



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on June 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Tyler Dixon, Jessica Pflaummer, Ben Terry, Keith Phillis, Mark Lombari, and Walter Conklin. Kathleen Tucciarone and Keith Phillis were absent.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2016

The minutes from the regular meeting held on May 16, 2016 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Lombari, and all members were in favor.

2. Update on status of new municipal website.

Ms. Dionne updated the board on the most recent progress on the new website. Currently, there are three proposals to the RFP. The work group will hold a meeting on Friday, June 24th at 10:00 a.m. to review the proposals. A final decision on the proposal will be made by the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2016.

3. Update on the Warren Historic Marker Series.

Ms. Dionne reported that the first Warren historic site marker has been installed on Water Street. The marker commemorates the history of the oyster industry in Warren. The marker was funded with joint contributions from Blount Fine Foods, Warren Preservation Society and the Warren Heritage Foundation. A second marker is currently being planned to commemorate the Historic Warren Armory. There is a dedication ceremony planned for the Oyster Historic Site Marker on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. on Water Street.

4. Discussion of EDB initiatives for 2016.

Ms. Dionne asked if anyone was interested in helping her pull weeds in front of the vacant "Aruba Steve's" Restaurant. Several members said they would be willing to join her in this effort. The group will meet at 7:00 p.m. one evening later in the week.

Ms. Dionne discussed developing a feel good sign initiative for the vacant store fronts on Main Street.

Ms. Pflaumner reported the East Bay Chamber of Commerce is in the process of developing the Main Street America Program for the East Bay towns of Barrington, Bristol and Warren. The Main Street America Program is funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This project will be in collaboration with RWU students and will be implemented in the fall of 2016. Ms. Plaummer said that Warren will be the first town to be considered when the program is underway. Also, she noted that the Zoning Survey will be helpful in guiding the direction of the program for Warren. Ms. Pflaumner said she will invite Christine O'Conner of the East Bay Chamber to the July EDB meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016.

Ms. Dionne said she would invite the Town Planner, Kate Michaud, to the July EDB meeting to discuss future projects for the bike path and Water Street.

Mr. Lombardi said that the new sign for Town Hall should be installed before July 4th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Terry, the motion was seconded by Ms. Pflaumner, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
July 18, 2016

