

Economic Improvement Commission Minutes

The Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) held a meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4530 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Frank Glista called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.
2. **ROLL:** Present were Chairman Frank Glista, Don Smith, Ron Russo, Donna Walsh, Craig Marr, Betty Combs and Town Council Liaison, Tom Gentz. EIC member Janice Falcone was unable to attend.
3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2015 MEETING:** Betty Combs motioned to accept the minutes and Craig Marr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**
 - (a) Friends of Ninigret - Ron Russo reported that the FON are actively putting together the event scheduled for September 20, 2015 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. The committee plans to showcase the many attributes of Ninigret Park.
5. **OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - (a) Business Leaders Input - The commission will review the data compiled from the survey in a workshop format at a future meeting.
 - (b) Town Business Map - The Chairman presented the final draft for the commission to review. Several changes were recommended. Craig Marr motioned to proceed with the recommended changes and printing, Donna Walsh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - (c) Town Website - The Chairman advised that the list of new businesses needs to be reviewed and incorporated on the website. The Chairman will check with the town clerk to see what is involved.
 - (d) Comprehensive Plan - The draft has not been completed yet. The commission will have to wait for the consultant to complete the draft. The EIC will review when received.
6. **SPECIAL PROJECTS/ACTION ITEMS:**
 - (a) Fire Station Memorial Park - No progress.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - (a) Charlestown Arts/CHARTS - Donna Walsh has identified and contacted artists interested in participating. She will continue to contact others and identify potential locations for the event. HOPARTS of Hopkinton will also be contacted to explore the potential for coordination of events.
 - (b) Eco Tourism - The commission reviewed the draft of the Eco Tourism Map developed by GIS Coordinator, Steve McCandless. There was a high degree of interest in the potential of this map and it was mentioned that the state might be able to assist in the development process. The commission will continue to investigate the potential of this project.
 - (c) "Advisory Opinion" /Tangible Property Exemption - The commission reviewed the advisory opinion supporting the tangible tax exemption. Donna Walsh motioned to accept the opinion as written and Ron Russo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - (d) "Advisory Opinion" ELRU - The commission reviewed the town council request for an opinion on the ELUR for a portion of Ninigret Park. Betty Combs motioned that the commission recommend that the town hire an environmental law firm to advise the town on how to proceed. Craig Marr seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
8. **COMMUNICATIONS** - Email from Frosty Drew regarding the "atrocious conditions" at the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce Seafood Festival along with "the obscene unnecessary lighting" .

9. OPEN SESSION - Betty Combs advised that she sent a plant to the owners of the new gas station on Rt. 1 on behalf of the EIC.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE and AGENDA ITEMS - Set for 9:00 am Thursday, September 24, 2015 at the Town Hall Planning Dept. Annex Room.

12. ADJOURNMENT: At 10:58 am on motion by Betty Combs seconded by Craig Marr. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary, Don Smith