TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 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 5:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Ms. Freitas and seconded by Mr. Fisher. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner said there was no news pertaining to the Mount Hope Community Forest. Ms. Green suggested a tour of the Pokanoket lands and asked if this could be arranged with Pokanoket Sachem Dancing Star. Mr. Tanner reported that RI Energy was installing new metal poles in the utility easement of the Perry-Tavares Farm and that a site visit would be appropriate after work is completed. Mr. Tanner also said that multiflora rose had been removed around the golf course.
3. Composting Program: Ms. Green distributed copies of an article in the *Barrington Times* entitled "Barrington's composting effort: 'this is above and beyond'" which reports on their curbside composting program led by the Eastern RI Conservation District, the Town of Barrington, and Black Earth Composting.
4. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner reported that the Town is receiving 70 additional trees compliments of the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC). The trees are in 10- and 15-gallon pots and are coming from Bigelow Nurseries in Northborough, MA. Mr. Fisher led a review and discussion of his revised Urban Forest Management Plan. It was agreed that everyone should submit their suggested edits to Mr. Fisher for inclusion in the master document. Ms. Freitas shared that a fungus was found that naturally attacks the invasive spotted lanternfly.
5. Around the Room: Ms. Green shared a brochure from the Audubon Society of RI entitled "Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care Services" that focuses on creating healthy pollinator habitats. Mr. Maciel announced that the Bristol Land Conservation Trust will be hosting its 40th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 10 at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. Ms. Freitas announced an event she is leading in Forest Bathing (Shinrin Yoku) on Saturday, September 19, at 10 a.m. at the RWP Botanical Center. Ms. Freitas recommended the book *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard.
6. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciel