TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

MARCH 2026 MEETING MINUTES

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

Staff Present:
Nick Toth

Members Absent:
Tony Morettini
Glenn Donovan

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Payson at 5:36 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Ms. Freitas. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.
2. Tree Program: Mr. Toth relayed that Mr. Tanner is talking to RI DEM about designing trails at the Mount Hope Community Forest on Tower Street. New signage at the site will also be a spring project. Mr. Toth mentioned that trail maintenance needs to be addressed at the Perry-Tavares Farm. Mr. Toth said that over 200 tree plantings are being planned this year, supported in part by a $25,000 grant from the Green Infrastructure Coalition (GIC) and a donation of 79 trees from Bigelow Nurseries. Mr. Tanner will coordinate with Mr. Saracino, Bristol Tree Warden, on the spring and fall tree planting cycles. It was mentioned that a tree planting plan is needed for Arbor Day 2026, which occurs on April 24. Mr. Toth said there will be a Liberty Tree Planting for the 250th Celebration scheduled for May 15 at Independence Park.
3. Composting Program: Ms. Green reported that there are no updates.
4. Providence Leaf Blower Ordinance: Commission members reviewed the Providence leaf blower ordinance and believe that legislation appropriate for Bristol may be possible. Possible strategies to move forward were considered.
5. Keep Bristol Clean: Mr. Maciel said the 37th Annual Keep Bristol Clean Town-wide cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 25. Discussion ensued about outstanding tasks, including grant opportunities to fund expenses, a poster for the event and cleanup locations.
6. Around the Room: Ms. Green announced that Ginger Brown will present *Lessons from Dragonflies and Damselflies* at the Barrington Public Library on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Green raised concerns about snow clearance practices and the placement of road salt and other contaminants near water supplies. Mr. Payson noted that RI DEM provides guidance through its snow disposal policy. Mr. Payson suggested a future tour of the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. Mr. Maciel announced that the RI Land and Water Conservation Summit will take place on Saturday, March 21 at URI.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciel