

Block Island Tourism Council

Minutes

February 9, 2016

11am Town Hall

Present: Steve, John, Julie, Logan and Jessica.

Absent: Brad, Zena

Meeting called to order at 11: 25 am by Steve

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

• Correspondence:

o Email from Town Manager with changes to the PJ and Newport High Speed Ferry for comment. Board agreed that any time a boat could leave the island later it was a good thing for BI Businesses.

o Request for funding letter from Eben Horton. Will be on next agenda.

o Copy of the letter Jessica sent to the Town Council, at the board's request, explaining what we will be working on for the next 9 months.

• Hotel Tax: November was slightly down over the previous November. We are still up 15% on the CY and up 12% on the fiscal

year.

- **Jessica reported that she met with HavasPR on the 19th here on Island. They were here to learn about the Tourism Council's program. They called it a "listen and learn" meeting. Jessica also reported that she had a marketing meeting at Commerce RI.**
- **Jessica let the board know that the State Commission to Study Tourism has been extended through December 2016.**
- **RIAC Update: Jessica let the board know that the landing rates still didn't seem to be set at the Airport but that it looked like it would be \$10. Jessica also updated the board that the CEO of RIAC, Kelley Fredericks had resigned to take a job in CA.**
- **Jessica tried to update the board on changes the Taxi Commission had requested to the Town Council on rate changes. This led to a discussion on which Jessica didn't have enough information. As there was some confusion on where the process stands Jessica said she would gather the info and get it to the board to see if they would like to comment.**

Approve Minutes:

January 26, 2016: Sven made a motion to approve and Julie seconded. All approved.

Old Business:

A) Magazine Cover: Jessica explained that since there were no boats the day before she didn't have the actual cover to show but she updated the board on the image. All were pleased with the choice.

New Business:

A) Outdoor Entertainment License: Steve and Sven recused themselves so there was no quorum and therefore no discussion or action taken.

Next Meeting is March 8th at 9am.

Accounts Payable:

Sven made a motion to pay the bills. Logan seconded and all approved.

12noon: Sven made a motion to adjourn. Logan seconded. All approved.

Date Accepted: March 8, 2016

Jessica Willi

Executive Director

Block Island Tourism Council