



*TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

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

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.

JUNE 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

*Tony Morettini
Ray Payson
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Lee Ann Freitas
Jay Maciel*

Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

Members Absent:

Glenn Donovan

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:40 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Ms. Freitas. Vote: 6-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner said that the Perry-Tavares Farm is in need of some maintenance, and that the pollinator garden there needs some attention as well. Mr. Tanner also stated that DaPonte's Landscaping will be mowing the meadow soon.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Morettini said that he will be submitting the draft of the Policy for Resident Requests for Tree Pruning and Removal document to the Town Administrator. Mr. Tanner reported that 20 trees have been ordered for the spring tree planting cycle. Gator watering bags will be used once the trees are planted by the DPW, and they will be watered by the sewer department. Mr. Tanner also reported that 66 Ash trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer will be removed soon. Mr. Payson provided a review of the Arbor Day celebration at Rockwell School where three classes participated by reading poems, and where an October Glory Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) was planted.
4. Pollinator Garden Initiative: Mr. Tanner said that the sign for the pollinator garden is being fabricated.
5. Keep Bristol Clean Effort: Mr. Maciel provided a recap of the Town wide cleanup effort that took place on Saturday, May 13, 2023. 85 volunteers, including 40 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, cleaned up 15 locations around Bristol and picked up 40 pounds of trash and recyclables, as well as 10 tires.

continued



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JUNE 2023 MEETING MINUTES, continued

6. Lisa Lane Open Space Planning: Warren Rensehausen, Director of Parks and Recreation, was in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview of the proposed plan for a playground on a 2.7-acre open space parcel of land on Lisa Lane in the Mason Farm development, for which he was looking for support. A concept plan was presented that showed a swing set, a backboard and benches. Mr. Rensehausen cited plans for a neighborhood playground in the Mason Farm development were mentioned in the 2008 Open Space Plan and 2016 Comprehensive Plan. He also mentioned there were lawn clippings dumped on the property and that many invasives and other vines existed there. Many questions were asked by Commission members, including ones about the ecological impact of the proposed changes by Ms. Freitas, ones about the receptiveness of neighbors by Ms. Green, and one about any possible deed restrictions on the property by Mr. Maciel. It was decided that Commission members would visit the property before offering an opinion. Once an assessment was done by Commissioners, Mr. Morettini would get back to Mr. Rensehausen with our findings.
7. Bristol Tree Study: Mr. Morettini mentioned that the kickoff to the Bristol tree study had taken place. The Green Infrastructure Center is in the data gathering stage, currently analyzing the canopy cover (44%), pervious area (31%), and impervious area (24%) rates in Bristol. 50% of the pervious area, or approximately 15% of our Town is considered an area for potential planting.
8. Bristol Yarn Mill Development: Mr. Tanner presented the planting plan for the Bristol Yarn Mill that was referred to the Conservation Commission for review. Mr. Morettini asked Commission members to evaluate the plans and forward comments to him so that he could present our recommendations to the Planning Board.
9. Around the Room: Mr. Payson handed out copies of three recent articles in the Providence Journal entitled: Encourage pollinators to come to your garden, No mow May? Good intentions, bad approach, critics say, and Allergy season upon us as tree pollen takes over. Ms. Freitas suggested The Overstory by Richard Powers as a recommended book read.
10. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
11. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay Maciel".
Jay Maciel