



*TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

*Department of Community Development
235 High Street, Bristol, Rhode Island*

Tuesday, February 12, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

*Tony Morettini
Ray Payson
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Jay Maciel*

Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

Members Absent:

*Glenn Donovan
Lee Ann Freitas*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:33 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Mr. Fisher. Vote: 5-0.
2. Tree Program: Mr. Morettini reported that Forest Metrix will replace Open Tree Map as the new tree inventory and management software used for the Town's urban forest needs. All current tree data has been extracted from the legacy system and will be loaded to the new Forest Metrix application. Mr. Morettini said that Town Administrator Contente has approved the Tree Pruning and Removal policy. Implementation of the policy will include creating online forms that will be used, and disseminating information to the Department of Public Works.
3. Clean Up Day: Mr. Maciel and Mr. Morettini noted that the organizations Thrive Outside, Save the Bay, and the Boy Scouts are interested in participating in this year's Keep Bristol Clean clean-up effort that will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2024.
4. Infrastructure Bank Grant: Mr. Tanner reported that the Town of Bristol was recently awarded a Municipal Resilient Program Action Grant in the amount of \$113,225 from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. The plan is to improve climate resilience by planting 238 trees in the flooding and stormwater problem areas of Silver Creek, Tanyard Brook, and Annawamscutt Drive/Mt. Hope Bay. Mr. Tanner passed out a list of suggested urban street trees that emphasized choosing and planting the right tree in the right place.
5. Composting Study: Mr. Morettini reported that Roger Williams University students have chosen our proposal of municipal composting as a project for their Sustainability Studies class. The firm Black Earth Compost as well as Sara Ćhurgin of the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District have been in contact with Mr. Morettini expressing their interest in being involved with the students in their analysis of the composting benefits to a municipality.

continued



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6. Around the Room: Mr. Payson passed out a recent Providence Journal article entitled Cutting Trees to Save Them, how an unconventional approach could protect forests from drought, heat and pests. Mr. Payson relayed information on a recent Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI) conservation symposium on birds he attended, entitled Birds Across New England, that was led by ASRI Director of Aviation Research, Charles Clarkson. Mr. Payson also announced that ASRI will hold their Audubon Native Plants & Pollinators Symposium on April 20, 2024 at Rhode Island College. Ms. Green announced that the Rhode Island Compost Conference will be held on March 14, 2024 at Rhode Island College. Mr. Maciel announced that the 2024 Rhode Island Land and Water Conservation Summit will be held on March 9, 2024 at University of Rhode Island.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Mr. Payson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Fisher, and the meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciel