TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

JANUARY 6, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:
Ray Payson
Craig Fisher
Lee Ann Freitas
Glenn Donovan
Staff Present:
Ed Tanner

Members Absent:
Lindsay Green
Jay Maciel
Tony Morettini

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Payson at 5:35 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the December 2, 2025 minutes was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Donovan. Vote: 4-0.
2. No Open Space requests for review.
3. Tree Planting Update: 104 trees were planted in the fall 2025. Commission members discussed the tree grant, plantings and the budget. More trees will be planted in the spring with town budget. There may also be a DEM grant opportunity.
4. Composting program: no update on the program, but the topic is on the Town Council agenda for January 7, 2026.
5. Feedback on the gas-powered leaf blower ordinances and potential ideas for Bristol – commission members reviewed the concept outline for an ordinance that Mr. Fisher had provided at the last meeting. This is a comparison to the Providence ordinance. Discussed issues with battery power (safety/recycling), enforcement, geared towards large commercial operations, educate the public (public relations). Put timeline in any ordinance out far so that there is time to get the word out to the community. Details of enforcement and public education to be determined. Need education in the form of brochures and notices. Need to outline the benefits vs the costs. Plan to phase out use, not just an immediate ban. Funding incentives available – currently by State of RI, geared towards commercial landscapers. Other funding models across the country. Rebate programs. Look at the Barrington model to see what they have done. Reviewed other examples from other states. Noise is the big driver as well as pollution. Rye, NY and Hyattsville, MD are examples.
6. Around the Room: topics of discussion included excessive salt on the town sidewalks; tree cutting along Town streets; and the public hearing for proposed hotel on Gooding Avenue with the planning board this Thursday.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on February 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Payson