

Block Island Tourism Council

Minutes

August 16, 2016

9am Town Hall

Present: Steve, Sven, John, Julie, Zena, Brad and Jessica.

Absent: Logan (John left at 9:20)

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am by Steve

Zena arrived at 9:07

Public Comment: Sven thanked the Tourism Council for their support for the 'Celebrate the Pond Day' event.

Director's Report:

- **Correspondence: Thanks you from the Barbershop Festival.**
- **Hotel Tax May: April was way up over last April. This puts us up 25% on the fiscal year.**
- **Director Updates:**
 - o **Annual Meeting will be September 27th at 5pm at the Spring House.**
 - o **Film Permitting Process: Jessica shared a working document that she is working on with the Town Manager for having a protocol form for production companies looking to film on Block Island.**

Approve Minutes:

**July 12, 2016: Brad made a motion to approve and John seconded.
All approved.**

Old Business:

1) None

New Business:

1) RI State Bikeways: Jessica explained that the group “Paths to Progress” is working on connecting the RI Bikeways. They are looking for funding to promote the Green Economy Bond. Bob Billington, the Director of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Division, sits on this group and has asked the BI Tourism Council to contribute as all the other regions have contributed \$1000 each. Brad made a motion to contribute \$250 to Paths to Progress for their work in promoting the Green Economy Bond. Zena seconded and all approved.

2) Website Revamp/Budget Discussion: Jessica explained that she wanted to update the website. She would like to bring in a company that specializes in Social Media sharing. Jessica explained that she has been in touch with CC Inspire about the revisions. Costs on CC Inspire end with be 2 to 3 thousand. The photo company costs are

\$10,000 per year. The board was not comfortable making any decision at this time so this item was tabled. Steve asked that we look at adding videos to our listings and Jessica said that she would look into that.

Jess let the board know that the next Meeting is September 13, 2016

Accounts Payable:

Brad made a motion to pay the bills. Zena seconded and all approved.

9:40am: Zena made a motion to adjourn. Brad seconded. All approved.

Date Accepted: September 14, 2016

Jessica Willi

Executive Director

Block Island Tourism Council