLL:** Present were Chair Craig Marr, Lorna Persson, Don Smith, Dominic DellaVolpe, Victoria Wicks, Donna Walsh and Town Council Liaison Julie Carroccia. Irwin Birnbaum was unable to attend. Frank Glista was in attendance also.
3. **MINUTES FROM MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2018** - The minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Dominic DellaVolpe and seconded by Victoria Wicks.
4. **BUSINESS MAP UPDATE:** The Chair advised that the maps are stored at the Chamber of Commerce and a supply is readily available. The maps have been distributed locally.
5. **TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** No update from the last meeting.
6. **BUSINESS FORUM:** The commission reviewed the agenda and is proceeding with the planned speakers and presentations for the forum scheduled for October.
7. **WEBSITE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-** September is the planned target date for the website. There will be a link to local business included on the website.
8. **TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA** – Julie Carroccia, Town Council liaison, reported that there were no potential substantive upcoming issues. Julie reported that the Dollar Store application is still in process.
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Frank Glista commented on the recent licensing request by a Cigar Bar that was denied by the Town Council. He asked if the Commission had any knowledge of the application. Chairman Marr advised that he was aware of the application. Town Council Liaison Julie Carroccia explained her position on the application. Frank Glista suggested that the council might have asked the petitioner to revise the application to address the councils concerns and reapply rather than deny the application. It was suggested that the EIC produce a “flyer” outlining the commissions mission and offering to prospective business owner an opportunity to meet and discuss their proposal with the commission. Frank spoke to the lack of design standards in the pown particularly the TVD. The application by Dollar General would had been affected differently if concrete design standards were in place. Donna Walsh made a motion to invite a member of the planning commission to our August meeting to discuss the design standards. Lorna Persson seconded the motion and the motin passed unnamomously. Frank asked about the use of Ninigret Park and the fact that past surveys showed that the business community supported the events and felt the helped the businesses. The Cahmber of Commerce representative will be invited to the September meeting.
10. **OPEN DISCUSSION** - None.
11. **NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS** - Set for 9:00 am Thursday, August 23, 2018 at the Town Hall. Agenda items will include Business Forum planning, Town Council liaison report, draft “flyer” for new businesses and Planning Commission design standard discussion.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn at 10:24 am from Donna Walsh seconded by Victoria Wicks.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Smith
Secretary

APPROVED August 30, 2018