

Block Island Tourism Council

Minutes

September 14, 2016

9am Town Hall

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

Absent: Logan and Steve

Meeting called to order at 9:02 by John

Zena arrived at 9:07

Public Comment:

Director's Report:

- **Correspondence:** Jessica shared highlights from the recent ESTO Conference she had attended
- **Hotel Tax June/Budget Update:** June was down over previous June but only represented 42% of 5% not 47%. Ended FY about 25% up over previous. No surprises on Budget but finished FY in the black once again.
- **Director Updates:**
 - o **Annual Meeting will be September 27th at 5pm at the Spring House.** Jessica let the board know that the Chamber had scheduled a

meeting at the same date and time and that she had reached out to the Chamber to see if they would consider changing their meeting. Jessica reported that she had not heard back on that request.

o **Film Permitting Process:** Jessica updated the board on the Film Permitting Form that had been passed by the Town Council. Town Manager Dodge was in the audience and spoke on the process as well. Some board members expressed concern over the fee associated with the form.

Approve Minutes:

August 16, 2016: John made a motion to approve and Julie seconded. All approved.

Old Business:

1) **Website Revamp:** After a short discussion John made a motion to approve the funding needed for Jess to have the website revamped by current web company CC Inspire and to buy the User Generated Content platform CrowdRiff as a vendor for the new site. Brad seconded. Julie and Zena voted yes and Sven voted no. Motion passed 4-1.

New Business:

1) **Interstate Navigation Schedule Discussion:** Steve had asked for

this on the agenda and he was unable to attend the meeting. Board Members still had a short discussion on the week-before-Labor-Day schedule and agreed that they did not feel like the change to the schedule had any impact on the number of tourists for that week.

Accounts Payable:

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

10am: Sven made a motion to adjourn. Julie seconded. All approved.

Date Accepted: October 11, 2016

Jessica Willi

Executive Director

Block Island Tourism Council