



*TOWN OF BRISTOL  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

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

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.*

**NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

*Members Present:*

*Tony Morettini*

*Ray Payson*

*Lindsay Green*

*Craig Fisher*

*Glenn Donovan*

*Jay Maciel*

*Staff Present:*

*Ed Tanner*

*Members Absent:*

*Lee Ann Freitas*

*The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:05 p.m.*

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Mr. Morettini. Vote: 6-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner said that the trash at the homeless camp at the Perry-Tavares Farm property has been cleaned up.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner said that trees are still going in and most have been staked out for the current tree planting cycle. Mr. Morettini provided an update to the tree study project that is currently underway with the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC). The project is still in process and a final report, that will include detailed data and maps, is due to us by the end of the year. The goal of the project is to increase the tree canopy in Town by identifying and prioritizing potential planting areas. A public open house to discuss Bristol's tree canopy and the management of its urban forest, hosted by GIC, was held at Rogers Free Library on October 3, 2023. Discussion ensued about related tree matters. Mr. Morettini mentioned that we need to select a new tree inventory platform as the old one has been phased out. Mr. Fisher said that there is a law in some towns that says if a tree is removed, it must be replaced. Mr. Morettini asked that Mr. Fisher research such laws and report back to the Commission. Mr. Payson mentioned the importance of tree preservation, including the need for tree pruning and pest management, to which Mr. Tanner responded that much of this is now being performed by the DPW. Mr. Tanner said that he would be able to produce a list of Town trees that have been cut down from the Tree City USA reporting he does. Mr. Tanner also reported that a RI Infrastructure Bank grant has been applied for to address climate resiliency with tree planting.
4. Pollinator Garden Initiative: Mr. Taner reported that he and Ms. Freitas weeded the pollinator garden and that a new pollinator garden sign is up at the Metacom Avenue site.

*continued*



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5. RWU Sustainability Class Engagement: Mr. Morettini said that a study of the benefits of municipal composting as a potential project for the Sustainability Studies class at Roger Williams University will be a spring semester project.
6. Around the Room: Mr. Payson handed out a copy of a recent Providence Journal article entitled Tiverton fire should make us revisit how we recycle e-waste. Relatedly, Mr. Payson also mentioned Pattnr, the Weather Channel's climate and sustainability TV show, and TerraCycle, an organization wanting to reduce waste by recycling what has traditionally been unrecyclable. Ms. Green announced that RI Representative June Speakman recently received the Audubon Society of Rhode Island 2023 Legislative Leadership Award. Ms. Green also reported that the proposed restrictions on gas-powered lawn equipment in Barrington was not received well.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Mr. Payson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Donovan, and the meeting ended at 6:10 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
Jay Maciel