TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Department of Community Development
35 Washington Street, Bristol, Rhode Island

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

JUNE 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:
Ray Payson, Vice-Chairman
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Lee Ann Freitas
Jay Maciel, Recording Secretary

Staff Present:
Ed Tanner

Members Absent:
Tony Morettini
Glenn Donovan

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Payson at 5:44 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Ms. Green. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Payson opened by asking whether a biologist should visit the Mount Hope Community Forest to identify plant and animal species there. Preserving its biodiversity, managing invasive species, and identifying areas to protect from trail development were discussed. Ms. Freitas suggested that we could do it ourselves and addressed how this could be accomplished. Mr. Tanner said he would send out a biologist's report that was created in the 1980's for Brown University. Mr. Tanner reported that RI Energy will be replacing utility poles within the right-of-way at the Perry–Tavares Farm.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Payson provided a recap of the Town's Arbor Day celebration, held on May 7 at the Town Common, where a Princeton elm was planted. Mr. Payson distributed copies of the Town Administrator's proclamation recognizing the Bristol Conservation Commission and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School for its tree efforts on Arbor Day. Mr. Tanner noted that the bid for next tree planting cycle was due tomorrow. Mr. Fisher distributed copies of the Urban Forest Management Plan he created. Commissioners agreed to review the document and provide comments at the next meeting. Mr. Maciel encouraged the Commission to take advantage of RI DEM Urban Community Forestry Program resources available to us that had been discussed in the May meeting. All agreed to review the areas of assistance available through the program for discussion at the next meeting.
4. Leaf Blower: Ms. Freitas shared information on a recent op-ed describing the negative effects of leaf blower use and the environmental damage they cause. Ms. Freitas will distribute copies of the piece for input at our next meeting.
5. Around the Room: Mr. Payson reported that Representative Seth Magaziner recently received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to rename the fish *scup* to "golden sea bream" to improve its marketability. Mr. Payson also cautioned all to watch out for turtles crossing roads during the current nesting season.
6. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciel