

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES- WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025

The council met on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, and called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

PRESENT: Council Chairman, Nathan Calouro
Vice-Chairwoman, Mary Parella
Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira
Councilman, Timothy Sweeney
Councilman, Aaron Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, Steven Contente
Town Solicitor, Michael Ursillo, Esq
Deputy Town Clerk, Carla DaCosta

ABSENT WITH Town Clerk, Melissa Cordeiro
REGREAT: Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

Special Recognitions

Mt. Hope High School Gymnastics Team

Chairman Calouro celebrated the Mount Hope High School gymnastics team, with special recognition for Cara, the state champion in floor exercise. The team, competing in Division 1 for the first time, demonstrated impressive performance by consistently scoring over 130 points and narrowly missing a state team qualification. Cara was presented with an official citation, highlighting her individual achievement and the support of her coaches, Nicole Danielo and Courtney LaRue. Council members enthusiastically praised the team, emphasizing the importance of dedication, teamwork, and community pride. They commended not just Cara's individual success, but also the collective effort of the team, parents, and coaches who supported her journey. The recognition served as a moment to celebrate local student athletes and their commitment to excellence in gymnastics, showcasing the town's pride in its young performers and their remarkable accomplishments

Mt. Hope High School and Kickemuit Middle School Wrestling Team(s)

During the Bristol town council meeting, the Mount Hope High School wrestling team was celebrated for their outstanding achievements. The team, primarily composed of freshmen and

sophomores, defied expectations by securing impressive individual state championships and a third-place team finish. Notable champions included Kyle McCarthy (144 pounds), Eli Francis (126 pounds), Arian Ferris (113 pounds JV), and Ben Martel (heavyweight sectionals champion). Head Coach(s) Ryan Fauci and Eric Francis proudly highlighted the team's success, emphasizing that they were a homegrown team of local Bristol and Warren athletes who overcame challenges such as multiple injuries and graduating nine seniors the previous year. The young wrestlers spoke about their team's dedication, with Eli Francis noting how they pushed each other in practice and exceeded expectations despite being viewed as underdogs. Council members enthusiastically praised the wrestlers, recognizing their hard work, teamwork, and potential for future success. They commended the athletes' commitment, the coaches' guidance, and the support of parents and the community.

Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared and presented.

A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

A1. Town Council Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2025

A2. Town Council Meeting Executive Session Minutes
(sealed, council only) May 7, 2025

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 7, 2025 and the Executive Session Minutes of May 7, 2025 as prepared and presented.

B. Public Hearings

B1. PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2025-7 Zoning Chapter 28 Land Use Laws
(adopted 2024 - legislative session) **(Public Hearing
and 2nd Reading for Adoption)**

Section: 28-1 Definitions (floor area ratios)
Section: 28-151 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

Section: 28-221 Land Nonconforming by Area
(Substandard Lots)
Section: 28-370 Inclusionary Zoning
Section: 28-150,181,182, 183,185, 187,255,352 &
354 Supplementary Regulations (Development Plan
Review)

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to close
the public hearing

Teixeira/Ley - Voted to consider this
action to constitute the Second Reading
for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-07;
including the findings of consistency
with the purposes of zoning and
consistency with the Bristol
Comprehensive Plan. Voting in favor of
this motion were Council Chairman
Calouro, Teixeira, Sweeney, and Ley.
Abstaining from the vote was Vice
Chairwoman, Parella.
Advertise in the local newspaper.

Prior to the vote being taken, Diane Williamson, Community
Development Director, presented zoning charter changes mandated
by state law, and minor clean-ups highlighting several key
modifications. The updates primarily focused on accessory
dwelling units (ADUs), inclusionary zoning, and land development
regulations. For ADUs, the new rules allow their construction
under specific conditions, such as having a 20,000 square foot
lot or an existing building, with restrictions like limiting
units to two bedrooms and requiring one parking space per
bedroom. The inclusionary zoning section was revised to align
with updated state law, requiring new developments of five units
or more to include 15% affordable housing. The planning board
recommended a two-year trial period for this provision, with the
ability to modify or rescind it based on community impact.
Additional changes included modifications to non-conforming lot
regulations, allowing more flexible building options and
setbacks based on lot size.

Alayne White from 11 Constitution Street raised two primary
concerns about the proposed zoning changes. First, she
questioned the applicability of accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
in mixed-use properties, specifically in the Waterfront
District. She noted that she had discussed this with Ed Tanner
and found that the current language did not clearly address how

ADUs would work in such unique property configurations. Her second concern focused on the new regulations for non-conforming lots. White expressed significant apprehension about the potential for increased density in small lots, particularly in the historic district. She worried that the new state-mandated formula would allow builders to construct much larger structures on small properties than previously permitted. White emphasized the long-term implications, suggesting that these changes could dramatically alter the character of neighborhoods, especially in areas with limited space. While acknowledging that the changes were mandated by state law, White urged the council to carefully consider the potential consequences of these zoning modifications. She stressed the importance of addressing these concerns now to prevent potential problems in the future, particularly in preserving the unique characteristics of Bristol's historic area.

Discussions followed regarding the density bonus provision, focusing on the newly mandated requirements under the updated inclusionary zoning ordinance.

Council members expressed mixed feelings about the state-mandated changes, acknowledging the need for affordable housing while voicing concerns about potential negative impacts on community character and infrastructure. Vice Chairwoman Parella abstained from voting, citing frustration with the "cookie-cutter" approach that doesn't consider local nuances, while other council members ultimately voted to approve the ordinance to ensure compliance with state requirements.

C. Ordinances

- C1.** Ordinance 2025-03 - Chapter 17, Article II Alcoholic Beverages Establishments, Section 17-82 - (to decrease the number of limited BV Licenses from 8 to 7) (*This ordinance is being reposted on the agenda and re-advertised to comply with the legal notice requirements not fulfilled for the previous meeting. No changes have been made to the proposed ordinance since it was originally scheduled*) **(2nd Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-03. Advertise in the local newspaper

It was noted for the record that several ordinances needed to be restated to ensure compliance with advertising requirements. Some had been acted upon at the previous meeting but required re-advertisement or more thorough notice.

- C2.** Ordinance No. 2025-04 Chapter 17, Article II Alcoholic Beverages Establishments, Section 17-82 Number of Licenses (to increase the number of Class BV Licenses from 32-33) *(This ordinance is being reposted on the agenda and re-advertised to comply with the legal notice requirements not fulfilled for the previous meeting. No changes have been made to the proposed ordinance since it was originally scheduled)* **(2nd Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-04 Advertise in the local newspaper

- C3.** Ordinance No. 2025-05 - Chapter 16 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article V - Stopping Standing and Parking (no parking box located across from 28 Shaws Lane) *(This ordinance is being reposted on the agenda and re-advertised to comply with the legal notice requirements not fulfilled for the previous meeting. No changes have been made to the proposed ordinance since it was originally scheduled)* **(2nd Reading)**

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-05. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C4.** Ordinance No. 2025-06 Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IX Residential Parking, Sec. 16-343 Designated residential parking zone and Sec 16-345 Designated residential parking streets (To include portions of Hope Street to the Residential Zone and update designated residential parking zones) *(This ordinance is being reposted on the agenda and re-advertised to comply with the legal notice requirements not fulfilled for the previous meeting.*

No changes have been made to the proposed ordinance since it was originally scheduled) **(2nd Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-06. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C5.** Ordinance No. 2025-08 Chapter 8, Sec 72 Independence Park Boat Ramp (Vehicle load restrictions) (with revisions to include section C) **(2nd reading)**

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-08. Advertise in the local newspaper

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

- D1.** Stephan Brigidi on behalf of the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project, requests a One-Day Dancing & Entertainment License on August 24, 2025, from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (set up time starting at 10:00 AM) at Independence Park for the unveiling of sculptures

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

Sweeney/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws

and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote taken, Steven Brightgani presented details for the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project's unveiling ceremony, scheduled for August 24 at Independence Park. The event will feature a speaking program beginning around 3 PM, with guest speaker Professor Anthony Bogues from Brown University's Simmons Center discussing the history of slavery in Rhode Island. The Pokanoke tribe will participate with traditional chanting and drumming, and the Mixed Magic Theater group may provide a choral performance. The ceremony aims to commemorate the town's historical connection to slavery, with artist Spencer Evans unveiling a sculpture that represents this significant historical narrative. The event will be alcohol-free, with refreshments limited to water and beehive cookies.

Council members expressed support for the project, acknowledging it as a significant cultural initiative aimed at celebrating public art and reflecting on the community's historical development.

D2. Arts in Common for PorchFest 2025 re request for One-Day Dancing and Entertainment license and street closure of a six-block section of High Street from Walley to Byfield Streets on Sunday, September 14, 2025, from 2:30-6:30 pm

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Teixeira/Sweeney -Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies. Coordinate with the Bristol Police Department for road closures, police detail, and to reach out to the Bristol Fire Department for rescue runs and to notify the public of road closures.

Prior to the vote being taken, Vice Chairwoman Parella highlighted an important safety improvement for the event. Recognizing challenges from the previous year's emergency medical response, the organizers are implementing a new strategy. They will station EMS members in a cart throughout the event area to ensure quicker and more accessible medical response across the multiple side streets and performance location.

D3. Harbor Master Marsili, Chairman, Harbor Festival Committee -request One Day Dancing & Entertainment License at Rockwell Park for the 12th Annual Harbor Festival on August 16, 2025 from 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM **(see also F3)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies.

It is noted for the record that under agenda item F3, Councilman Parella motioned to combine agenda items D3 and F3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sweeney and unanimously approved. Discussions related to these combined items took place under agenda item F4. However, any actions taken on these items are individually listed under their respective agenda headings as reflected herein.

Prior to the vote being taken, Harbor Master Greg Marsili presented details for the 12th annual Harbor Festival, scheduled for August 16 at Rockwell Park from 1 to 8 PM. The event, which has become a community tradition, will feature local musicians, food, beer, and wine, along with the annual blessing of the fleet. Marsili emphasized the festival's ongoing community benefits, including fundraising for local youth programs such as sponsoring Save the Bay camp experiences and planning future

fishing activities for children. The council members expressed enthusiasm for the event, with playful banter about the popular watermelon and corn offerings and the annual stuffie competition. Marsili noted that last year's stuffie competition attracted 18 entries and promised another exciting culinary contest this year.

D4. Jennifer Devine, 55 Wapping Drive, Pro-Democracy Rally, request for One Day Dancing & Entertainment License at Independence Park, June 29, 2025, from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

Sweeney/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and with the condition that 2 police officers are stationed at the event as well as one Police vehicle, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote being taken, Jennifer Devine presented a request for a pro-democracy rally at Independence Park on June 29, aimed at peacefully expressing concerns about current federal government actions and celebrating democratic freedoms. The event, planned from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., would feature live music, short speeches, potential veteran oath reaffirmations, and information tables about civic engagement. While uncertain about exact attendance, Devine suggested the rally might draw up to 400 participants, though she personally believed the number would be much lower.

The Council carefully considered the event's logistics, with the Chief of Police recommending a detail of two officers for security and no road closures. Council members discussed potential crowd size, safety considerations, and the importance of peaceful protest. It was further stipulated that the police detail would be assigned with respect to the event's constitutional protections under the First Amendment,

emphasizing the participants' right to free speech and peaceful assembly.

Linda Arruda, 30 Bradford Street spoke in favor of the petition.

- D5.** Gorge Moreno, Moreno LLC D/B/A Don Patron Mexican Grill & Cantina, 200 Gooding Avenue request for Modification to BV Intoxicating Beverage License (to expand alcohol service area to include outdoor seating area **(Call for Public Hearing June 18th)**

Teixeira/Parella-Voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to consider this matter on June 18, 2025 and to advertise in the local newspaper.

- D6.** Richard Corrente, WKOC, LLC d/b/a Portside Tavern, 444 Thames Street request for Modification to BV Intoxicating Beverage License (to expand alcohol service area to add a portion of the outdoor seating area **(Call for Public Hearing June 18th)**

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to consider this matter on June 18, 2025 and to advertise in the local newspaper.

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

- E1.** Sidewalk and Alcohol Use License Renewals 2025-2026

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to grant renewal of these licenses based upon the recommendations received and the receipt of all necessary renewal

paperwork from the licensees and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

E2. Sidewalk Use License Renewals 2025-2026

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Code Compliance Coordinator

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to grant renewal of these licenses based upon the recommendations received and the receipt of all necessary renewal paperwork from the licensees and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

E3. Jennifer Medina, Carvalho Group, LLC DBA Pisco y Tequila, 382 Thames Street, Unit 1 re 6-month review of Dancing & Entertainment License

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Teixeira/Parella-voted unanimously to receive and file the recommendations and allow the establishment to continue with the licenses, based on the positive feedback received after the three-month review.

Prior to the vote being taken. Jennifer Medina addressed the Council, noting that the live music had been well received and successful in the past, and she thanked the Council for their prior support.

F. Petitions - Other

F1. George Voutes, 17 Shore Road - Consideration for restrictions on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

- a. Scott Pepper, 64 Duffield Road - letter of support
- b. Jennifer Martenson, Chair, Quiet Clean Rhode Island - letter of support
- c. Kenda Swartz, 64 Duffield Road - letter of support
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Conservation Commission

Teixeira/Parella-voted unanimously to receive and file.

Prior to the vote, Chairman Calouro called for the applicant to speak; however, the applicant was not present at that time.

Councilman Teixeira made a motion to deny the petition, seconded by Councilwoman Parella. Councilman Teixeira offered further clarification on his reasoning, noting that he had received calls from three small business owners in town expressing concern about the implications of such a restriction. He added that while he resides in a neighborhood where landscapers are common, he has not personally observed any misuse of gas-powered blowers; in fact, most have been respectful, often using vacuums rather than blowers. He did not view this as a widespread issue warranting regulation.

Councilman Sweeney expressed concern for environmental and health impacts but stated that there had not been enough research or outreach conducted regarding the potential economic burden this would place on local landscaping businesses. He emphasized the need for a better understanding of the financial transition involved before moving forward.

Councilman Ley echoed the need for stakeholder input, particularly from the landscaping community, which he felt was notably absent. While acknowledging the health risks associated with small-engine emissions, he noted the diverse needs of different areas in town and expressed concern that the proposal might be applying too broad of a solution to a complex issue.

George Voutes, the sponsor of the proposal, explained that the ordinance was intended as a seasonal restriction—not an outright ban—during the summer months when leaf blowers are less necessary. He emphasized that the measure was motivated by health, environmental, and quality-of-life concerns, not to target small businesses. He cited his research and outreach to other municipalities and the landscaping industry, noting successful transitions to electric equipment in other regions. He also highlighted the availability of a new State rebate

program offering up to \$3,000 for commercial landscapers to purchase electric equipment. Mr. Voutes stated that the state is largely deferring this issue to local governments and that his intent was to spark local dialogue and awareness.

Vice Chairwoman Parella acknowledged the thoughtfulness of presenting a seasonal restriction rather than a ban, but agreed that more information and engagement with commercial landscapers was necessary. She suggested working with the Conservation Commission and using the existing state rebate program to help inform and educate local businesses about electric equipment alternatives.

Councilman Ley noted the various alternatives outlined in the proposal, including time-of-day restrictions and noise considerations. He suggested that, at a minimum, more public education could be done to increase awareness of health impacts associated with gas-powered equipment, especially for vulnerable populations.

Mr. Voutes stated that the proposal was a reasonable and measured step. He shared data and letters from hospitals highlighting the health risks of emissions and noise from gas-powered leaf blowers and expressed his belief that a majority of residents would support such a measure. He emphasized that successful transitions to electric landscaping are already occurring and could be encouraged through local action.

Councilman Teixeira inquired why this effort was not taken up at the state level. Mr. Voutes responded that while the state has enacted a rebate program, broader regulation has been deferred to municipalities due to the complexity of implementing a statewide mandate. He cited examples from other states and municipalities that have adopted local restrictions and emphasized the growing interest in such regulations.

Additional discussion topics included:

- How a phased transition from gas to electric landscaping equipment could be managed,
- The potential health risks posed by noise and air pollution from gas-powered equipment,
- And how enforcement of such seasonal restrictions could be implemented fairly and effectively.

Public comment was received from:

- Scott Pepper, 64 Duffield Road, who spoke in support of the initiative, expressing concerns about excessive noise levels from leaf blowers and their impact on residential quality of life.
- Kendra Swarts, 64 Duffield Road, who also supported the proposal and raised concerns about negative impacts to wildlife.
- Eric Francis, a local landscaping business owner, expressed concern about the potential costs of transitioning equipment and the financial burden it could place on both businesses and customers. He urged the Council to consider the economic realities before enacting such measures.

Following the discussion, Councilman Teixeira amended his motion to receive and file the petition, which was seconded by Councilwoman Parella.

F2. Bruce Goes, 82 King Philip Avenue - re no parking box located across from residence

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted
unanimously to deny the request
per the recommendations received.

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro provided a brief explanation of the process used to evaluate requests for "No Parking Box" designations. In this case, the petitioner requested a no parking box across the street from their residence. As part of the standard procedure, the Police Department, under the direction of the Chief, conducted an on-site assessment using both a standard SUV and a larger police vehicle to determine whether a safe three-point turn could be executed. This method, used consistently in recent years, provides an objective basis for evaluating such requests.

In this instance, the assessment concluded that a no parking box was not warranted. A video of the maneuver was available for

review, demonstrating the department's due diligence. Council members emphasized the importance of maintaining a consistent and documented process, noting that the decision was based on measurable criteria rather than subjective judgment. It was clarified that the vote to deny the request had already been taken

F3. Harbor Master Marsili, Chairman, Harbor Festival Committee - request permission to use/sell Alcoholic Beverages at Rockwell Park for the 12th Annual Harbor Festival on August 16, 2025, from 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM **(see also D3)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to approve the petition per the recommendations received and subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

It is noted for the record that under agenda item D3, Councilman Parella motioned to combine agenda items D3 and F3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sweeney and unanimously approved. Discussions related to these combined items took place under agenda item D3. However, any actions taken on these items are individually listed under their respective agenda headings as reflected herein.

G. Appointments

G1. Zoning Board of Review - (1 two-year unexpired Alternate term set to expire March 2027)

a. Timothy Palmer, 7 Church Cove Road - interested/appointment

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to appoint Timothy Palmer to the Zoning

Board of Review as an alternate member
with a term set to expire in March 2027

G2. Bristol 250th Commission, re Amendment to board composition to include up to five (5) Alternate Members with terms to expire November 2027 and recommendations for interested commission members
(continued from May 7th)

a. (draft) Resolution Amendment

b. Sarah Griffin, 11 Liberty Street, Apt 2-
interest/appointment

c. Paul Vollaro, 3 Jefferson Lane -
interest/appointment

d. Craig Evans, 80 Aaron Avenue - interest/appointment

e. recommendation from Chairwoman, Alayne White

Teixeira/Parella- Voted
unanimously to adopt the
amended resolution of the
Bristol 250th Board
composition to include up to
5 alternate members; also to
appoint Ms. Griffin, Mr.
Vollaro, Mr. Evans and Ms.
Newcity as alternates to the
Bristol 250th Board with a
term set to expire in
November 2027

Prior to the vote being taken, Alayne White addressed the Council and noted that she did not see Lisa Newcity listed among the recommended appointments, despite her request for Lisa to be considered as an alternate member. The Chairman responded that the additional appointments being made were intended to ensure quorum for the committee.

H. Old Business

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

- I1.** Harbor Master Marsili - recommended Bristol Marina fuel/dock pricing policy changes and recommendation for the Bristol resident discount rate

a. recommendation - Bristol Harbor Commission

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to adopt the fuel/dock pricing policy changes and recommendation for the Bristol resident discount rate

Prior to the vote being taken, harbor Master Marsili addressed the Council, noting that the Town is now in its fourth year operating the Marina Fuel Station and is seeking to make updates to its pricing policy. One proposed change is the removal of the \$1.00 cap previously set to allow for more competitive pricing in line with other local marina fuel stations. The Director requested the flexibility to set prices based on market conditions using best judgment.

Additionally, a change was proposed to revise the resident discount from a percentage-based model to a fixed per-gallon discount. The Harbor Commission and the Director recommended shifting from the current 5% discount to a flat rate discount, suggesting 5 to 10 cents per gallon for Bristol residents. The Council was asked to support the amended fuel dock pricing policy.

- I2.** Harbormaster Marsili re recommended changes to Moring, Docking, and Related Harbor Fees

a. (draft) Resolution

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to the Moring, Docking, and Related Harbor Fees as presented.

Prior to the vote being taken, Harbor Master Marsili presented proposed fee increases for the 2025 or 2026 boating season to address rising utility costs and support marina operations. The

new dockage rates introduce a tiered structure based on slip size, replacing the flat \$65 per foot rate:

- 40 ft slips: \$80/ft
- 30 ft slips: \$75/ft
- 24 ft and under: \$70/ft

Additional adjustments include a non-resident kayak rack fee, a \$15/night transient electrical hookup fee, and modest increases to mooring and commercial rates. The changes were supported by the Harbor Commission and user groups. The Council approved the updated fee schedule, noting it keeps Bristol well below market rates while improving financial sustainability.

- 13.** Steven Januario, Chairman Bristol Harbor Commission re council consideration to grant permission to the Harbor Commission to solicit State and Federal authorization for the viability of a breakwater for Bristol Harbor

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted
unanimously to support the efforts
of the Harbor Commission to
explore viable options for a
breakwater for Bristol Harbor and
to work with the Planning
Department

Prior to the vote being taken, discussions ensued discussion with Harbor Commission Chair Steve Januario and Subcommittee Chair Skip Castro regarding a request for Council authorization to explore the viability of constructing a breakwater in Bristol Harbor. The proposal aims to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing storm protection for the harbor, which has seen substantial investment in recent decades, including public and private marinas, waterfront businesses, and infrastructure.

The proposed breakwater concept dates back to a 1980 study, with the current initiative seeking to update the analysis using modern technologies and approaches, such as floating breakwater systems. The goal is to solicit feedback and possible funding from State and Federal agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers and CRMC, while examining environmental impacts, water flow, and effects on shellfishing grounds.

It was explained that subcommittee composed of engineers and Harbor Commission members has been formed to begin exploratory

work. Council members acknowledged the potential value of the project, agreed it was worth pursuing, and emphasized the need for further information before committing funds. The Administrator and Planning Department offered support to assist in the exploratory phase

- I4.** Bond Counsel re-Road Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements Borrowing Resolution - authorizing the Town of Bristol, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-12-2, to borrow up to Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,800,000) through the issuance of bonds and bond anticipation notes to fund the design, engineering, and construction of road resurfacing and drainage improvements in the Town of Bristol.

Sweeney/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to adopt the Borrowing Resolution as presented.

Prior to the vote being taken, Bond Counsel Mack presented a borrowing resolution for Council consideration, noting that the \$2.8 million project would be funded through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank with a one-third interest rate subsidy. She explained that this means the Town would borrow at two-thirds of the market rate. The funds will support the reclamation, resurfacing, and drainage improvements of ten roads over a 20-year period. Mack clarified the difference between reclamation (milling and churning, which lasts longer) and resurfacing (applying new asphalt), and noted the Town would only begin accruing interest on funds as they are drawn.

CF. Citizens Public Forum

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK DURING THE CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL CLERK PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

J. Bills & Expenditures

- J1.** Bid No.1065 - Rogers Free Library Interior Modification Project

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and the Library Director to act in the best interest

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Collins Construction Co. Inc. in the amount of \$2,401,456
- Bentley Companies, in the amount of \$1,993,834 with alternates:
 - Alt 1 in the amount \$1,500
 - Alt 2 in the amount \$130,000
 - Alt 3 in the amount \$2,500
- Coletta Contracting Co., Inc., in the amount of \$2,121,700 with alternates:
 - Alt 1 in the amount \$1,750
 - Alt 2 in the amount \$39,000
 - Alt 3 in the amount \$1,500
- Maron Construction, Inc., in the mount of \$2,448,579.00 with alternates:
 - Alt 1 in the amount \$8,484
 - Alt 2 in the amount \$17,438
 - Alt 3 in the amount \$8,484
- Mill City Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$2,229,906 with alternates:
 - Alt 1 in the amount \$2,366
 - Alt 2 in the amount \$56,685
 - Alt 3 in the amount \$5,210

J2. Bid No. 1066 Information Technology and Consulting Service

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and Town's internal IT Contact to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Uplink IT in the amount of:
 - Critical Systems Management & Monitoring-1st Year - \$109,393.08
 - Sub: \$105,928.08
 - Data and Security Management \$9,888.77 (annual)

- Consultadd Public Services in the amount of:
 - Critical Systems Management & Monitoring \$30,000 annually
 - Data and Security Management \$28,000 annually
- SoftSages Technology in the amount of:
 - Critical Systems Management & Monitoring \$30,000 annually
 - Data and Security Management \$54,600 annually
 - Onboarding Cos \$5,000
- FreedomTech, Inc in the amount of:
 - \$26,780 monthly retainer
 - \$321,360 annually
- Software of America in the amount of:
 - Critical Systems Management & Monitoring \$50,000 annually
 - Data and Security Management \$31,250 annually
- Creative Global Consulting in the amount of:
 - Critical Systems Management & Monitoring \$182,400 annually
 - Data and Security Management \$176,640 annually

J3. Bid No. 1067 - School Bus Transportation Services

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- First Student in the amount of summer program of \$325.00 per bus and \$500.00 per trip

K. Special Reports

K1. BCWA Tri-Town Monthly Report - April 2025

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to receive and place this matter on file.

L. Town Solicitor

M. Executive Sessions

- M1. Director Williamson request for Executive Session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) Discussion or consideration related to the Lease of Real Property

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL Section 42-46-5 (a) (5) Discussion or consideration related to the Lease of Real Property at 9:27 PM.

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to resume open session and seal the minutes of the Executive Session at 9:44 PM.

Solicitor Ursillo announced that no motion was made, and no vote was taken in Executive Session

Consent Agenda Items:

(CA) AA. Submission of Minutes - Boards and Commissions

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) AA1. Bristol Zoning Board of Review Minutes - April 7, 2025
- (CA) AA2. Bristol Fire Department Board of Engineers Meeting Minutes - May 5, 2025
- (CA) AA3. Housing Authority Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2025
- (CA) AA4. Zoning Board of Review Meeting - June 2, 2025

- (CA) AA5. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - April 1, 2025
- (CA) AA6. Bristol Christmas Festival Committee Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2025
- (CA) BB. Budget Adjustments**
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these adjustments"**
- (CA) BB1. Tax Assessor Leadem - re - Recommended Abatements & Additions - May 2025
- (CA) CC. Financial Reports**
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**
- (CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations**
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"**
- (CA) DD1. Citation - Evan Smith, Discover Newport (signed)
- (CA) DD2. Proclamation- Retirement -Lieutenant Ricardo Mourato (signed)
- (CA) DD3. Authorizing Resolution - Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program (signed)
- (CA) DD4. Commendation - Emma Quigley Girl Scout Gold Award (signed)
- (CA) DD5. Commendation - Fiona Sharp Girl Scout Gold Award (signed)
- (CA) DD6. Citation - Bristol Cup Defenders 90th Anniversary (signed)
- (CA) DD7. Resolution No. 2025-2025-05-07-I4 In Support of H 5393 and S 0057 - An Act Relating to Highways - Sidewalks (signed)
- (CA) EE. Utility Petitions**
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"**

(CA) FF. City & Town Resolutions Not Previously Considered

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) FF1. Barrington - Proclamation - National Public Works Week
- (CA) FF2. Barrington - Resolution - Support of Bill S-57 and H5393 Maintenance of Sidewalks
- (CA) FF3. Barrington - Resolution - Supporting 2025 Composting and Organic Waste Diversion Act
- (CA) FF4. Exeter - Resolution - Support of Amendments regarding Funding of Student Transportation
- (CA) FF5. Hopkinton - Resolution - Opposing Legislation relating to Holidays and Days of Special Observance Holiday
- (CA) FF6. Hopkinton - Resolution - Opposing S0851 relating to State Affairs and Government Tourism and Development
- (CA) FF7. Hopkinton - Resolution - Support of H5204 - Support of Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits
- (CA) FF8. Hopkinton - Resolution - Support of H5201 - The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act
- (CA) FF9. Hopkinton - Resolution - Opposing Specific Land Use Legislation
- (CA) FF10. New Shoreham - Resolution - Opposing a Statewide Non Owner Occupied Property Tax
- (CA) FF11. Warren - Resolution - Full State Funding of Private School Transportation
- (CA) FF12. Warren - Resolution - Requesting an Amendment regarding the duties of Public Utilities

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) GG1. Award of Bid No. 1060 - Town Administrator Contente to Stephen Gross, Clifton Larson Allen, LLP regarding Bid Award - Professional Auditing Services
- (CA) GG2. Award of Bid No. 1061 - Town Administrator Contente to Sonia Lanthier, Poralu Marine Inc. regarding Bid Award - Marina Trash Skimmer
- (CA) GG3. Award of Bid No. 1062 - Town Administrator Contente to Mark Schichtel, Schichtel's Nursery, Inc regarding Bid Award - Spring 2025 Tree Sourcing and Delivery
- (CA) GG4. Award of Bid No. 1063 - Town Administrator Contente to JML Excavation Inc. regarding Bid Award - Gibson Road Shoreline Improvements
- (CA) GG5. Recognition - The Bristol Conservation Commission and The King Phillip Little League re Arbor Day Celebration Ceremonies May 14, 2025
- (CA) GG6. Town Administrator Contente re Letter in support of House Bill 6291
- (CA) HH. **Distributions/Notice of Meetings**
(Office copy only)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"
- (CA) HH1. Planning Board Meeting - May 8th 2025 CANCELED and rescheduled from June 12, 2025
- (CA) HH2. North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting - May 14, 2025
- (CA) HH3. BCWA Board of Directors Meeting - April 24, 2025
- (CA) HH4. Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - May 8, 2025
- (CA) HH5. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Wine Tasting Meeting - May 12, 2025
- (CA) HH6. Technical Review Committee Meeting - May 20, 2025
- (CA) HH7. Technical Review Committee Meeting - May 20, 2025
- (CA) HH8. Bristol Christmas Festival Meeting - May 20, 2025
- (CA) HH9. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting - May 21, 2025

(CA) HH10. Bristol Fourth of July Committee General Committee Meeting - May 22, 2025

(CA) II. Claims (Referrals)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust"

(CA) II1. Leon Hill, 1185 Hope Street re auto vehicle claim

(CA) JJ. Miscellaneous Items Requiring Council Approval

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these items"

(CA) KK. Curb cut petitions as approved by the director of public works

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to grant these curb cuts per the recommendation of, and conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works"

(CA) KK1. Kyle Flynn, 43 Monterey Drive - re for curb cut request

a. recommendation- Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira, and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 9:46 PM.

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk