

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

TOWN COUNCIL

Nathan T. Calouro, *Chairman*

Mary A. Parella, *Vice Chairwoman*

Antonio A. Teixeira

Timothy E. Sweeney

Aaron J. Ley



Council Clerk
Melissa Cordeiro

Town Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall - 10 Court Street, Bristol Rhode Island

In-Person Participation Only

The public may VIEW the meeting live by using the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87349390477>, or by visiting zoom.com meeting code 873-4939-0477. Please be advised, this link will **NOT** allow for public participation and access, or live stream is not guaranteed.

Please be advised that the council intends to discuss and/or act upon each and every item appearing on this agenda

Present:

Meeting Dates:

October 7, 2026 - Town Council Meeting

October 28, 2026 - Town Council Meeting

November 18, 2026 - Town Council Meeting

December 9, 2026 - Town Council Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance

Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda

A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

A1. Town Council Meeting Minutes (draft) - July 29, 2026
(full minutes)

A2. Town Council Meeting Minutes (draft) - August 19, 2026

B. Public Hearings

B1. Ordinance No. 2026-10 Proposed Amendment to Chapter 28 Zoning, Article IX, Division 2, Development in the areas of Special Flood Hazard, Section 28-303 Definitions (modification from 10 to 5-year look back period) **(see also C2)**

B2. Ordinance No. 2026-11 Proposed Amendments Chapter 28 Zoning Article 1, Section 28-1 Definitions, Article III, Section 28-82 Use Regulations, Article V, Section 28-162 Short Term Rentals **(see also C3)**

C. Ordinances

C1. Ordinance No. 2026-09 Amendment to Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV, Section 16-114 Stop intersections designated (Four-way stop, intersection Coggeshall Avenue and Platt Street) **(2nd reading)**

C2. Ordinance No. 2026-10 Proposed Amendment to Chapter 28 Zoning, Article IX, Division 2, Development in the areas of Special Flood Hazard, Section 28-303 Definitions (modification from 10 to 5-year look back period) **(2nd Reading) (see also B1)**

C3. Ordinance No. 2026-11 Proposed Amendments Chapter 28 Zoning Article 1, Section 28-1 Definitions, Article III, Section 28-82 Use Regulations, Article V, Section 28-162 Short Term Rentals **(2nd Reading) (see also B2)**

C4. Ordinance No. 2026-12 Proposed Amendment Chapter 12 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article 1, Section 12-1 Outdoor fires prohibited; exceptions, Section 12-2 Recreational and cooking fires, (withdrawn from consideration - Section 12-3 Permitted burning for land clearing and yard waste) (withdrawn from consideration Section 12-4 Training fires) Section 12-5 Restrictions; hazardous conditions, Section 12-6 Use restrictions, Section 12-7 Enforcement, Section 12-8 Penalties (outdoor and recreational Fire Protection) **(2nd Reading)**

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

D1. Rosa Paiva, St. Elizabeth's Church Holy Ghost Committee, 577 Wood Street - Request for One-Day Dancing and Entertainment License Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 6:00 PM - 11:00PM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

D2. Margarida Chaves for VFW Post #237, 850 Hope Street - Request for a Bingo License for the second Thursday of each month, through September 2027, 5:30-10:00 pm

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

D3. Albert Quito, Quito's Shellfish and Restaurant, Inc. 411 Thames Street, request Transfer of Class BV Liquor License to Serve Up Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Q's Waterfront by O.M.G. with Expansion of licensed Premises (new ownership - Adam Oppenheimer, Frank Martucci, and Anthony Guaetta) **Call for public Hearing - October 7th**

a. Notice of Claim - Alan Sousa, Bay View Farms d/b/a Mello's Fruit

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

E1. Notification of Name Change for Cruz Goler, Korcula Culinary Consulting, LLC d/b/a Judge Roy Bean Saloon, 1 State Street to Korcula Culinary Consulting, LLC d/b/a Prudence (Receive and File Only).

F. Petitions - Other

F1. Camron Rancourt, Rhode Races & Events Inc. in Partnership with the Bristol 4th of July Committee to hold a Half Marathon on Saturday, June 26, 2027, 6:30AM-10:00AM starting at Independence Park

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of

Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

F2. Bristol Police Department request for Council Contingency Funds to support for the 7th annual Halloween Trunk or Treat/Walkabout Event on Sunday, October 25, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (\$1,500)

G. Appointments

G1. Harbor Commission Advisory Committee - 2 three- year unexpired terms set to expire August 2029

a. Tim Serbst, 7 Basswood Road - interest/appointment

b. James Ferrato, 23 Noyes Avenue - interest/appointment

c. Dr. Thomas Enright, 129 Poppasquash Road - interest/appointment

H. Old Business

H1. Municipal Liquor Licensing Practices - consideration of Resolution to adopt Policy/Guidelines and Phased Approach **(continued from July 29, 2026)**

a. Draft Resolution No. 2026-9-16-H1

H2. Richard Rocha, 9 Jessica Drive, requests the installment of two stop signs at the intersection of Kathy Court and Jessica Drive **(continued from August 19th)**

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

- [I1.](#) Andrea Rounds, Sowams Heritage Area - Feasibility Study
- [I2.](#) Town Administrator Contente request to proceed with an RFP (request for proposals) for the sale of Reynolds School, 235 High Street
- [I3.](#) Town Administrator Contente re Consideration of an increase to the Town Administrators Salary FY 27-28 and FY 28-29

CF. Citizens Public Forum

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK DURING THE CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL CLERK PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

J. Bills & Expenditures

- [J1.](#) Bid No. 1096 - 2027 Full Revaluation Update
- [J2.](#) Bid No. 1097 Guiteras School Sewer Line Replacement

K. Special Reports

- K1.** Bristol County Water Authority Board of Directors, update on current projects and initiatives
- [K2.](#) FY2026 BCWA Annual Report
- [K3.](#) BCWA Tri Town Monthly Report August 27, 2026

L. Town Solicitor

M. Executive Sessions

- M1. Request for Executive Session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) lease of real property

Consent Agenda Items:

(CA) AA. Submission of Minutes - Boards and Commissions

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- [\(CA\) AA1.](#) Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes - June 29, 2026
- [\(CA\) AA2.](#) Bristol Fire Department Board of Engineers Meeting Minutes - August 31, 2026

(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these adjustments"

(CA) BB1. Tax Assessor Leadem Recommended Abatements & Additions for September 2026

(CA) CC. Financial Reports

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"

(CA) DD1. Resolution No 20267-29-F1 - ADA Accessible Parking 43 Bayview Avenue (signed)

(CA) DD2. Resolution No 20267-29-F1 - ADA Accessible Parking removal 44 Church Street (signed)

(CA) EE. Utility Petitions

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"

(CA) FF. City & Town Resolutions Not Previously Considered

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

(CA) FF1. Town of Little Compton - Requesting the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Executive Office of Housing to Recognize the Unique Challenges Facing the Town of Little Compton in the Development of Affordable Housing and to Provide Support to Address These Obstacles

(CA) FF2. Town of Glocester - Resolution # 2026-11 - Requesting the Rhode Island General Assembly to Relieve Cities and Towns of the Unfunded Mandate to Prepare Emergency Action Plans for Privately Owned Dams, and to End the Penalizing of Municipalities for Owner Noncompliance

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) GG1. Town Administrator Contente - Bid 1095 Award Letter
- (CA) GG2. Town of Richmond - No -Knock Registration Ordinance
- (CA) GG3. Town Treasurer Carulli CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Governance Letter (Audit)
- (CA) GG4. RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Program - Response to
Geoffrey Vicente 11 Waterview Lane, Warren Notice
- (CA) GG5. Collective Bargaining Agreement TOB and United Steel
Workers July 2026-June 2029 (signed)
- (CA) GG6. RIDEM regarding PFAS Concentrations
- (CA) GG7. Town Administrator Appointment, Matt Poin - Building
Code of Appeals
- (CA) GG8. Town Administrator Contente - Landscaping Services,
Inc - Bid Award No. 1094 - Curbside Collection of
Residential Yard Waste

(CA) HH. Distributions/Notice of Meetings
(Office copy only)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) HH1. Historic District Commission Meeting - September 3,
2026
- (CA) HH2. Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - August 20, 2026
- (CA) HH3. North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting -
August 19, 2026
- (CA) HH4. Recreation Board Meeting - August 26, 2026
- (CA) HH5. Board of Canvassers Meeting - September 9, 2026
- (CA) HH6. Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting -
August 27, 2026
- (CA) HH7. BCWA Board of Directors Meeting - August 27, 2026
- (CA) HH8. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting - September 1, 2026

- [\(CA\) HH9.](#) Bristol Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting - September 2, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH10.](#) Bristol Fourth of July Committee Ball Subcommittee Meeting - August 31, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH11.](#) Department of Community Development Capital Projects Commission Meeting - September 1, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH12.](#) Zoning Board of Review Meeting - September 14, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH13.](#) Board of Canvassers Meeting - September 10, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH14.](#) Bristol Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting - September 10, 2026 (Cancelled)
- [\(CA\) HH15.](#) Budget and Declining Enrollment Workgroup Meeting - September 10, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH16.](#) Planning Board Meeting - September 10, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH17.](#) The North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting - September 9, 2026
- [\(CA\) HH18.](#) Bristol Harbor Commission Meeting - September 14, 2026

(CA) II. Claims (Referrals)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust"

- [\(CA\) II1.](#) Scott Waterhouse, 34 Annie Moore Road, Balton, MA - claim for damages
- [\(CA\) II2.](#) Jayne West, 283 Wood Street- claim for damages
- [\(CA\) II3.](#) Christine Micheletti - claim for injury

(CA) JJ. Miscellaneous Items Requiring Council Approval

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these items"

- (CA) KK. Curb cut petitions as approved by the director of public works**

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to grant these curb cuts per the recommendation of, and conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works"

(CA) KK1. Chris Woodard, 318 Wood Street request for curb cut

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Adjourned: _____

/mc

Posted: September 11, 2026

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026

The council met on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

PRESENT: Council Chairman, Nathan Calouro
 Vice-Chairwoman, Mary Parella
 Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira
 Councilman, Timothy Sweeney
 Councilman, Aaron Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, Steven Contente
 Town Solicitor, Andy Teitz, Esq
 Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

The Pledge of Allegiance

Council Chair Calouro led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the start of the meeting Chairman Calouro and members of the council wished Clerk Cordeiro a Happy Birthday.

Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared and presented.

A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

A1. Town Council Meeting Minutes - June 24, 2026

Sweeney/Parella- motioned to approve these minutes as prepared and presented. Voting in favor Calouro, Parella, Sweeney, and Ley. Abstaining Teixeira

B. Public Hearings

C. Ordinances

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

D1. Adolfo Escoto, Don Taco & Tequila, 468 Hope Street request one day Liquor License extension of hours on August 15, 2026, to 1:00 AM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to approve the request of a one day Liquor License extension of hours on August 15, 2026, to 1:00 AM

Prior to the vote being taken, Assistant Manager Richard Cunha appeared before the Council and informed the Council of the request for a one-day extension of the establishment's liquor license hours until 1:00 A.M. on August 15, 2026, to accommodate a wedding. He noted that no music or entertainment would occur during the extended hours and respectfully requested the Council's consideration.

The Council discussed the request and noted that the establishment had received a positive recommendation. The Council further noted that the owner was a longtime Bristol business owner and expressed agreement with allowing the one-day extension of hours.

D2. Travis Brassard, Stone Soup Kitchen, LLC, 676 Hope Street request for Victualling License

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Water Pollution Control

Teixeira/Parella-Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote being taken, Travis Brassard and Brenda Perreira, owners of Stone Soup Kitchen, LLC, appeared before the Council regarding their request for a Victualling License.

Mr. Brassard and Ms. Perreira stated that they began their business in Warren approximately a year and a half ago as a scratch kitchen specializing in homemade food. They explained that the Bristol location would operate under a market-style concept, offering freshly prepared foods for customers to purchase, take home, heat, and enjoy. They anticipated opening the Bristol location by September 1, 2026.

The Council congratulated Mr. Brassard and Ms. Perreira on their new location, noting their familiarity with the Warren establishment. Council members welcomed Stone Soup Kitchen to Bristol and wished them continued success.

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

E1. Private Investigator License Renewals 2026-2027 for:

- Charles Galligan, 83 Fales Road
- Veronica Ramos, 23 Fernwood Road
- Stephen Payne, 124 Windward Lane
- Charles Camara, 17 Dixon Avenue

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Sweeney/Teixeira-Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

E2. Dog Kennel License Renewals 2026-2027 for:

- Matthew Dame, A Dog's Life-36 Spring Street
- Donna Olivo, All Paw's Inn- 185 Bayview Avenue
- Allison Barr, Allison's Pampered Pets -
7 Michael Drive
- Ashley Preite, Ashley Preite Grooming, LLC -
629 Metacom Avenue
- Karen McCarthy, Courteous Canine- 1 Vasta Lane
- Erin Meyer, Crate Escape Doggie Day Camp -
15 Gooding Avenue, Unit 17 & 18
- Erin Meyer, Crate Escape Doggie Day Camp -
64 Ballou Blvd
- Karl Correia, East Bay Kennels-47 Broad Common
Road
- Kali Cordes, Kali's Cottage Pet Boarding-
10 Hampden Road

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of
Police (Animal Control)

b recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of
Community Development

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to
grant this license per the
recommendations received and
conditions, if any, as delineated, and
also subject to conformance to all laws
and ordinances and payment of all fees,
taxes, and levies

F. Petitions - Other

F1. Maria Semeraro-Bellanca, 43 Bayview Avenue, Unit #2F,
request for Accessible Parking Space in the Vicinity
of Residence **(review/2nd Reading)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of
Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of
Public Works

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police **(Updated)**

d. (Draft) 2nd Reading Resolution - Resolution No. 2026-7-29-F2

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to be the second reading for the adoption of the resolution for an accessible parking space. Inform the Public Works Department.

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro noted that the matter had been continued to allow the Council to review additional information. He stated that the Council was aware that the applicant was unable to attend the meeting because she was away.

Police Chief Lynch reported that, following further review by the Bristol Police Department, officers spoke with neighboring residents who utilized the existing accessible parking spaces on lower Bayview Avenue and confirmed that those spaces continued to be needed.

Chief Lynch further stated that the Police Department spoke with the applicant's landlord regarding the possibility of accommodating accessible parking on the property. Due to the narrow configuration of the rear of the property, it was determined that the area could not effectively accommodate both an accessible parking space and tenant parking.

Chief Lynch stated that the Police Department therefore recommended establishing an additional accessible parking space adjacent to the existing accessible parking space in the same vicinity. He explained that this would effectively extend the existing accessible parking area to accommodate two vehicles, provide easier access for the applicant, and represent the most efficient use of the available on-street parking area. The council concurred.

F2. Richard and Monica Chartier, 36 Platt Street request a traffic sign installment and 4-way stop at the intersection of Coggeshall Avenue and Platt Street

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Department of Public Works

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Solicitor to draft ordinance language for Council consideration at the August 19, 2026 Town Council meeting, and to request that the Town Administrator work with the Department of Public Works to review the existing traffic signage and install speed limit and dead-end signs, as needed.

Prior to the vote being taken, Richard and Monica Chartier appeared before the Council and explained their request for the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of Coggeshall Avenue and Platt Street. They also requested a review of the existing traffic signage in the area, noting the need for a properly installed dead-end sign on Platt Street and clear signage identifying the 15 MPH speed limit on Platt Street.

Chairman Calouro noted that the recommendation received was in favor of the proposed four-way stop and that a majority of the affected neighbors had signed a petition supporting the request.

Following discussion, the matter was referred to the Town Solicitor to prepare the necessary ordinance for first reading to establish a four-way stop at the intersection of Coggeshall Avenue and Platt Street. The Council further requested that the Town Administrator work with the Department of Public Works to review the existing traffic signage on Platt Street and install appropriate speed limit and dead-end signage, as needed.

F3. James Crouch, 139 Bradford Street, Unit 1F requesting a Mobile Food Event Permit on August 16, 2026, at Independence Park from 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM for post Wedding Breakfast

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks & Recreation

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Teixeira-Voted unanimously to grant a one-day Mobile Food Event Permit for a post-wedding breakfast to be held the parking lot near Quito's, as recommended, on August 16, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with the event limited to one (1) mobile food establishment per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote being taken, James Crouch of 139 Bradford Street, Unit 1F, appeared before the Council regarding his request for a Mobile Food Event Permit to operate a food truck in the downtown waterfront area. He noted the food truck would be for his wedding guests. Mr. Crouch stated that, following discussions with the Police Department, an alternative location had been identified near the Quito's area, which is currently closed, rather than the originally requested parking spaces along Thames Street. He further stated that the Bristol Harbor Inn had declined to allow the food truck to operate from its parking lot, resulting in the request to utilize Town property.

Councilman Teixeira expressed support for the location near Guido's, citing improved safety and ease of access for patrons. Vice Chairwoman Parella noted that locating the food truck along the boardwalk would provide pedestrian access without requiring patrons to enter the street.

Chairman Calouro noted that the proposed location is within a public park and stated that positioning the food truck to one side would provide the operator with a reasonable measure of exclusivity while maintaining the public nature of the area.

Councilman Sweeney expressed his support and moved to approve the Mobile Food Event Permit, consistent with all staff and public safety recommendations, with the food truck to be located in the Guido's area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Teixeira.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Chairman Calouro extended congratulations and well wishes to the applicant.

F4. Gregory Pastore, 44 Church Street request for the removal of an accessible parking space located in front of residence **(1st Reading)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of a request for an accessible parking space and to continue the said matter until august 19, 2026 for second reading and adoption of resolution.

Prior to the vote being taken, petitioner Gregory Pastore stated that he purchased the residence in November and had not observed the accessible parking space being used during the approximately nine months since his purchase. He noted that the space had originally been established for a previous owner who had since passed away and stated that its removal would return the space to general on-street parking.

The Council discussed its practice of reviewing requests for both the establishment and removal of accessible parking spaces. The Council noted that when an accessible parking space is no longer needed, it may be returned to general parking and that, should a need arise in the future, a new request for an accessible parking space could be submitted for consideration.

G. Appointments

G1. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees - 1 three-year term set to expire January 2029

a. Kaitlyn Carmody, 12 Ellen Street - interested/appointment

b. Christina Palmer, 7 Church Cove Road - interested/appointment

c. recommendation - Anne Silvia, Chair of RFL Board of Trustees for appointment of Kaitlyn Carmody

Parella/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to appoint Kaitlyn Carmody to the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees with a term set to expire in January 2029

H. Old Business

H1. Proposed License to Maintain agreement between Town of Bristol and Joseph B & Judy A Jorge, for a strip of land abutting 27 Surf Drive - continued from January 17, 2024 (~~call for Public Hearing August 19th~~)

a. memo from Town Solicitor

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to continue the matter to a future Town Council meeting for further consideration.

Prior to the vote being taken Town Solicitor Teitz requested that the matter be continued, noting that outstanding questions remained and that the Town had been in communication with the applicant. Town Solicitor Tietz stated that additional time was needed before the matter would be ready for Council consideration.

In response to the Council's inquiry as to whether the matter should be continued to the next meeting, the Town Solicitor recommended that it be continued to a future date to be determined, as it was uncertain whether the outstanding questions would be resolved in time for the next Council meeting.

H2. Review of Municipal Liquor Licensing Practices (Phased Approach- requested by council continued from April 22nd)

- a. Compiled Council Recommendations submitted
- b. Councilman Ley - Recommendations
- c. Councilman Sweeny - Recommendations
- d. Councilman Teixeira - Recommendations
- e. Vice Chairwoman Parella - Recommendations

Parella/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Town Solicitor to draft a policy/guidelines reflecting the Council's discussion for consideration at its next meeting

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted receipt of letters from Maryann Bergenholtz and Thomas Bergenholtz.

The Council reviewed its existing practice regarding the issuance of new liquor licenses. Chairman Calouro stated that the Council's general practice has been to issue a limited beer and wine license for an initial six-month period to a new licensee, unless the applicant already held a liquor license in Town and was adding another location. Following the initial six-month period, the applicant could return to the Council for consideration of a full liquor license.

The Council discussed whether this practice remained appropriate in light of changes in the Town and the restaurant industry. Members discussed allowing the Council to consider a full liquor license at the outset when an applicant demonstrates significant prior experience operating or managing a liquor-licensed establishment and a satisfactory operating history, while retaining the Council's discretion to review each application individually.

The Council discussed the types of experience that could be considered, including ownership, management, or direct daily responsibility for an establishment holding a liquor license. Such experience could be obtained in Rhode Island or another state. The Council could also consider an applicant's operating history, references, prior issues, if any, and how those issues were addressed.

Vice Chairwoman Parella discussed requiring a demonstrated period of experience and initially referenced 18 months, while indicating that a shorter period could also be considered. Following discussion, the Council favored using general language regarding significant prior experience rather than establishing

a fixed minimum period that might not appropriately address all circumstances.

The Council discussed that an applicant without significant liquor-license experience would generally be considered for a limited license for the initial six-month period. An applicant demonstrating significant experience and a satisfactory operating history could be considered for a full liquor license at the outset, subject to the Council's case-by-case review.

Councilman Sweeney noted that a written policy should not create an automatic barrier for an individual seeking to establish a business in Bristol. The Council discussed applicants with food-truck or restaurant experience, as well as applicants who may have substantial management experience without having been the named liquor license holder. The Council agreed that applicants should have the opportunity to present their qualifications and experience and that the Council should retain discretion to consider the individual circumstances of each application.

The Council also discussed possible safeguards for applicants with limited experience, including issuance of a limited license, adjusted hours of operation, and follow-up reviews. Members discussed requiring licensees granted a full license to appear before the Council at approximately three months and six months following issuance to allow the Council to review operations and address any concerns.

Town Clerk Cordeiro noted that the Council's prior practice had not been established as a written policy and that applicants remained able to request a full license pursuant to the applicable ordinance and State law. The Council discussed establishing a written policy so that prospective applicants would be informed of the Council's general practices when beginning the application process through the Town Clerk's Office.

The Council further discussed application of the proposed policy to new owners acquiring an existing liquor license. The Town Solicitor clarified that the policy would apply to the transfer of a license to a new owner, but would not apply when an existing licensee was transferring the location of its establishment.

Town Solicitor Teitz stated that the proposed written policy could establish a limited license for the first six months as the Council's general practice, while providing that the Council may waive that practice for an applicant who demonstrates

significant experience operating or managing a liquor-licensed establishment and a satisfactory operating history.

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

II. Town Administrator Contente - Brewster Thornton Group Guiteras School Design Development Update

Sweeney/Teixeira_- Voted unanimously to approve the proposed Change of Service for architectural and engineering services related to the renovation of Guiteras School, as presented, and proceeding with bid for the project as a single-phase construction project managed by a general contractor

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Contente reported that Community Development and Building had relocated to Guiteras School ahead of the initial project schedule. He stated that the original scope of work for Brewster Thornton Group Architects was to prepare Guiteras School for the relocation of those departments from Reynolds School.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the proposed change order would expand the previously approved limited scope to advance a larger project for the consolidation of Town offices at Guiteras School. He stated that the potential sale of Reynolds School could provide funding for additional improvements and allow the Town to relocate all Town offices to Guiteras School should the Council elect to proceed with the sale.

Nathaniel Ginsberg of Brewster & Thornton Group Architects reported that the project team had completed master planning, a building assessment, hazardous-materials review, existing-conditions and building-systems reviews, and site master planning. He stated that potential layouts for Town offices throughout the building had been developed, including consideration of building circulation and use of the site.

Mr. Ginsberg reported that the team was approximately 75% through design development for the initial phase. He explained that the expanded scope would require the team to return to the beginning of the design-development phase; however, the programming and schematic-design phases would not need to be

repeated because the earlier planning had contemplated future Town office uses.

The Council was advised that the estimated total project cost was approximately \$3 million, inclusive of construction, engineering, architectural services, and construction oversight. Town Administrator Contente stated that the project would provide outfitted office space for Town departments and air conditioning throughout the building.

The Council was further advised that the available funding would not provide for a complete auditorium fit-out for Council chambers, new entrance additions, or exterior site work. Town Administrator Contente stated that the auditorium would remain available for larger meetings and referenda, while the second floor could accommodate Council meetings, Probate Court, and Municipal Court. He noted that the schematic design remained in draft form and would be further reviewed with Town departments and the Council.

Mr. Ginsberg reported that the building's heating system was relatively new and that the project team had identified existing ductwork and chases from the building's former school ventilation system that could potentially be utilized for the installation of air conditioning.

The Council discussed the consolidation of Town offices, the potential sale of Reynolds School and other Town-owned buildings, and the potential return of those properties to the tax rolls. Chairman Calouro stated that the Council did not take the potential sale of Town buildings lightly and discussed the anticipated operational efficiencies and cost benefits associated with consolidating Town functions in one location.

Town Administrator Contente stated that estimating and bidding remained to be completed and that the project would be designed within the available budget. He further stated that the project was intended to proceed without a tax increase, with funding anticipated from existing Guiteras funds and proceeds from the sale of Town property.

**12. Town Administrator Contente - Correspondence
Regarding the Town's S&P Global Bond Rating
(Informational)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to receive and place this matter on file.

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Contente reported that the Town received a AA+ bond rating from S&P Global for 2026. He reported that the interest rate for the Town's road-paving borrowing was 3.79% and stated that the strong bond rating contributed to favorable borrowing costs.

Town Administrator Contente reported that S&P Global reviewed the Town's audit and financial information and conducted an approximately one-and-one-half-hour interview with the Treasurer and Town Administrator. He stated that the review included the Town's school bonds, capital forecast, pension plans, other post-employment benefits, annual budget performance, fund balance, and local economy.

Town Administrator Contente stated that the Town's capital forecast included anticipated school bond obligations and continued annual borrowing of approximately \$2.5 million for sewer improvements. He noted that these planned obligations were considered as part of the rating process.

The Council discussed factors that could support achieving a AAA rating. Town Administrator Contente stated that rating agencies utilize scorecards and that additional income and reserves may be among the factors considered. He stated that additional information was expected regarding areas in which the Town could improve its rating.

The Council discussed that the AA+ rating represents a strong credit rating for the Town and assists in reducing borrowing costs. The Council also noted that Bristol's tax rate ranks seventh from the bottom among Rhode Island's 39 municipalities.

13. Fire Chief DeMello regarding Board of Engineers recommendation of Residential Recreational Fires

a. Vice Chairwoman Parella - consideration of the previously proposed 2015 Firepit Ordinance

Parella/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Fire Chief, Town Administrator, and Town Solicitor to draft ordinance language for Council consideration at the August 19, 2026 Town Council meeting.

Prior to the vote being taken, Fire Chief DeMello recommended that the Town's regulations governing recreational fires be tied to the Rhode Island State Fire Code. He stated that the existing Town ordinance generally references campfires and prohibits the burning of trash and leaves but does not establish detailed standards for recreational fires or an effective penalty structure for repeat violations.

Fire Chief DeMello stated that the State Fire Code uses the term "recreational fire" and includes fires for ceremonial purposes, cooking, or warmth. He explained that the Code establishes standards for recreational fires, including size limitations, and allows the authority having jurisdiction to establish certain additional local requirements.

Fire Chief DeMello discussed developing a concise checklist for residents and firefighters identifying the requirements for recreational fires, including fire location and size, permitted and prohibited materials, weather conditions such as Red Flag Warnings, and other applicable safety requirements.

In response to the Chairman's inquiry regarding the need for an ordinance and the Town's existing enforcement authority, Fire Chief DeMello stated that the Fire Department may order a fire extinguished pursuant to the Fire Code; however, the existing Town ordinance does not provide an effective local penalty structure for repeated noncompliance. He stated that repeat matters may currently be referred to the zoning enforcement official, while more serious matters may be referred to the State Fire Marshal and, depending upon the circumstances, could result in a criminal investigation.

Vice Chairwoman Parella expressed concern regarding recreational fires on smaller lots, particularly in downtown areas where homes, older garages, fences, trees, and historic structures are located in close proximity. She discussed concerns involving the burning of pallets and other inappropriate materials, excessive flames and smoke, and the potential risk to surrounding vegetation and structures.

The Council discussed utilizing the State Fire Code standards for recreational-fire dimensions. Fire Chief DeMello stated that the current State Fire Code allows recreational fires up to three feet in diameter and two feet in height. The Council noted that a proposed ordinance considered in 2015 referenced a smaller fire-pit size and discussed relying upon current State standards where appropriate.

The Council discussed conditions that could make recreational fires unsafe, including high winds, drought conditions, excessive fire size, the burning of treated or other inappropriate materials, and failure to ensure that a fire is fully extinguished. Fire Chief DeMello stated that the proposed ordinance and accompanying public information should establish clear standards that are readily available to residents.

The Council also discussed public education before and during implementation of a new ordinance. Fire Chief DeMello stated that information could be provided through the Town website, social media, and other Town communication methods and noted that most complaints are resolved when fire personnel respond and explain the applicable requirements.

Fire Chief DeMello stated that Police and Fire personnel generally respond jointly to complaints reported as smoke in the area because such calls may involve a structure fire. The Council discussed a progressive approach to enforcement, beginning with education and warnings where appropriate, followed by fines or Municipal Court proceedings for repeated violations.

The Council stated that the ordinance should provide the Fire Department and Police Department with clear enforcement authority for repeat violations, with the objective of correcting unsafe behavior and promoting compliance rather than generating revenue.

I4. Director Williamson proposed amendment to the Short-Term Rental Zoning Ordinance

a. (draft) Ordinance

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Town Solicitor to prepare proposed zoning ordinance amendments related to short-term rentals for a First Reading at the August 19, 2026 Town Council meeting, with the amendment that the provision requiring a Special Use Permit for properties hosting or advertising short-term rentals for more than seven (7) total nights in a calendar year be revised to fourteen (14) total nights. The motion further authorized the Town Clerk to advertise and publish notice of the Second Reading and

Public Hearing in advance, and referred the proposed amendments to the Planning Board for a formal recommendation to the Town Council prior to the Public Hearing.

Prior to the vote being taken, Community Development Director Williamson reported that short-term rentals had been identified as a priority during the comprehensive plan update and related public workshops. She stated that participants had raised concerns regarding the potential impact of short-term rentals on housing availability and residential neighborhoods.

Planner/HDC Coordinator Toth presented the draft ordinance and stated that its primary purpose was to preserve long-term housing in Bristol while establishing a local regulatory framework for new short-term rentals.

Planner/HDC Coordinator Toth stated that the proposed ordinance would require new short-term rentals to obtain a special use permit in addition to registering with the State Department of Business Regulation. He explained that the special use permit process would provide notice to neighboring property owners and an opportunity for public comment through the Zoning Board.

The proposed ordinance would not apply to existing short-term rentals actively registered with the State unless the registration lapses for more than one calendar year. The Town Solicitor stated that this provision was intended to identify legally existing uses and avoid uncertainty as to whether an existing short-term rental could continue operating.

Planner/HDC Coordinator Toth stated that the draft would generally require the owner of a short-term rental property to reside at the property during rental periods. He explained that the requirement was intended to ensure that a responsible person was present to address issues involving guests, noise, parking, or other neighborhood concerns.

The Council discussed the owner-occupancy requirement and its potential effect on residents who rent their homes for limited periods, including during the Fourth of July. Mr. Toth stated that the draft included an exception for limited rentals and would continue to allow residents to rent additional rooms or portions of an owner-occupied residence while residing at the property.

Town Solicitor Teitz stated that the Town could not require a property owner to be a Bristol or Rhode Island resident. He

explained that the proposed owner-occupancy requirement was instead intended to regulate the operation of the short-term rental by requiring a responsible operator to be present at the property during rental periods.

The Council discussed increasing the proposed limited-rental exception from seven days to 14 days per calendar year. Town Solicitor Teitz stated that a 14-day exception would allow a homeowner to rent a residence for limited periods without the owner-presence requirement and would also be consistent with a period utilized under certain tax laws. The Council indicated that the proposed ordinance language should be revised to reflect the 14-day exemption in place of the seven-day exemption.

Planner/HDC Coordinator Toth stated that the proposed ordinance would limit occupancy to six persons of any age and establish parking requirements. He noted that parking requirements were particularly relevant in downtown areas, where multiple guests arriving in separate vehicles could affect parking on narrow residential streets.

The proposed ordinance would also prohibit advertising a short-term rental as an event space, wedding venue, party house, or similar use. The Council discussed that the regulations were intended to address the use of residential properties for short-term lodging rather than commercial event operations.

The Council discussed the proposed three-year duration of a special use permit. Town Solicitor Teitz stated that the permit would run with the property during its term, while the three-year limitation would allow for periodic review and provide neighbors with an opportunity to raise concerns during the renewal process if problems developed.

Town Solicitor Tietz stated that short-term rentals might not presently be a widespread issue in Bristol but that regulations should be considered before a substantial increase in such uses occurred. He noted that once legally existing short-term rental uses became established, they could potentially continue as preexisting nonconforming uses if the Town subsequently amended its zoning regulations.

The Council discussed the proposed ordinance as one local tool to address housing availability, neighborhood stability, and parking. Members also discussed examples regarding the number of short-term rentals in other Rhode Island communities and the potential impact of investor-owned short-term rental properties on the local housing market.

Town Solicitor Teitz stated that the Planning Board had reviewed the draft ordinance but that a formal Planning Board recommendation would be required prior to the public hearing. The Council discussed scheduling the ordinance for first reading at the August 19, 2026 Town Council meeting and authorizing advance public notice to allow for a public hearing in September.

I5. Director Williamson Draft amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the Flood Zones

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Town Solicitor to prepare proposed zoning ordinance amendments related to flood zones for a First Reading at the August 19, 2026 Town Council meeting, The motion further authorized the Town Clerk to advertise and publish notice of the Second Reading and Public Hearing in advance, and referred the proposed amendments to the Planning Board for a formal recommendation to the Town Council prior to the Public Hearing.

Prior to the vote being taken, Director Williamson presented a proposed amendment to the definition of substantial improvement in the flood zone ordinance. She explained that the current ordinance requires a 10-year look-back when determining whether improvements exceed 50% of a home's value.

Director Williamson stated that, under the current ordinance, staff reviews work performed during the prior 10 years and adds the cost of the proposed project. If the total exceeds 50% of the value of the home at the beginning of the look-back period, the property owner must bring the home into compliance with floodplain requirements before proceeding with the project.

Director Williamson reported that increased construction costs and changes in property values since the COVID-19 pandemic had caused projects such as siding, doors, windows, energy improvements, solar projects, bathroom remodels, and HVAC upgrades to trigger the substantial-improvement requirement. She stated that some property owners had deferred or abandoned proposed work because of the cost of bringing their homes into floodplain compliance.

Director Williamson recommended changing the look-back period from 10 years to five years. She stated that the change would allow more property owners to complete maintenance and energy-related projects while continuing to meet floodplain-management requirements.

The Council was advised that Bristol participates in the Community Rating System, a voluntary Federal Emergency Management Agency program that provides credit for floodplain-management activities. Director Williamson stated that Bristol is currently rated Class 7, which provides a 15% discount on National Flood Insurance Program insurance for approximately 400 policyholders.

Director Williamson stated that she consulted with Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency staff regarding the proposed change. She reported that a five-year look-back would allow the Town to retain its Class 7 rating and the associated insurance discount.

The Council discussed whether other communities use shorter look-back periods and whether additional Community Rating System activities might offset points associated with the current 10-year provision. Director Williamson stated that other participating communities use different approaches and that she would continue working with State staff to identify other actions that could improve flood insurance discounts while assisting property owners.

CF. Citizens Public Forum

*PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK DURING THE CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM
MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL CLERK PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF
THE MEETING*

The Town Solicitor stated that the Council could receive public comments during Citizens Public Forum but could not respond to questions or comments because of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Rachel Averett, 2 Masterson Avenue, requested that the Council prioritize permanent interpretive signage recognizing the history of New Gorée, Bristol's free Black community. Ms. Averett stated that she had researched Rhode Island history and worked with historians, community members, and descendants over the preceding four years.

Ms. Averett discussed the history of New Gorée as a free Black community in Bristol and stated that its history, along with the history of local Indigenous peoples and land acquisition in Bristol, was not widely represented in the Town's public spaces. She stated that public history and interpretive markers play an important role in determining which people and events are remembered within a community.

Ms. Averett requested that the Council work with the appropriate boards, historians, community members, and descendants to consider the location, historical content, design, and potential funding opportunities for permanent interpretive signage. She further requested that the matter be placed on a future Council agenda and expressed her willingness to work with the Town on the initiative.

J. Bills & Expenditures

J1. Bid No. 1091 2026 Road Resurfacing Project

Sweeney/Parella- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and Department of Public Works to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- T. Miozzi, LLC., in the amount of \$2,221,375.00
- J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$2,442,210.00
- Narragansett Improvement Co., in the amount of \$2,435,225.00
- Vinagno Materials LLC., in the amount of \$1,888,222.00

J2. Bid No. 1092 Property Surveys for Drainage Easements

No Action Taken

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted that no bid were received.

K. Special Reports

K1. BCWA Tri-Town Monthly Report - June 24, 2026

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to receive and place this matter on file and to request that a representative of the BCWA attend a future Town Council meeting to provide a report to the Council

Prior to the vote being taken, The Council discussed Item 2 of the report regarding the removal of the pipeline along the Palmer River and Item 3 regarding the demolition of Phase Two of the current building.

Councilman Teixeira requested that the Bristol County Water Authority Directors appear before the Council to provide an update regarding current Water Authority activities, including the matters referenced in the report.

The Council requested that the Clerk contact the Bristol County Water Authority Directors to arrange for their appearance at a future Council meeting

L. Town Solicitor**M. Executive Sessions**

- M1. Town Administrator Contente request for Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5 (a)(5), acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL Section 42-46-5 (a) (5) concerning the Acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes at 9:09 PM.

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to resume open session and seal the minutes of the Executive Session at 9:16PM.

Solicitor Tietz announced that no motion was made and no vote was taken in Executive Session

Consent Agenda Items:

(CA) AA. Submission of Minutes - Boards and Commissions

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) AA1. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2026
- (CA) AA2. Bristol Fire Department Board of Engineers Meeting Minutes - June 29, 2026
- (CA) AA3. Properties Committee of the BCWA Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2026
- (CA) AA4. BCWA Board Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2026
- (CA) AA5. BCWA Annual Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2026
- (CA) AA6. BCWA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2026
- (CA) AA7. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2026
- (CA) AA8. Zoning Board Meeting Minutes - June 1, 2026
- (CA) AA9. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - May 21, 2026

(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these adjustments"

- (CA) BB1. Tax Assessor Leadem - Recommended Abatements & Additions for July 2026

(CA) CC. Financial Reports

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) CC1. Treasurer Carulli YTD Budget to Actual for month end June 2026

(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"

- (CA) DD1. Proclamation - Thomas M. Carrol 2026, Chief Marshal of the Bristol Fourth of July Celebration (signed)

(CA) EE. Utility Petitions

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"

(CA) FF. City & Town Resolutions Not Previously Considered

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) GG1. Council Chairman Calouro on behalf of the Bristol Town Council regarding House Bill H7676/Senate Bill S2612 to Rhode Island Senate

- (CA) GG2. Town Administrator Contente regarding Designation of Acting Town Administrator

- (CA) GG3. ACLU Report- Access to Public Meetings - RI City and Town Councils and School Committees

- (CA) GG4. Tupelo Realty Court Street Parking Lot Proposed Lease Agreement (signed)

- (CA) GG5. Communication memo from Town Solicitor regarding Newly Enacted Legislation Pertaining to Land Use

(CA) HH. Distributions/Notice of Meetings
(Office copy only)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) HH1. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting - June 25, 2026

- (CA) HH2. Planning Board Technical Review Committee Meeting - June 30, 2026

- (CA) HH3. Budget and Declining Enrollment Workgroup Meeting - June 25, 2026 (CANCELLED)
- (CA) HH4. Bristol 4th of July Committee Parade Subcommittee Meeting - June 27, 2026
- (CA) HH5. Zoning Board of Review Meeting - July 13, 2026
- (CA) HH6. BCWA - July Board Meeting Cancelled
- (CA) HH7. Planning Board Meeting - July 9, 2026
- (CA) HH8. Board of Canvassers Meeting - July 15, 2026
- (CA) HH9. Board of Canvassers Meeting - July 20, 2026 (4:30)
- (CA) HH10. Board of Canvassers Meeting - July 20, 2026 at (3:30 PM)
- (CA) HH11. Bristol Fourth of July Committee General Committee Meeting - July 14, 2026
- (CA) HH12. Conservation Commission Meeting - July 14, 2026
- (CA) HH13. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Golf Tournament Subcommittee Meeting - July 23, 2026
- (CA) HH14. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Four of Diamonds Subcommittee Meeting - July 27, 2026
- (CA) HH15. Planning Board Meeting - July 9, 2026
- (CA) HH16. Board of Canvassers Meeting - July 20, 2026
- (CA) HH17. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting - July 16, 2026
- (CA) HH18. Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Meeting - July 23, 2026
- (CA) HH19. Historic District Commission Meeting - August 6, 2026

(CA) II. Claims (Referrals)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust"

(CA) III. Nicholas McGaw, 15 Hambly Road, Tiverton - claim for damages

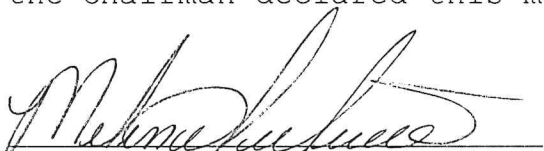
(CA) JJ. Miscellaneous Items Requiring Council Approval

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these items"

(CA) KK. Curb cut petitions as approved by the director of public works

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to grant these curb cuts per the recommendation of, and conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works"

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 9:16 pm.



Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk
Council Clerk

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

The council met on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

PRESENT: Council Chairman, Nathan Calouro
Vice-Chairwoman, Mary Parella
Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira
Councilman, Aaron Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, Steven Contente
Town Solicitor, Andy Teitz, Esq
Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Councilman, Timothy Sweeney

The Pledge of Allegiance

Council Chair Calouro led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Add item- Teixeira/ Ley - Voted unanimously to add an agenda item recognizing two Bristolians who had passed away.

The Council recognized the passing of Ennis Bisbano, former Superintendent of the Bristol School System, and Gail Halligan, a longtime member of the Fourth of July Committee, and acknowledged their service to the community.

Councilman Teixeira reflected on his personal connection with Mr. Bisbano, noting that he had worked for him at the high school and that Mr. Bisbano had appointed him as soccer coach.

The Council extended its condolences and sympathy to the families of Mr. Bisbano and Mrs. Halligan.

Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared and presented.

A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

- A1.** Town Council Meeting Minutes (motions only) - July 29, 2026
- A2.** Town Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes (draft) sealed, council only - July 29, 2026

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 29, 2026 and the Executive Session Minutes of July 29, 2026 as prepared and presented.

B. Public Hearings

C. Ordinances

- C1.** Ordinance No. 2026-09 Amendment to Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV , Section 16-114 Stop intersections designated (Four-way stop, intersection Coggeshall Avenue and Platt Street) **(1st reading)**

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2026-09 and Advertise in the local newspaper.

- C2.** Ordinance No. 2026-10 Proposed Amendment to Chapter 28 Zoning, Article IX, Division 2, Development in the areas of Special Flood Hazard, Section 28-303 Definitions (modification from 10 to 5-year look back period) **(1st Reading/Call for Public Hearing September 16th)**

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2026-10. and to call for a public hearing to consider said matter for September 16, 2026; refer the proposed amendments to the Planning Board for a formal recommendation to the Town Council prior to the Public Hearing.

Advertise in the local newspaper.

- C3.** Ordinance No. 2026-11 Proposed Amendments Chapter 28 Zoning Article 1, Section 28-1 Definitions, Article III , Section 28-82 Use Regulations, Article V , Section 28-162 Short Term Rentals **(1st Reading/Call for Public Hearing September 16th)**

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2026-11. and to call for a public hearing to consider said matter for September 16, 2026; refer the proposed amendments to the Planning Board for a formal recommendation to the Town Council prior to the Public Hearing.
Advertise in the local newspaper.

- C4.** Ordinance No. 2026-12 Proposed Amendment Chapter 12 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article 1, Section 12-1 Outdoor fires prohibited; exceptions, Section 12-2 Recreational and cooking fires, Section 12-3 Permitted burning for land clearing and yard waste, Section 12-4 Training fires, Section 12-5 Restrictions; hazardous conditions, Section 12-6 Use restrictions, Section 12-7 Enforcement, Section 12-8 Penalties (outdoor and recreational Fire Protection) **(1st Reading)**

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to Strick out section 12-3 and 12-4, consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2026-12.
Advertise in the local newspaper.

Prior to the vote being taken, Fire Chief DeMello, stated that the proposed ordinance reflected existing state fire code and would permit fire pits under specified conditions. He recommended striking Section 12-3, concerning land clearing and yard waste, because such burning was not currently permitted and would produce substantial smoke. He further stated that Section

12-4, concerning training fires, was not necessary because the Fire Department follows applicable training requirements.

The solicitor stated that the Council could proceed with first reading and address the removal of sections at second reading and hearing because the changes would remove, rather than add, sections

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

D1. Jennifer Cleland, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 1401 Hope Street request for Dancing & Entertainment License

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

Teixeira/Parella Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies ; Subject fire inspections and a six-month review

D2. Courtney Guertin - for Mollypalooza (a benefit for Almost Home Rescue), 230 Wood Street, request for a One-Day Dancing and Entertainment License to be held at the Cup Defenders on Sunday, October 11, 2026, from 2:00-8:00 PM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and

also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote being taken, Courtney Guertin reported that Mollypalooza was the fifteenth annual fundraiser benefiting Almost Home Rescue. She stated that the event would include a clam boil and entertainment, with an outdoor band scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and an indoor band from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event would conclude at 8:00 p.m. and would comply with applicable noise, fire, tent, capacity, and other requirements.

Ms. Guertin stated that proceeds from the annual fundraiser support abandoned, abused, and neglected dogs through Almost Home Rescue. She reported that the event would be held outdoors under a tent, weather permitting, with the final band performing indoors. Tickets would be \$40 and include the clam boil and music, with additional food available from CP Catering and The Cup Defenders. A cash bar would also be available for people 21 years of age and older.

Ms. Guertin reported that the organization had raised a total of \$123,080 through the first fourteen Mollypalooza events, including approximately \$30,000 at the previous year's event. She stated that New England Tent would provide the tent and maintain the required fire permits and extinguishers. She further stated that The Cup Defenders would monitor occupancy should the event be required to move indoors and that the event would comply with applicable noise requirements

D3. Donna M. Falcoa, Benjamin Church Tenants Association, 1014 Hope Street re request for a Bingo License on Fridays bi-monthly from September 2026 through August 2027 (located in Benjamin Church Community Room)

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws

and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

- D4. (LATE ITEM)** Anna Barboza-Motta, Chair Bristol Fourth of July Committee requests a Bingo License for a fundraiser on Wednesday, September 16th from 5:30-9:30 PM at the VFW, 850 Hope Street

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted the Police Department and Fire Department recommendation as received at meeting

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

- E1.** 3-Month review re: Show Cause Hearing- consideration of the revocation or suspension of the Dancing and Entertainment License and the Class B Victualer Intoxicating Beverage license issued to AZJ - John St. LLC-Jeffrey Quinlan, Zach King, Andrew Tuchler, d/b/a Aidan's Pub, 5 John Street **(continued from April 29th)**

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to November 18, 2026

Prior to the vote being taken, Police Chief Lynch reported that there had been seven calls for service at Aidan's Pub. Neighbors continued to report concerns regarding music volume; however, the reported levels had not reached a violation of the Town ordinance. He stated that representatives of the establishment had met with the Police Department and had reduced the music volume when requested.

Police Chief Lynch reported that the April 2026 consent order addressed outdoor entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays; however, the liquor license renewed in June 2026 authorized outdoor entertainment only on Fridays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Town Solicitor Teitz clarified that the current license controlled and that outdoor entertainment was permitted only on Fridays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the ground-floor area. Outdoor entertainment was not authorized on the second-floor deck.

Town Solicitor Teitz reported that two complaints regarding early-morning food deliveries had occurred on May 18 and May 23, 2026, at approximately 5:00 a.m., with no subsequent complaints reported. Police had instructed the establishment regarding the deliveries. Town Solicitor Teitz also noted that required security logs had not always been submitted in a timely manner.

The license holder's representative stated that food vendors had utilized a key-drop arrangement to make deliveries before the establishment opened and that he would follow up with the vendors to ensure that future deliveries occurred at appropriate times.

Joseph Baxter, attorney for the license holder, stated that the license holder sought to maintain the current license conditions and would address the food-delivery and security-log matters. Mike Cockrell, General Manager of Aidan's Pub, was identified as available to respond to operational questions.

Town Solicitor Teitz recommended maintaining the current license conditions through the fall and revisiting the matter as part of the November liquor-license renewal review. The Council discussed the reported operational improvements and the need for continued compliance with the consent order and current license conditions. The Council considered continuing the review to the November 18, 2026 license-review meeting.

F. Petitions - Other

F1. Diane Mederos, Executive Director, East Bay Community Development Corp, 150 Franklin Street, requests consideration of a "compact vehicles only" sign after the two no-parking spaces on the west side of the elder care facility.

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Ley/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to continue the request for consideration as part of the Franklin Street study

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro discussed incorporating the request into the planned Franklin Street study. He stated that the study would include input from Franklin Court and could identify potential solutions beyond the requested compact-vehicle-only signage.

Chairman Calouro stated that the request concerned parking in close proximity to the Franklin Court parking-lot exit. He stated that the Franklin Street study would consider the impact of parking on the surrounding neighborhood, including Franklin Court, and that incorporating the request into the study could help identify the underlying parking concerns and potential alternatives to the requested signage.

F2. Gregory Pastore, 44 Church Street request for the removal of an accessible parking space located in front of residence **(2nd Reading)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

c. (Draft) 2nd Reading Resolution - Resolution No. 2026-8-19-F2

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to consider this action to be the second reading for the adoption of the resolution for the removal of the accessible parking space in the vicinity of 44 Church Street. Inform the Public Works Department.

- F3.** Richard Rocha, 9 Jessica Drive, requests the installment of two stop signs at the intersection of Kathy Court and Jessica Drive

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Parella/Teixeria- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to the next meeting and instruct Clerk Cordeiro to notify the petitioner of the petition requirement follow the same general approach utilized for traffic-calming requests and should demonstrate support from approximately 75% of the impacted neighbors.

It was noted for the record that the petitioner was not present.

Prior to the vote being taken, the Council discussed the need for a petition demonstrating support from the impacted neighbors before further consideration of the request. The Council stated that the petition process should follow the same general approach utilized for traffic-calming requests and should demonstrate support from approximately 75% of the impacted neighbors.

Clerk Cordeiro asked how the affected area should be identified for purposes of obtaining the required neighborhood support. The Council directed that the petition follows the same approach used for traffic-calming requests. Council members discussed the importance of obtaining input from a substantial majority of nearby residents before installing stop signs, including consideration of the potential impact on neighboring properties and the Town costs associated with evaluating and implementing the request.

- F4.** Melissa Parsons, Executive Director, Bike to the Beach for Autism - request for approval of Cycling Event through Bristol on September 19, 2026

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to approve the petition per the recommendations received and conditions delineated and also subject to

conformance to all laws and ordinances;
with traffic and detail-officer
arrangements to be coordinated with the
Police Chief and
Police Department as appropriate

G. Appointments

G1. Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
(aka Discover Newport) - 1 three-year term set to
expire July 2029

a. Stephan Brigidi, 93 Highland Road -
interest/reappointment

b. Alayne White, 11 Constitution Street -
interest/appointment

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to
instruct the Clerk to appoint Stephan
Brigidi to the Newport & Bristol Count
Convention & Visitors Bureau for the
term to expire n July 2029

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro reported that he
had spoken with both applicants. He stated that Alayne White
intended to attend bureau meetings to become more familiar with
its activities and to support Bristol's representation through
her involvement with Explore Bristol.

Chairman Calouro stated that he had advised both applicants of
the Council's general practice of reappointing an incumbent
absent a reason not to do so. He reported that Ms. White
expressed an interest in remaining involved with the bureau by
attending meetings, staying informed of its activities, and
supporting Bristol's representation. He further noted Ms.
White's service as Chair of the 250th Committee and her interest
in supporting Bristol and the downtown merchants in coordination
with Mr. Brigidi.

The Council discussed Ms. White's service on Town committees,
her involvement with Explore Bristol, and her interest in
representing the Town. The Council considered the reappointment
of Mr. Brigidi for the available term while recognizing Ms.
White's interest in continued participation with the bureau.

- G2.** Historic District Commission - 1 three-year, unexpired 2nd Auxiliary member set to expire July 2027

a. Blair Moore, 291 High Street - interest/appointment

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to instruct the Clerk to set a special meeting for interviews to be held at the next council meeting of September 16, 2026, or at the convenience of the parties

H. Old Business

- H1.** Municipal Liquor Licensing Practices - Review of Draft Policy/Guidelines and Phased Approach (continued from July 29, 2026)

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to the September 16, 2026 council meeting.

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro recommended that the discussion regarding Municipal Liquor Licensing Practices - Review of Draft Policy be continued to the September 16, 2026 Town Council meeting to ensure that all Council members were in attendance to participate in the discussion and consideration of the proposed policy

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

- I1.** Councilman Ley: Discussion and consideration of the potential impacts of data centers on the Town and related zoning regulations regarding their construction and siting in Bristol

Ley/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to refer the question of data-center land use to the Planning Board for a recommended definition of "data center" and a recommendation regarding where data centers may be permitted in the zoning table

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Ley introduced the matter and referenced materials concerning data-center issues in Smithfield, Rhode Island. He stated that Bristol's zoning use tables did not specifically address data centers and requested

that the Council consider the issue proactively before a proposal was presented to the Town.

Councilman Ley discussed the potential scale and permanence of data-center facilities, including large buildings and substantial mechanical equipment. He also discussed potential impacts on surrounding properties associated with continuously operating cooling equipment, regularly tested backup generators, and vehicle and equipment activity necessary to service such facilities.

The Council discussed whether data centers should be specifically addressed in the zoning use tables, the availability of suitable land and infrastructure in Bristol, potential facility-size thresholds, special-use-permit requirements for smaller facilities, construction and permanent employment opportunities, electrical requirements, and water usage.

Council members discussed whether smaller facilities, such as servers located within a building of approximately 5,000 square feet, should be treated differently from larger data-center developments. The Council discussed establishing regulations based upon size or scale, potentially prohibiting larger facilities while allowing smaller facilities through special-use review. Members also noted that changes in technology could affect the size, noise, energy consumption, and resource requirements of future data centers.

Director Williamson stated that a use not specifically identified in the zoning use table was not permitted unless determined to be similar to an existing listed use. She reported that, in the opinion of the Zoning Officer, none of the currently listed uses were sufficiently similar to a data center. She stated that data centers could either be specifically prohibited in all zoning districts or addressed through a scaled approach, with larger facilities prohibited and smaller facilities potentially permitted through special-use review.

Director Williamson stated that additional research was needed regarding the types and locations of data-center uses, including whether smaller facilities should be permitted only as accessory uses to existing buildings. She noted the Town's interest in preserving manufacturing-zoned property for employment-generating uses and stated that data centers might not generate substantial ongoing employment.

The Council further discussed the potential need for substantial electrical infrastructure, water resources for cooling, and other utility improvements. Members also discussed information concerning data-center developments in other jurisdictions, including construction employment, permanent operational employment, and potential impacts associated with utility infrastructure extending beyond the boundaries of a proposed site.

Director Williamson recommended referring the matter to the Planning Board for further study and recommendation. The Council discussed requesting that the Planning Board develop a definition of "data center" and provide recommendations regarding the zoning districts, size or scale limitations, and conditions under which a data center could be permitted.

**12. Clerk Cordeiro re upcoming election details
(informational)**

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to
Receive and file

Prio to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro provided an update regarding the upcoming 2026 elections. She reported that the State Primary would be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. She noted that the Primary would be held on Wednesday rather than Tuesday due to the Labor Day holiday.

Clerk Cordeiro reported that early voting would begin on August 20 and continue through September 8 at the Guiteras School building, 35 Washington Street, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with no early voting on Labor Day, Monday, September 7.

Clerk Cordeiro stated that early voting would be accessed through the ADA-accessible rear entrance near the parking area. She noted that ADA-accessible parking spaces were available and that signage had been installed to direct voters to the appropriate entrance.

Clerk Cordeiro reported that the Primary would utilize five polling locations and that postcards had been mailed to registered voters advising them of their polling locations. She stated that voters could also confirm their polling location at vote.ri.gov or by contacting Bristol Town Hall.

She stated that mail ballots for the Primary must be received by 8:00 p.m. on September 9 and could be returned by mail,

deposited in a drop box located in front of any city or town hall in Rhode Island, or returned at a polling location on Election Day.

Clerk Cordeiro further reported that the General Election would be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Councilman Teixeira thanked Clerk Cordeiro for her efforts and dedication to the election process.

- 13.** Public Notice - RI DEM Office of Water Resources, Geoffrey Vicente, 11 Waterview Lane, Warren requesting permission to alter a freshwater wetland (Intersection of Tilbury and Leahy Drive) requires a response by September 8th

Parella/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to provide comments to RI DEM regarding potential effects on the neighborhood and Town and instruct the Clerk to work with the Community Development Director to prepare the correspondence.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted for the record a recommendation memo received by Director Williamson

Director Williamson reviewed the application and stated that the property was an undeveloped, nonconforming single lot of record containing approximately 6,835 square feet. She reported that wetland flagging indicated that nearly the entire lot consisted of wetlands and that the proposed foundation was shown within the water table, with a foundation drain discharging to a pad behind the proposed building.

Director Williamson stated that the Town was an abutter to the property through three open-space wetland parcels acquired through a tax sale. She stated that the application had been reviewed in conjunction with Town records and that the Town's comments would be submitted to RI DEM because the Planning Board would not meet prior to the September 8, 2026 comment deadline.

Director Williamson stated that a sump pump would likely be necessary and that the surrounding area lacked drainage infrastructure on Tilbury Drive and Whopping Drive north of Leahy Drive. She reported that the wetlands provided overland stormwater storage and that the Town had received reports of existing drainage and flooding concerns, particularly in the area of Basswood Drive. She further stated that the Town had

investigated potential drainage improvements but had not identified a feasible connection.

Director Williamson stated that the proposed wetland alteration, additional impervious surface, and anticipated discharge from a sump pump could contribute to existing flooding conditions in the neighborhood. She noted that stormwater runoff in the area occurred largely through overland flow and that the existing wetlands provided storage for that runoff.

Director Williamson also reported that portions of the surrounding area lacked access to public water and that many properties relied upon private wells. She stated that the wetlands contributed to groundwater recharge and recommended that the Council communicate these concerns to the RI DEM Office of Water Resources.

The Council discussed the importance of submitting the Town's comments to RI DEM, which had jurisdiction over the requested wetland alteration. Council members also noted the history of drainage and flooding concerns in the area and the importance of considering the potential impacts of the proposed development as part of RI DEM's review.

CF. Citizens Public Forum

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK DURING THE CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL CLERK PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

J. Bills & Expenditures

J1. Bid No. 1093 Catering Services for the Fourth of July Ball 2027

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and the 4th of July Committee to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Common Pub & Grille/CPs Catering
 - Option 1 Sit Down
 - \$40,155.00 / \$145pp
 - Option 2 Food Stations
 - \$42,905.00 / \$155pp

J2. Bid No. 1094 Curbside Collection of Residential Yard Waste

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Landscaping Services, Inc., (three year Contract)
 - Base Bid A in the amount \$TBD
 - Base Bid B in the amount of \$1,160,597.00
- MTG Disposal, LLC., (three year contract)
 - Base Bid A in the amount of \$1,872,900.00
 - Base Bid B in the amount of \$1,872,900.00
 - (five Year Contract)
 - Base Bid A in the amount of \$2,792,600.00
 - Base Bid 5 in the amount of \$2,792,600.00

J3. Bid No. 1095 Fireworks Display for Parks & Recreation

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Pyrotecnico, in the amount of \$18,000.00

J4. Chairman Calouro: Discussion and possible action regarding the transfer of the Public Media budget line item to the Town Administrator's budget for the payment of Town Council meeting recording and broadcasting services.

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to table the matter

K. Special Reports

L. Town Solicitor

M. Executive Sessions

Consent Agenda Items:

(CA) AA. Submission of Minutes - Boards and Commissions

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

(CA) AA1. Bristol Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes - August 3, 2026

(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these adjustments"

(CA) BB1. Tax Assessor Leadem - Recommended Abatements & Additions for August 2026

(CA) CC. Financial Reports

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"

- (CA) CC1. Town Treasurer Carulli - YTD Budget Actuals for August 2026
- (CA) DD. **Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations**
Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"
- (CA) EE. **Utility Petitions**
Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"
- (CA) FF. **City & Town Resolutions Not Previously Considered**
Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"
- (CA) GG. **Distributions/Communications**
Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"
- (CA) GG1. Christina Palmer, 7 Church Cove Road - RFL Board of Trustees
- (CA) GG2. Town Administrator Contente - Award letter Bid No. 1091
- (CA) GG3. Contract between Town of Bristol and United Steelworkers AFL-CIO, CLC Local 14845 July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2029 (signed copy)
- (CA) HH. **Distributions/Notice of Meetings**
(Office copy only)
Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"
- (CA) HH1. Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - July 30, 2026
- (CA) HH2. BCWA - Properties Committee Meeting - August 12, 2026
- (CA) HH3. North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting - August 12, 2026
- (CA) HH4. Bristol Fourth of July General Committee Meeting - August 19, 2026

- (CA) HH5. Bristol Fourth of July Membership Subcommittee Meeting - August 19, 2026
- (CA) HH6. Bristol Christmas Festival General Committee Meeting - August 17, 2026

(CA) II. Claims (Referrals)

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust"

- (CA) II1. John Gifford, 98 State Street - claim for damages
- (CA) II2. Dwann Cardona, 147 Harold Street, Providence - notice of claim
- (CA) II3. Paula Armillotto, 74 Charles Street - claim for injury

(CA) JJ. Miscellaneous Items Requiring Council Approval

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these items"

- (CA) KK. Curb cut petitions as approved by the director of public works**

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to grant these curb cuts per the recommendation of, and conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works"

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Teixeira, seconded by Councilman Ley and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk
Council Clerk

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-10**

**AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 28
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE**

* * *

CHAPTER 28 – ZONING

* * *

**ARTICLE IX. – LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND SPECIAL ZONES
DIVISION 2. – DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

* * *

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that Chapter 28 of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

* * *

Sec. 28-303. - Definitions.

Amend as follows:

* * *

Substantial improvement means any combination of repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alterations, additions or other improvements to a structure, taking place during a ~~ten~~five-year period, in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure as determined at the beginning of such ~~ten~~five-year period. This term includes structures that have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual repair work performed. For purposes of this definition, "substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. The term does not, however, include either:

- (1) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local

TOWN OF BRISTOL

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment to Section 28-303 of the Ordinance would change the look-back period contained within the definition of “substantial improvement” from ten years to five years, such that the cumulative cost of any combination of repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alterations, additions or other improvements to a structure would be evaluated over a period of five rather than ten years.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk’s Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk’s Office at no cost.

The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing must notify the Town Clerk’s Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

August 20th & 27th & September 3rd, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DEVELOPMENT IN
AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

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Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing must notify the Town Clerk's Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk
August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-11**

**AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 28
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE**

* * *

CHAPTER 28 – ZONING

* * *

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that Chapter 28 of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

* * *

ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL

Sec. 28-1. Definitions

Amend as follows:

* * *

Short Term Rental means a building in which one or more dwelling units or rooms for sleeping are rented for lodging accommodations for periods of 31 consecutive days or less with or without the furnishing of meals and with the owner who is in charge and manages such rentals residing on said property at all times during the period of such rental. No more than six short-term renters, regardless of age, shall be allowed during any rental period irrespective of the number of dwelling units or rooms for sleeping that are contained in the building. Only one building on a lot or parcel of land shall be allowed a short-term rental use. All short-term rentals must be registered in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-63.1-14, as amended.

* * *

- a. A valid Short Term Rental Registration with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation shall be a condition subsequent for a special use permit.
- b. Valid home or commercial insurance policy covering short term rentals with coverage no less than \$1 Million shall be a condition subsequent to a special use permit.
- 3. No more than 5 Bedrooms shall be rented in total for short term rentals per property, lot, or parcel.
- 4. One off street parking spot per bedroom shall be required in addition to the minimum parking spaces already required for the building.
- 5. Any unit that is not a legal residential unit shall not be eligible for short-term rental.
- 6. The DBR registration number of the rental, property address and contact information for owner or resident manager must be posted conspicuously where it can be seen from a public street during rental periods in a manner prescribed by the Zoning Officer.

Properties, lots, or parcels hosting Short Term Rentals shall not be used or advertised in whole or in part as venues for events, parties, or functions. Short Term Rentals shall be used only for transient lodging accommodations as defined in these standards.

Secs. 28-1623—28-180. - Reserved.

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS**

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would define and regulate short-term rentals and set forth the zones in which short-term rentals are permitted by special use permit. Short-term rentals would be prohibited in certain zones. Short-term rentals that are validly registered with the State of Rhode Island as of the adoption of the amendment would be defined as legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from local zoning requirements. The amendments would establish criteria for the granting of a special use permit for a short-term rental.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk's Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at no cost.

The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing must notify the Town Clerk's Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk
August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

TOWN OF BRISTOL

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would define and regulate short-term rentals and set forth the zones in which short-term rentals are permitted by special use permit. Short-term rentals would be prohibited in certain zones. Short-term rentals that are validly registered with the State of Rhode Island as of the adoption of the amendment would be defined as legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from local zoning requirements. The amendments would establish criteria for the granting of a special use permit for a short-term rental.

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Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

August 20th & 27th & September 3rd, 2026

2nd READING
TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-09

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 16
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE

* * *

CHAPTER 16 – MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

* * *

ARTICLE IV. – OPERATION OF VEHICLES

* * *

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that Chapter 16 of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

* * *

Sec. 16-114. Stop intersections designated.

The following intersections are hereby designated as stop intersections and all vehicles shall stop before entering the same:

* * *

(2) Four-way stop intersections:

[Add the following:]

Coggeshall Avenue and Platt Street

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

The Town Council will be in session in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, on September 16, 2026. If remonstrance in the meantime, a petition bearing the valid signatures of at least twenty (20) qualified voters must be filed with the Town Clerk requesting a Public Hearing, such hearing must be held before final action may be taken on said ordinance.

By Order of the Town Council
 Melissa Cordeiro
 COUNCIL CLERK

August 27, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BRISTOL PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-09

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 16 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE

* * *

CHAPTER 16 – MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

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By Order of the Town Council
MELISSA CORDEIRO
TOWN CLERK

August 27, 2026

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-09**

**AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 16
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE**

* * *

CHAPTER 16 – MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

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[Add the following:]

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By Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

August 27, 2026

2nd READING
TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-10

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 28
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE

* * *

CHAPTER 28 – ZONING

* * *

ARTICLE IX. – LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND SPECIAL ZONES
DIVISION 2. – DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD

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- (1) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local

code enforcement official, and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or

- (2) Any alteration of a "historic" structure, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure".

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

The Town Council will be in session in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, on September 16, 2026. If remonstrance in the meantime, a petition bearing the valid signatures of at least twenty (20) qualified voters must be filed with the Town Clerk requesting a Public Hearing, such hearing must be held before final action may be taken on said ordinance.

By Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DEVELOPMENT IN
AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment to Section 28-303 of the Ordinance would change the look-back period contained within the definition of "substantial improvement" from ten years to five years, such that the cumulative cost of any combination of repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alterations, additions or other improvements to a structure would be evaluated over a period of five rather than ten years.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk's Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at no cost.

The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing must notify the Town Clerk's Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk
August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT –
DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment to Section 28-303 of the Ordinance would change the look-back period contained within the definition of “substantial improvement” from ten years to five years, such that the cumulative cost of any combination of repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alterations, additions or other improvements to a structure would be evaluated over a period of five rather than ten years.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk’s Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk’s Office at no cost.

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Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing must notify the Town Clerk’s Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

August 20th & 27th & September 3rd, 2026

2nd READING

TOWN OF BRISTOL PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 2026-11

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 28 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE

* * *

CHAPTER 28 – ZONING

* * *

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that Chapter 28 of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

* * *

ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL

Sec. 28-1. Definitions

Amend as follows:

* * *

Short Term Rental means a building in which one or more dwelling units or rooms for sleeping are rented for lodging accommodations for periods of 31 consecutive days or less with or without the furnishing of meals and with the owner who is in charge and manages such rentals residing on said property at all times during the period of such rental. No more than six short-term renters, regardless of age, shall be allowed during any rental period irrespective of the number of dwelling units or rooms for sleeping that are contained in the building. Only one building on a lot or parcel of land shall be allowed a short-term rental use. All short-term rentals must be registered in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-63.1-14, as amended.

* * *

ARTICLE III. – PERMITTED USES

* * *

Sec. 28-82. Use Regulations

Amend the Permitted Use Table as Follows:

ZONING DISTRICTS	R-80	R-40	R-20	R-15	R-10 R-10SW R-8	R-6	LB	GB	D	W†	M	OS	EI	HPC	MMU	PI
RESIDENTIAL																
<u>Short Term Rental</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>

* * *

ARTICLE V. – SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

* * *

Sec. 28-162. Short-Term Rentals.

- (a) Applicability. Short Term Rentals validly registered with the State of Rhode Island at the date of adoption of these standards shall be presumed to be legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from a special use permit and resident-occupancy requirements unless registration is not renewed with the Department of Business Regulation and allowed to lapse for a period greater than 365 consecutive days. After 365 consecutive days, the use shall be presumed to be abandoned, at which point a special use permit must be obtained restart operation. Abandonment may also be established by any other overt act or failure to act indicating an intent to abandon under applicable law.
- (b) Standards.
1. A special use permit shall be required for any property, lot or parcel hosting or advertising short term rentals for more than fourteen (14) total nights in a calendar year. A special use permit may be granted by the Zoning Board if all standards are met. Special use permits for Short Term Rentals shall be valid for three (3) years and may be renewed. The owner who is responsible for managing a short-term rental must reside on the same property, lot, or parcel during the entire duration of any short-term rental.
 2. The following requirements are conditions of any approved Special Use Permit and must be submitted to validate the approval:

- a. A valid Short Term Rental Registration with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation shall be a condition subsequent for a special use permit.
- b. Valid home or commercial insurance policy covering short term rentals with coverage no less than \$1 Million shall be a condition subsequent to a special use permit.
- 3. No more than 5 Bedrooms shall be rented in total for short term rentals per property, lot, or parcel.
- 4. One off street parking spot per bedroom shall be required in addition to the minimum parking spaces already required for the building.
- 5. Any unit that is not a legal residential unit shall not be eligible for short-term rental.
- 6. The DBR registration number of the rental, property address and contact information for owner or resident manager must be posted conspicuously where it can be seen from a public street during rental periods in a manner prescribed by the Zoning Officer.

Properties, lots, or parcels hosting Short Term Rentals shall not be used or advertised in whole or in part as venues for events, parties, or functions. Short Term Rentals shall be used only for transient lodging accommodations as defined in these standards.

Secs. 28-1623—28-180. - Reserved.

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

The Town Council will be in session in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, on September 16, 2026. If remonstrance in the meantime, a petition bearing the valid signatures of at least twenty (20) qualified voters must be filed with the Town Clerk requesting a Public Hearing, such hearing must be held before final action may be taken on said ordinance.

By Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS**

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would define and regulate short-term rentals and set forth the zones in which short-term rentals are permitted by special use permit. Short-term rentals would be prohibited in certain zones. Short-term rentals that are validly registered with the State of Rhode Island as of the adoption of the amendment would be defined as legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from local zoning requirements. The amendments would establish criteria for the granting of a special use permit for a short-term rental.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk's Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at no cost.

The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing must notify the Town Clerk's Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk
August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

TOWN OF BRISTOL**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS**

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would define and regulate short-term rentals and set forth the zones in which short-term rentals are permitted by special use permit. Short-term rentals would be prohibited in certain zones. Short-term rentals that are validly registered with the State of Rhode Island as of the adoption of the amendment would be defined as legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from local zoning requirements. The amendments would establish criteria for the granting of a special use permit for a short-term rental.

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The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

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Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

August 20th & 27th & September 3rd, 2026

2nd READING
TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-12

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 12
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that Chapter 12 of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 12 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

* * *

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

* * *

§ 12-1. Outdoor fires prohibited; exceptions.

No person shall kindle, maintain, or permit any outdoor fire within the Town of Bristol except as expressly authorized by this article, the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, as amended, or other applicable state law. Any outdoor fire not expressly authorized by this article, the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, as amended, or other applicable state law shall constitute a violation of the Bristol Code.

§ 12-2. Recreational and cooking fires.

- A. The conduct of recreational fires and cooking fires shall be in accordance with the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, as amended, and the most current edition thereof adopted by law, and shall comply with the requirements of this section.
- B. No permit shall be required for cooking fires or recreational fires, provided that such fires comply with this article, the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, and all other applicable laws and regulations.
- C. For purposes of this section, a recreational fire means the noncommercial burning of materials other than rubbish for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, or similar purposes in which the fuel burned is not contained in an incinerator, barbecue grill, or barbecue pit, and the total fuel area does not exceed three (3) feet (0.9 m) in diameter and two (2) feet (0.6 m) in height.
- D. Recreational and cooking fires shall only be conducted between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

- E. Recreational fires shall use only clean, seasoned firewood or commercially available fire logs, or shall be gas-fired and used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- F. No person shall burn construction debris, pallets, trash, rubbish, furniture, vegetation, yard waste, painted wood, treated lumber, pressure-treated wood, plastics, rubber, hazardous substances or materials, or any other material not expressly authorized by this article.
- G. Recreational fires shall not exceed three (3) feet in diameter or two (2) feet in height.
- H. Recreational fires shall not be located within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure or combustible material unless contained in an approved manner. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread to within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. All fires shall be located in a manner that does not create a hazard to adjacent property, structures, or persons.
- I. Open, recreational, and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is fully extinguished.
- J. A garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire-extinguishing equipment shall be readily available for use at all times while an open, recreational, or cooking fire is burning.

~~§ 12-3. Permitted burning for land clearing and yard waste.~~

- ~~A. The Fire Department may issue permits for land clearing or yard waste burning at its discretion and subject to the requirements of this section and the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, as amended.~~
- ~~B. Permits shall specify:~~
 - ~~(1) Location of burning;~~
 - ~~(2) Name and address of permittee; and~~
 - ~~(3) Authorized dates and times.~~
- ~~C. Permitted burning shall occur only between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., unless otherwise specifically authorized by the Fire Department and permitted by applicable law.~~
- ~~D. Only brush and tree limbs originating from the permittee's property may be burned.~~
- ~~E. The following materials are strictly prohibited:~~
 - ~~(1) Leaves;~~

~~(2) Trash or rubbish;~~

~~(3) Furniture;~~

~~(4) Construction debris;~~

~~(5) Tires;~~

~~(6) Plastics or rubber; and~~

~~(7) Hazardous substances or materials.~~

~~F. The maximum burn pile size shall be five (5) feet high by five (5) feet wide, with a maximum total area of twenty five (25) square feet.~~

~~G. Minimum setbacks shall be:~~

~~(1) One hundred (100) feet from any structure; and~~

~~(2) One hundred (100) feet from any property line.~~

~~H. All permitted burning shall be continuously supervised by a competent adult, with adequate water or approved fire extinguishing equipment immediately available.~~

~~I. The Fire Department may impose additional conditions on any permit issued under this section as necessary to protect public safety and prevent the spread of fire.~~

§ 12-4. Training fires.

~~Fires authorized by the Bristol Fire Department for training or other official departmental purposes are permitted and shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law and applicable provisions of the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, as amended.~~

§ 12-3. Restrictions; hazardous conditions.

A. No outdoor burning of any kind shall be permitted during drought, high wind, or Red Flag Warning conditions.

B. Outdoor fires shall not be built, ignited, or maintained in or upon areas designated as hazardous fire areas by the Fire Department or otherwise designated as hazardous fire areas pursuant to applicable law.

C. The Fire Department shall be authorized to require any fire to be immediately discontinued if the fire or smoke generated by such fire is determined to constitute a hazardous condition or otherwise presents a danger to public safety.

D. The Fire Department may order any outdoor fire immediately extinguished if it determines that the fire violates this article, the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, or any applicable permit condition, or that the fire or smoke generated by the fire creates a hazardous condition, nuisance, or danger to public safety.

§ 12-4. Use restrictions.

Permanent barbecues, portable barbecues, outdoor fireplaces, and grills shall not be used for the disposal of rubbish, trash, combustible waste material, or any other material prohibited by this article.

§ 12-5. Enforcement.

A. The Bristol Fire Department shall have primary enforcement authority over this article.

B. The Bristol Police Department is authorized to:

(1) Issue citations;

(2) Enforce civil fines; and

(3) Assist the Fire Department in enforcement as necessary.

C. Any permit issued under this article may be revoked immediately by the Fire Department if conditions become hazardous, permit conditions are violated, or smoke or fire creates a nuisance or danger to public safety.

§ 12-6. Penalties.

A. The penalty for a violation of any section of this article shall be up to the maximum penalty allowed by state law for municipalities to impose for ordinance violations.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A, the penalties for violations of this article shall be imposed as follows, to the extent permitted by state law:

(1) First offense. Following a previous response by the Fire Department and determination of non-compliance, the violator shall be issued an order to cease and desist the violation and may be assessed a fine of up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

(2) Second and subsequent offenses. A second offense and each subsequent offense shall be subject to an order to cease and desist the violation and a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

C. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Secs. 12-~~19~~ – 12-30. – Reserved.

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Z:\Bristol\Ordinances\Burn ordinance.docx

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
NO. 2026-12
AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 12 – FIRE PREVENTION AND
PROTECTION
ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF
BRISTOL**

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that **Chapter 12**, of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

Due to the length of these amendments, the full text is not printed herein. Copies of the amendments are available at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's Office and may be viewed or downloaded from the Town of Bristol website at www.bristolri.gov.

The amendments include §§ 12-1 through 12-6, establishing regulations governing outdoor fires, recreational and cooking fires, hazardous conditions, use restrictions, enforcement, and penalties.

The ordinance prohibits outdoor fires except as expressly authorized by Chapter 12, the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code, or other applicable state law. Recreational and cooking fires conducted in accordance with the ordinance do not require a permit and may only be conducted between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The ordinance establishes requirements for permitted fuel materials, maximum recreational fire size, setbacks from structures and combustible materials, continuous attendance, and readily available fire-extinguishing equipment. It also prohibits the burning of construction debris, pallets, trash, rubbish, furniture, vegetation, yard waste, painted or treated lumber, plastics, rubber, hazardous substances, and other unauthorized materials. The amendments prohibit outdoor burning during drought, high wind, or Red Flag Warning conditions and authorize the Bristol Fire Department to require a fire to be discontinued or immediately extinguished when it creates a hazardous condition, nuisance, or danger to public safety or otherwise violates the ordinance or Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code. Permanent and portable barbecues, outdoor fireplaces, and grills may not be used for the disposal of rubbish, trash, combustible waste, or other prohibited materials.

The ordinance provides the Bristol Fire Department with primary enforcement authority and authorizes the Bristol Police Department to issue citations, enforce civil fines, and assist with enforcement. Penalties include an order to cease and desist and a fine of up to \$100 for a first offense following a previous Fire Department response and determination of noncompliance, and a \$500 fine for second and subsequent offenses, to the extent permitted by state law. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

The Town Council will be in session in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, on September 16, 2026. If remonstrance in the meantime, a petition bearing the valid signatures of at least twenty (20) qualified voters must be filed with the Town Clerk requesting a Public Hearing, such hearing must be held before final action may be taken on said ordinance.

By Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

September 3, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BRISTOL PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 2026-12

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 12 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOL

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that **Chapter 12**, of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

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By Order of the Town Council

Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

September 3, 2026



LICENSE REQUEST: **ONE-DAY DANCING
& ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE (NON-PROFIT)**

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:

The undersigned hereby respectfully requests of
your Honorable Body to be granted a

ONE-DAY DANCING & ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE (NON-PROFIT)

FOR: St. Elizabeth's Church - Holy Ghost Committee

ADDRESS: 577 Wood St

APPLICANT: Rosa Paiva

TYPE OF ENTERTAINMENT: Music - Live Bands

DATE OF EVENT: Oct 3, 2026

TIME OF EVENT: 6-11pm

- ☒ One Day Dancing & Entertainment License (Non-Profit) Petition
☒ Sketch of proposed location for entertainment

Please attend the Council
Meeting on

Petition must be returned by

Mailed:

Date Received: _____

*SIGNATURE: _____

NAME: Rosa Paiva

ADDRESS: 577 Wood St

TOWN: Bristol

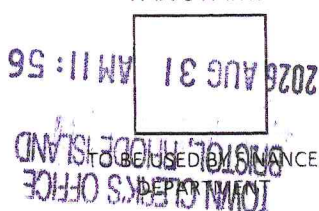
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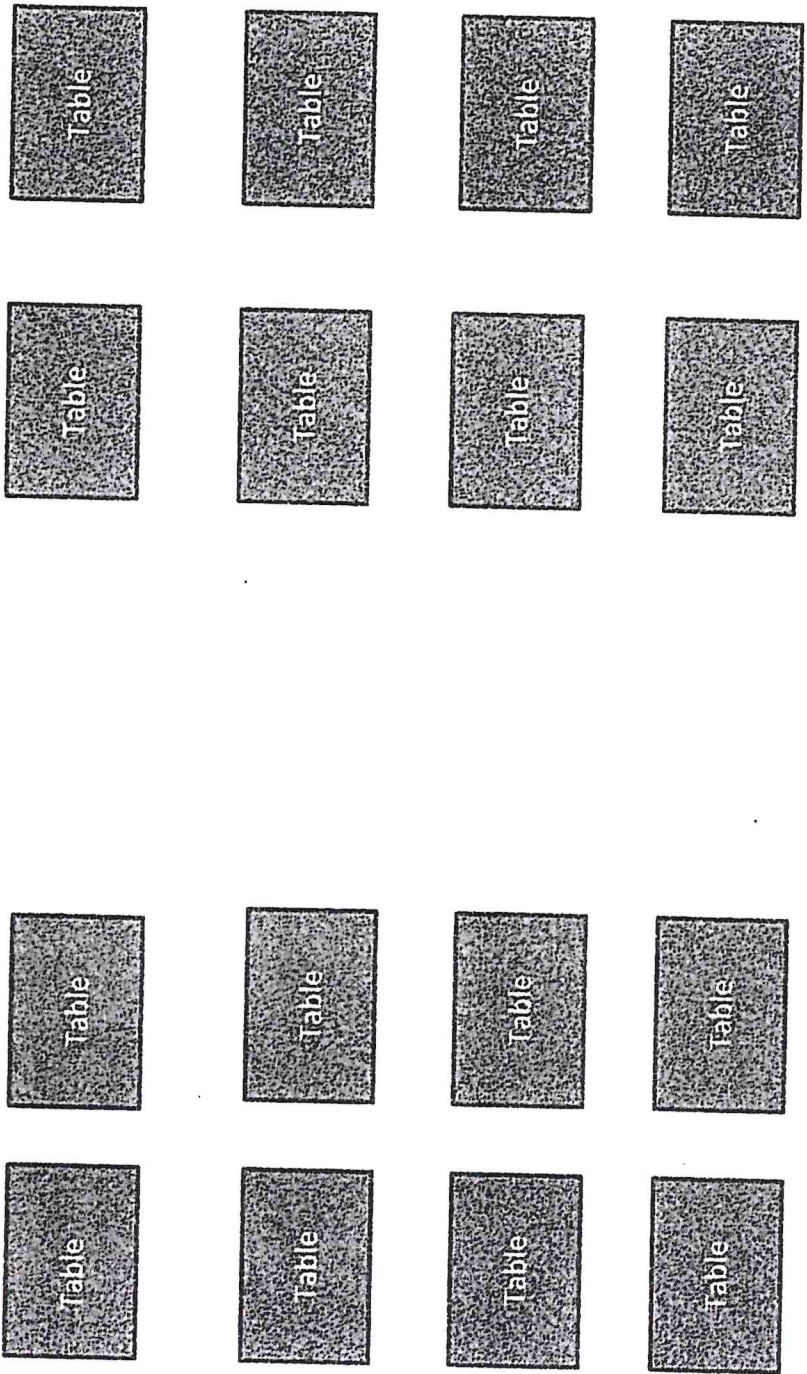
EN

TAX STAMP



*BY SIGNING THIS PETITION, I CONSENT TO EXAMINATION AND
RELEASE OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION REGARDING MY
BACKGROUND, INCLUDING POLICE RECORDS, EDUCATIONAL
INFORMATION, RESIDENCE RECORDS, AND ANY COURT RECORDS.

DJ/Entertainment



Item D1.

Restrooms

Entrance

Kitchen

Bar



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 Tel. 401-253-7000
 Fax. 401-253-2647
 Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
 TOWN CLERK

DATE: September 1, 2026

RE: Rosa Paiva, St. Elizabeth's Church Holy Ghost
 Committee, 577 Wood Street - Request for One-Day
 Dancing and Entertainment License Saturday,
 October 3, 2026, from 6:00 PM - 11:00PM

May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **September 16, 2026**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 09/03/26

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Rosa Paiva for St. Elizabeth Church, Holy Ghost Committee, 577 Wood Street Request for one day entertainment license, Saturday October 3, 2026, 6:00pm - 11:00pm.

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Rosa Paiva

☐ LICENSE RENEWAL ☒ NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- ☒ APPROVED
☐ CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
☐ DENIED
☐ FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

NOTES:

After reviewing the request and the petition, I find no reason to deny the petitioner's requests, provided that all guidelines set forth by the applications, including insurance requirements, and all laws and ordinances governing this practice are followed.

REVIEWING OFFICER: Lt. Paul Medeiros

DATE COMPLETED: 09/03/26

Concurrence
 STEVEN CONTENTE
 Town Administrator

2026 SEP - 8 AM 9:39
 TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND



Bristol Fire Department

Inter Office Memorandum

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Michael DeMello, Fire Chief
cc: File
Date: September 2, 2026
Re: License Recommendation, September 16 Council Meeting

2026 SEP -2 PM 2:33

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

The fire department has reviewed the license request presented as follows:

1. One-Day Dancing & Entertainment License

Rosa Paiva for St. Elizabeth's Church Holy Ghost Committee

577 Wood St.

October 3, 2026, 1800-2300

There is no objection to the granting of said license provided the applicant is compliant with all applicable laws, codes, ordinances, and/or other compliancy requirements.

STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator



Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:

The undersigned hereby respectfully request of your
Honorable Body that:

FOR DEPOSIT ONLY

Item D2.

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RI

TOWN CLERK'S

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2026 SEP 7 AM 10:18
DATE RECEIVED

I am requesting a petition to have
and Approved BINGO at the Bristol VFW
Post 237 on Hope Street

each second Thursday of the month
thru September 2027.

please see attached approval
from the state of RI.

Actual dates:
October 8th, November 12th, December 10th, 2026
January 14th, February 11th, March 11th, April 8th,
May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th
and September 9th, 2027 5:30-10:00pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Please ensure that your petition is submitted by 4:00
PM two (2) Wednesdays before the Town Council
meeting scheduled for _____
In order to be included on the Town Council docket.
According to Council policy, petitions cannot be
addressed unless recommendations, if needed from
the relevant departments are received before the
Council meeting.

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME: _____

Marganda Chaves
Marganda Chaves


RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE
Charitable Gaming Unit

311 Danielson Pike
North Scituate, RI 02857

Telephone: (401) 764-5568

September 01, 2026

Serena Richmond
Bristol VFW
850 Hope Street
Bristol, RI 02809

File# 188

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT WEEKLY BINGO

(For non-profit organizations only)

Dear Ms. Richmond:

This Certificate of Approval authorizes the above individual of **Bristol VFW**, of 850 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809 to conduct the game of bingo at **850 Hope Street in Bristol**, Rhode Island, on **2nd Thursday of each month**. A list of authorized workers is attached.

Your organization has been assigned **File Number 188**. All correspondence with the Division of State Police must include your designated file number.

This authorization is granted under Sections 11-19-31 and 11-19-37 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956 as amended. No one under the age of eighteen (18) shall be allowed to participate in the game of bingo. It is also understood that your organization will comply with the bingo laws of the State of Rhode Island (RIGL Title 11, Chapter 19, Sections 30-45 as amended) and the Rhode Island State Police Rules and Regulations Governing Bingo.

Every charitable organization operating the game of bingo must submit a financial report form within 7 days of each day the licensed organization is authorized to conduct the game, regardless of whether or not the licensed organization actually conducts the game on that day. Only those expenses that are reasonable and necessary and ordinarily incidental to the conduct of the game may be paid from the gross receipts. An annual Financial Report, certified by an independent Certified Public Accountant, must be filed with the Rhode Island State Police Charitable Gaming Unit at the end of the bingo year. **Total expenses, except for prizes, shall not exceed 25% of the gross receipts or receipts to be raised by conducting the game.**

This Certificate of Authorization will expire on **September 30, 2027**. You must present this Certificate to your local city/town licensing authority, so that a license, if required, may be issued for your event. Your bingo hall must also receive annual approval from the Rhode Island State Fire Marshal.

Sincerely,

Captain Hebert Tilton

Charitable Gaming Unit

cc: Bristol Police Department
State Fire Marshall



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
TOWN CLERK

DATE: September 1, 2026

RE: Margarida Chaves for VFW Post #237, 850 Hope Street Requests for Bingo Licenses Starting October 8th, continuing on the second Thursday of each month, through September 2027, 5:30-10:00pm

May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **September 16, 2026**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 09/3/26

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Margarita Chaves 850 Hope St. VFW Post, request for a Bingo License on the second Thursday of each month, through September 2027. 5:30pm - 10:00pm

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Margarida Chaves

☐ LICENSE RENEWAL ☒ NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- ☒ APPROVED
☐ CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
☐ DENIED
☐ FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

2026 SEP -8 AM 9:39

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

NOTES:

After Reviewing this petition, I found no reason to deny the petitioner's request for a Bingo license provided that all guidelines set forth by the application, and all Laws and Ordinances governing this practice are followed.

REVIEWING OFFICER: Lt. Medeiros
DATE COMPLETED: 09/3/26

Concyn
Stm
mtm
 STEVEN CONTENTE
 Town Administrator



Bristol Fire Department

Inter Office Memorandum

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Michael DeMello, Fire Chief
cc: File
Date: September 2, 2026
Re: License Recommendation, September 16 Council Meeting

2026 SEP -2 PM 2:34

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

The fire department has reviewed the license request presented as follows:

1. Bingo License

Margarida Chaves for VFW Post #237

850 Hope St.

October 8, 2026 through September 2027 1730-2200 on the second Thursday of each month

There is no objection to the granting of said license provided the applicant is compliant with all applicable laws, codes, ordinances, and/or other compliancy requirements.

Concun

 STEVEN CONTENTE
 Town Administrator



LICENSE REQUEST: **BV INTOXICATING BEVERAGE LICENSE**
TRANSFER

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:
The undersigned hereby respectfully requests of your
Honorable Body to be granted a

Name of license holder: Serve Up Hospitality LLC

DBA: Q's Waterfront by O.M.G.
(NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT)

ADDRESS OF ESTABLISHMENT: 411 Thames St. Bristol, RI 02809

Seller signature: [Signature]

Buyer signature: [Signature]

Print name: Albert P. Quitt Print name: Adam Oppenheimer

Proposed Hours of Operation: Mon-Thurs 11am - 9pm Fri, Sat, Sunday 11am - 10pm

**** PLEASE ATTACH SKETCH INDICATING THE AREAS FROM WHICH LIQUOR WILL BE SERVED AND CONSUMED.**

Fee for License Transfer: \$100 plus advertising costs.

(Annual Fee for License Renewal: \$1300 per year plus advertising costs). Also required is Victualling License: \$75/year (Payable after Council approves the license).

Please attend the Council Meeting
on: 9.16.2026

**PETITION MUST BE RETURNED BY
FRIDAY AT 4PM TWO WEEKS
PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING.**

*SIGNATURE: [Signature]

NAME: Frank A. Martucci

(PLEASE PRINT NAME OF BUYER)

ADDRESS: 14 Greylock Rd

TOWN: Bristol, RI 02809

(ADDRESS OF BUYER)

DATE

B'

Date Received: _____

TAX STAMP



TO BE USED BY FINANCE
DEPARTMENT

***BY SIGNING THIS PETITION, I CONSENT TO EXAMINATION AND
RELEASE OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION REGARDING MY
BACKGROUND, INCLUDING POLICE RECORDS, EDUCATIONAL
INFORMATION, RESIDENCE RECORDS, AND ANY COURT
RECORDS.**



LICENSE REQUEST: VICTUALLING LICENSE

Expires: December 1st

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:

The undersigned hereby respectfully requests of
your Honorable Body to be granted a

VICTUALLING LICENSE

NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT: Q's Waterfront by OMG (Serve Up Hospitality LLC)

ADDRESS: 411 Thames Street, Bristol RI 02809

APPLICANT NAME: Serve Up Hospitality Group LLC

HOURS OF OPERATION: ~~Mon-Thurs~~ Mon-Thurs - 11am-9pm Fri, Sat, Sun - 11am-10pm

- ☐ Victualling Petition & \$75 License Fee (payable after Council approves license)
- ☐ Second Quarter Taxes must be paid (call 253-7000 for amount due)
- ☐ Fire Department Clearance 401-253-6912
- ☐ Water Pollution Control Clearance (grease removal unit) 401-253-8877
- ☐ RI Department of Health Clearance 401-222-2749

Please attend the Council
meeting on 9.16, 2024

SIGNATURE: Frank J. Martucci

NAME: FRANK J. Martucci

Petition must be returned by
_____, 2024

ADDRESS: 14 Greylock Rd

TOWN: Bristol

DA

BU

HC

Date Received: _____ EN

TAX STAMP



TO BE USED BY FINANCE
DEPARTMENT

*BY SIGNING THIS PETITION, I CONSENT TO EXAMINATION AND
RELEASE OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION REGARDING MY
BACKGROUND, INCLUDING POLICE RECORDS, EDUCATIONAL
INFORMATION, RESIDENCE RECORDS, AND ANY COURT RECORDS.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY/TOWN OF BRISTOL

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSERETAILER CLASS: A ___ BH ___ BM ___ BT ___ BV X BVL ___ C ___ E ___ ED ___ J ___ T ___ 2:00 A.M. ___Business Structure: ☐ Corporation ☐ Partnership ☒ LLC ☐ IndividualName of Applicant/Corporation Serve Up Hospitality LLCD/B/A O's Waterfront by O.M.G.Address of Premise 411 Thames Street Bristol RIPhone Number of Business 401-253-4500 Fax P.A.State - Incorporated: Rhode Island Date of Incorporation: January 22nd 2025

Name, Address, Telephone of all Officers/Members with percentage ownership:

<u>Frank Martucci</u>	<u>14 Greylock Rd Bristol RI 02809</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
President/Member Name	Address	% Ownership
<u>Anthony Guaretha</u>	<u>110 Stone Riverside RI 02956</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
Vice President/Member Name	Address	% Ownership
<u>Treasurer Adam Oppenheimer</u>	<u>110 Hillside Ave Pawtucket</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
Secretary/Member Name	Address	% Ownership
<u>Treasurer/Member Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>

Name and Address of All Directors or Board Members, with percentage ownership:

<u>Frank J. Martucci</u>	<u>14 Greylock Rd Bristol RI</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
Name	Address	% Ownership
<u>Adam Oppenheimer</u>	<u>110 Hillside Ave Pawtucket RI</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
Name	Address	% Ownership
<u>Anthony Guaretha</u>	<u>110 Stone Riverside RI 02956</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
Name	Address	% Ownership

If application is on behalf of undisclosed principal or party, please give details:

N/ADoes Applicant Own Premises? Yes ___ No X Is Property Mortgaged? Yes ___ No ___ or Leased? Yes X No ___

Give Name and Address of Mortgagee (Bank or Mortgage Holder) or Lessor (Landlord) and Amount of Extent

<u>Joe Ruggiero 411 Thang LLC</u>	<u>411 Thang St</u>	<u>3yr</u>	<u>\$940,000</u>
Name	Address	Amount	Term

Have any Officers, Members or Stockholders ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? Yes ___ No X If yes, explain:

Is any other business to be carried on in Licensed Premises? Yes ___ No X If yes, explain:

Is Applicant or any of its Officers, Members or Stockholders interested directly or indirectly, as principle or associate, or in any manner whatsoever, in any retail license issued under Title 3 of the RI General Laws? If yes, explain:

NO

Is Applicant the owner or operator of any other business? If yes, explain: NO

State amount of capital invested in the business? \$150,000.00

Do you have now, or will you be installing, a draught system Yes X No ___

I hereby certify that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Jack Maturco
Applicant Signature

9/1/24
Date

1. Every question on Application Form must be answered. Any false statement made by the Applicant will be sufficient grounds for the denial of the application or the revocation of the license in case one has been granted.
2. Corporation having 25 or more stockholders need not file a list of the names and addresses of stockholders - (Question #8)
3. Attention is called to the requirements RIGL §3-5-10:
 - (A) All newly elected officers, members, or directors must be reported to the Board of License Commissioners within 30 days.
 - (B) Any acquisition by any person of more than ten per cent (10%) of any class of corporate stock must be reported within 30 days.
 - (C) Any transfer of fifty percent (50%) or more of any class of corporate stock can be made only by written application to the licensing board subject to the procedures for a transfer of a license.

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF LICENSE ONLY

Transfer of Location ___ Name ___ Stock ___ Current Retail Class ___ Transfer of ownership ✓

Albert P. Quitt
Name of Transferor (applicant/old owner)

d/b/a

Quitt James St
Address

The above hereby petitions the Licensing Board to transfer the said license to:

New Location (If any):

New Name (If any):

Serve up Hospitality LLC DBA - Q's Waterfront
by O.M.G.

If change of stockholders, list old and new stockholders:

[Signature]
Signature of Transferor (old owner)

9-2-24
Date

[Signature]
Signature of Transferee (New Owner)

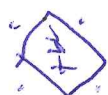
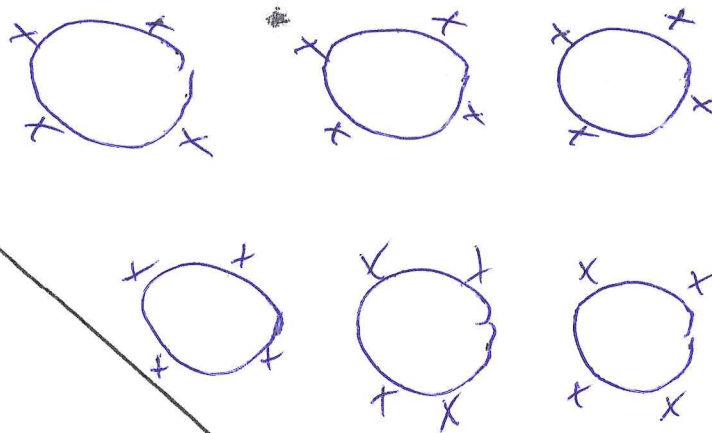
9/1/24
Date

Thames St

Garage

TD-Go
main floor

tent
entrance

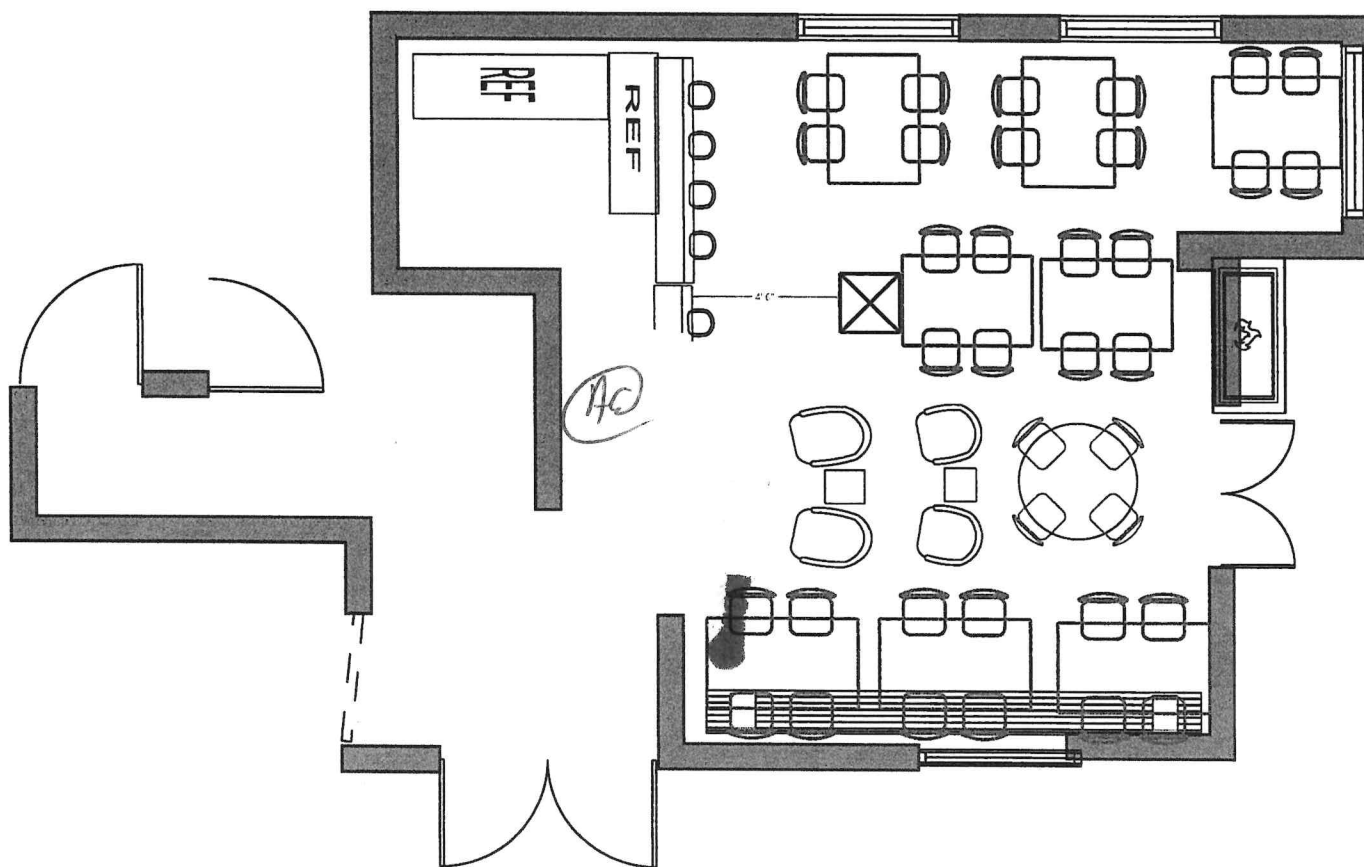






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Camera 1



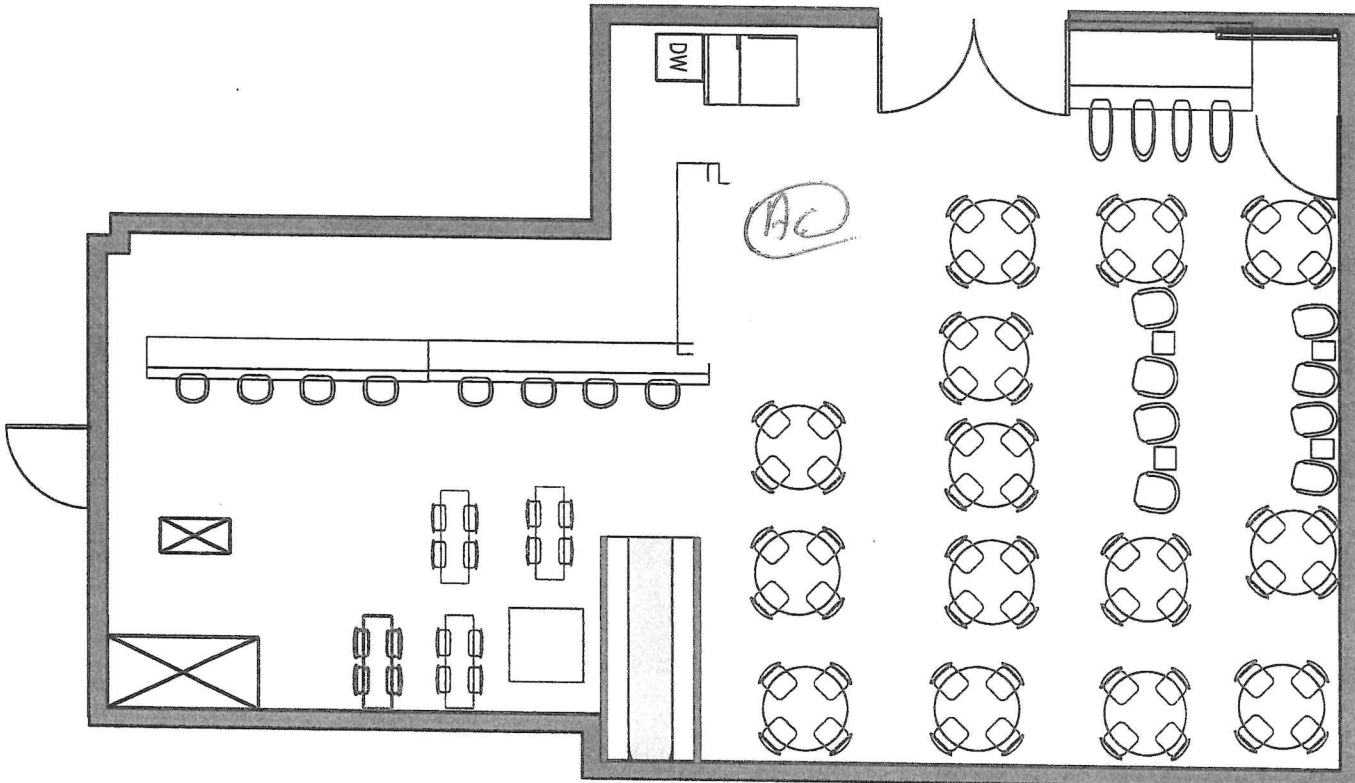
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CAUTION 1

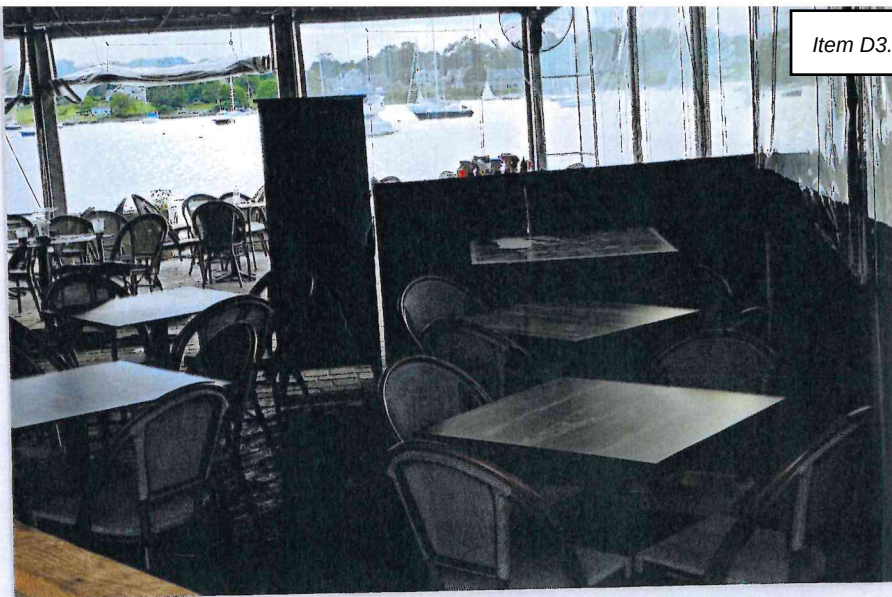


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SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

Seaside Spritz Caposale Prosecco • Lunazul blanco tequila • Aperol • dry vermouth • passionfruit • lemon	\$15
Lost Horizon — World Award-Winning Cocktail Chaiman's Reserve rum • Cocola Shrub • pineapple • key lime • shiitake-roasted cashew orgeat	\$14 N
Seaworthy ISCO Seafloor gin • dry vermouth • pickled kelp burr • hot-fennel mist	\$13
The Floor is GUAVA!!! Blum agricole • Licor 43 • lime • guava soda	\$13
C-Do! Pineapple-infused Toremama blanco tequila • bergamot • citrus oil	\$13
A Sight for Azore's Eyes Charutero fat-washed mezcal • Manzanilla sherry • dry vermouth • quince	\$14
Funnel Cake Espresso Martini Tito's vodka • Caffè Borghetti • espresso • Frangier Saltwater Taffy • cream • funnel cake • baker's dust	\$13 W-D
Deep Blue Sea Espolon blanco tequila • blue curacao • grapefruit • lime • coconut cream • Sakura bitters	\$13
Ravello D Crema limoncello • lemon • cardamom • Prosecco	\$13 D
Q the Manhattan Woodford Rye • Old Forester Bourbon • Carpano Rosso • Amaro dell'Etna • orange & black walnut bitters	\$15
Spicy Margarita Cazadores blanco • Ancho Reyes Verde • lime • agave • black sea salt	\$14
Anchor Borlary Cui gin • Carpano Bianco • Lillet • blue curacao	\$14
The Island Diplomatico rum • guava • P.O.G. bitters	\$15
The "Q" ucumber Crop Organic Cucumber vodka • Cocchi Americano • elderflower • citrus • agave	\$13

WATERFRONT
by O.M.G.
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

SIGNATURE COCKTAILS • CONTINUED

BEER & RTDS

Sam Adams Seasonal	\$7
Blue Moon Belgian White	\$7
Chair Two	\$7
Ragged Island Seasonal Rotation	\$8
Narragansett Fresh Catch	\$7
Bud Light	\$6
Miller Lite	\$6
Coors Light	\$6
Corona	\$7
Stella Artois	\$7
Guinness Stout	\$7
Modelo Especial	\$7
Whaler APA	\$7
Pivotal Seasonal	\$7
Sun Cruise RTD	\$7
Truly Wildberry RTD	\$7
High Noon Pineapple RTD	\$8
Just the Haze 0.0	\$7
Heineken 0.0	\$7

SPIRIT-FREE COCKTAILS

Salted Pear & Thyme Clarified pear • botanical spirit • thyme honey • lemon • sea air	\$9
Fig & Black Walnut Old Fashioned Zero-proof whiskey • roasted fig • demerara • black walnut bitters	\$9 N
Black Tea Sour Early Grey • zero-proof amaro • bergamot honey • lemon • sea air	\$9

WINE

GLASS / BOTTLE

Vigneto Giardino Prosecco DOCG, Valdobbiadene, Italy	12 / 46
Martin Códax Albariño, Rias Baixas, Spain	13 / 49
Argiolas Costamolino Vermentino, Sardinia, Italy	12 / 43
Benvolio Pinot Grigio, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy	11 / 45
Daou Sauvignon Blanc, Paso Robles, California	13 / 49
Planeta Rosé, Nero d'Avola / Syrah, Sicily	12 / 43
Planeta Frappato — Chilled, Sicily, Italy	12 / 43
The Seeker Pinot Noir, France	12 / 43
Substance Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley, Washington	13 / 45
The Walking Fool Red Blend by Caymus, Suisun Valley, California	15 / 59

WINE BY BOTTLE

Pikes 'The Tradition' Riesling, Clare Valley, Australia	44
Craggy Range Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand	58
Jean-Marie Brocard Chablis, Burgundy, France	62
Caposale Moscato, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy	46
Panamera 'Chapeau' Napa Valley White Blend, California	68
San Simeon Chardonnay, Paso Robles, California	48
St. Francis Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon	58
Brancaia Tre Super Tuscan, Tuscany, Italy	62

ALLERGY & DIETARY GUIDE

SH Shellfish • D Milk/Dairy • E Egg • W Wheat/Gluten • S Soy • SES Sesame • N Tree Nuts — used in preparation
Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness.

Contemporary New England seafood
casual classics • land & garden favorites



WATERFRONT

RAW & CHILLED

STARTERS

SALADS

PASTA

New England Oysters

\$4 ea. /

Six / Twelve Clam Cakes

\$9 / \$14

Cesare

\$12

Linguine & Littlenecks

\$29

Oysters A la Diabla

\$2.25 ea.

Double bread wings • achieve quality space •

\$29

Classic Italian Panzanella

\$14

O.M.G. Bolognaise

\$26

Raw Littlenecks

\$3.75

Portuguese Clouingo Corn Dog

\$15

Shaved Fennel & Blood Orange

\$15

Seafood Medley Scampi

\$35

Chilled Jumbo Shrimp

\$19

Calamari Arropa

\$17

Hand Picked Lobster

\$37

Seafood Caserole

\$42

Key lime & butter shrimp

\$18

Brussels

\$13

Warm Buttered Lobster Roll

\$37

Pan-Seared Salmon

\$32

Tuna Crudo

\$18

New England Clam Chowder Poutine

\$18

Fried Fish Sandwich

\$18

Pan-Seared Daily Catch

MKT

Shrimp Caviche

\$18

Coconut Baby Shrimp

\$17

Smash Angus Burger

\$19

SEAFOOD MAINS • CONTINUED

Coastal Raw Bar Tower

\$59

Crab Cakes

\$19

Whole Clam Roll

\$27

Grill Seafood Trio

MKT

Grand Coastal Seafood Tower

\$109

Stuffed Quahog

\$9

Cherry Soup Tacos

\$19

Steamed Lobster

MKT

6 quarts shrimp • daily crudités •

\$11 / \$15

Garlic white wine shrimp or tomato zuppa • grilled bread

\$18

Lobster & Street Corn Quesadilla

\$24

Whole Catch of the Day

MKT

SOUPS

\$8 / \$12

Mussels

\$18

Whole Clam Roll

\$27

Grill Seafood Trio

MKT

New England Clam Chowder

\$8 / \$12

Steamed Littlenecks

\$19

Cherry Soup Tacos

\$19

Steamed Lobster

MKT

Rhode Island Clear Chowder

\$8 / \$12

Garlic white wine shrimp or tomato zuppa • grilled bread

\$18

Lobster & Street Corn Quesadilla

\$24

Whole Catch of the Day

MKT

Lobster Bisque

\$11 / \$15

Garlic white wine shrimp or tomato zuppa • grilled bread

\$18

Lobster & Street Corn Quesadilla

\$24

Whole Catch of the Day

MKT

Seafood Stew

\$13 / \$19

Garlic white wine shrimp or tomato zuppa • grilled bread

\$18

Lobster & Street Corn Quesadilla

\$24

Whole Catch of the Day

MKT

Terriano Stew

\$13 / \$19

Garlic white wine shrimp or tomato zuppa • grilled bread

\$18

Lobster & Street Corn Quesadilla

\$24

Whole Catch of the Day

MKT

Fried & Chips

\$25

Bistro Steak

\$37

Surf & Turf

MKT

French Fries

\$6

Whole Belly Clam Dinner

MKT

Two-Way Combination

\$36

Childen Milanoise

\$28

O.M.G. Steak & Stuffed Calamari

\$45

Clam Strip Dinner

\$27

Cherry Chicken

\$42

Stuffed Eggplant Involtini

\$24

ALLERGY & DIETARY GUIDE

MKT

Fried Shrimp Dinner

\$27

Stuffed Eggplant Involtini

\$24

ALLERGY & DIETARY GUIDE

MKT

ALLERGY & DIETARY GUIDE

MKT



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
TOWN CLERK

DATE: September 3, 2026

RE: Albert Quito, Quito's Shellfish and Restaurant, Inc.
411 Thames Street, request Transfer of Class BV
Liquor License to Serve Up Hospitality, LLC d/b/a
Q's Waterfront by O.M.G. with Expansion of licensed
Premises (new ownership - Adam Oppenheimer, Frank
Martucci, and Anthony Guaetta)



May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **September 16, 2026**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments

Bay View Farms DBA Mello's Fruit

10 Case Ave

Seekonk Ma 02771

Contact : Alan Sousa 401-301-1330

aj_sousa@comcast.net

Re: Quito's outstanding Bill

Sir/ Madam,

Attached is a copy that Quito's owes Mello's Fruit from 2024. Numerous attempts to collect directly with Albert Quito who always said he has a buyer and the bill would be paid in full. To date this has not happened. I presentd the lien be placed on Quito's liquor license last year and have attached a copy . I am updating as no attempt nor payment has been made. In addition a UCC filing with Rhode Island Secratary of State has been filed. Also, attorneys Wieck & Deluca are representing Quito's mortgage sale on April 29th 2026. I again am informing the town of Bristol and the Town Solicitor that in both matters Mr Quito has not corresponded or made any sort of attempt to clear this matter up. My original document was filed with Bristol on September 26, 2025 at 1:43pm, see attached with the Town Clerks stamp. I may be reached at 401-301-1330.

Thank you,

Alan Sousa - President

Mello'sFruit

10 Case Avenue

Seekonk, MA 02771

aj_sousa@comcast.net

January 29, 2026

This letter is an overview of the past due balance between Quito's and Mello's Fruit. Customer had a good relationship up until September 2024 to when he stated he had plans to sell his business. His plans were to sell to the same group that had bought Brick Alley Pub and the Old Canteen. He asked that we give him time as it was a done deal. The deal did not happen and he closed for the season with a promise to pay in the Spring. The Spring came he opened and stated he had another buyer. This dragged the throughout the summer with Alan Sousa making no less then 10 visits asking the owner Albert to pay as littel as \$100 a week towards the balance. The season ended no buyer and no payment. In addition money is owed to other vendors as well.

Original balance \$4533.85

Interest acrued over 15 month's and new total \$4785.75

Administrative fee's \$100.00

Total \$4885.75

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Sousa President".

Alan Sousa President

Mello Fruit and Produce - BayView Farms

69 Broadcommon Rd
Bristol, RI 02809-2771 USA
marie@mellosfruit.com

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2025 SEP 26 PM 1:18

Statement

TO
Albert
Quito's
PO Box 204
Bristol, RI 02809

STATEMENT NO. 1164
DATE 09/26/2025
TOTAL DUE \$4,533.85
ENCLOSED

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OPEN AMOUNT
09/19/2024	Invoice #248644: Due 10/19/2024.	127.00	127.00
10/02/2024	Invoice #248759: Due 11/01/2024.	109.95	109.95
10/03/2024	Invoice #248944: Due 11/02/2024.	108.40	108.40
10/04/2024	Invoice #248988: Due 11/03/2024.	77.70	77.70
10/05/2024	Invoice #249016: Due 11/04/2024.	193.10	193.10
10/09/2024	Invoice #249077: Due 11/08/2024.	502.95	502.95
10/10/2024	Invoice #249115: Due 11/09/2024.	184.45	184.45
10/11/2024	Invoice #249127: Due 11/10/2024.	40.30	40.30
10/12/2024	Invoice #249177: Due 11/11/2024.	64.40	64.40
10/15/2024	Invoice #5144: Due 11/14/2024.	32.50	32.50
10/16/2024	Invoice #249294: Due 11/15/2024.	149.95	149.95
10/17/2024	Invoice #249327: Due 11/16/2024.	193.00	193.00
10/18/2024	Invoice #249367: Due 11/17/2024.	40.00	40.00
10/18/2024	Invoice #249227: Due 11/17/2024.	136.25	136.25
10/19/2024	Invoice #249235: Due 11/18/2024.	410.25	410.25
10/22/2024	Invoice #5158: Due 11/21/2024.	62.20	62.20
10/23/2024	Invoice #249470: Due 11/22/2024.	28.00	28.00
10/23/2024	Invoice #249451: Due 11/22/2024.	10.90	10.90
10/24/2024	Invoice #5165: Due 11/23/2024.	6.00	6.00
10/25/2024	Invoice #249501: Due 11/24/2024.	109.30	109.30
10/26/2024	Invoice #249530: Due 11/25/2024.	151.70	151.70
10/26/2024	Invoice #5175: Due 11/25/2024.	50.50	50.50
10/29/2024	Invoice #5179: Due 11/28/2024.	65.00	65.00
10/30/2024	Invoice #5184: Due 11/29/2024.	14.00	14.00
10/31/2024	Invoice #5186: Due 11/30/2024.	49.00	49.00
11/01/2024	Invoice #5192: Due 12/01/2024.	48.10	48.10
11/02/2024	Invoice #249668: Due 12/02/2024.	123.25	123.25
11/05/2024	Invoice #249690: Due 12/05/2024.	115.20	115.20

Current Due	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	90+ Days Past Due	Amount Due
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,533.85	\$4,533.85

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OPEN AMOUNT
11/06/2024	Invoice #5205: Due 12/06/2024.	51.25	51.25
11/06/2024	Invoice #249740: Due 12/06/2024.	70.50	70.50
11/07/2024	Invoice #249758: Due 12/07/2024.	31.90	31.90
11/08/2024	Invoice #249766: Due 12/08/2024.	135.00	135.00
11/09/2024	Invoice #249808: Due 12/09/2024.	112.10	112.10
11/12/2024	Invoice #249839: Due 12/12/2024.	101.50	101.50
11/16/2024	Invoice #249938: Due 12/16/2024.	199.50	199.50
11/19/2024	Invoice #249980: Due 12/19/2024.	69.55	69.55
11/22/2024	Invoice #250036: Due 12/22/2024.	159.35	159.35
11/23/2024	Invoice #250074: Due 12/23/2024.	45.05	45.05
11/27/2024	Invoice #250128: Due 12/27/2024.	105.00	105.00
11/29/2024	Invoice #250141: Due 12/29/2024.	75.60	75.60
12/03/2024	Invoice #250198: Due 01/02/2025.	112.00	112.00
12/04/2024	Invoice #250220: Due 01/03/2025.	62.20	62.20

Current Due	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	90+ Days Past Due	Amount Due
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,533.85	\$4,533.85



Rhode Island Department of State

1 STATE ST SUITE 401
PROVIDENCE, RI 02908
4018318099
WWW.RI.GOV

QUITOS RESTAURANT

Cashier: Lauren S.

10-Feb-2026 12:05:14P

Transaction **001376**

1 UCC-1 (3 or more pgs.) \$32.00

Subtotal \$32.00

Enhanced Access Fee (3.0%) \$0.96

Total \$32.96

DEBIT CARD SALE \$32.96

MASTERCARD 1925

Retain this copy for statement validation

10-Feb-2026 12:05:54P

\$32.96 | Method: CONTACTLESS

Mastercard Debit XXXXXXXXXXXXX1925

Reference ID: 604100542340

Auth ID: 954824

MID: *****3999

AID: A0000000041010

AthNtwkNm: MASTERCARD

Thank you! vote.ri.gov #BeAVoter

Gracias! vote.ri.gov #SeaVotante

Clover ID: NBXQSKHAA3XBG

Payment RQAB9HYEX719W

Clover Privacy Policy
<https://clover.com/privacy>

UCC FINANCING STATEMENT

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

A. NAME & PHONE OF CONTACT AT SUBMITTER (optional)
Mello's Fruit - Alan Sousa Resident 401-330

B. E-MAIL CONTACT AT SUBMITTER (optional)
AJ_Sousa@comcast.net

C. SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO: (Name and Address)

Mello's Fruit
10 CASE AVE
SECKONK MA 02771
c/o Alan Sousa

SEE BELOW FOR SECURED PARTY CONTACT INFORMATION



THE ABOVE SPACE IS FOR FILING OFFICE USE ONLY

1. DEBTOR'S NAME: Provide only one Debtor name (1a or 1b) (use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name); if any part of the Individual Debtor's name will not fit in line 1b, leave all of item 1 blank, check here ☐ and provide the Individual Debtor information in item 10 of the Financing Statement Addendum (Form UCC1Ad)

1a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME <u>QUITO'S RESTAURANT</u>				
OR	1b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME <u>ALBERT</u>	FIRST PERSONAL NAME <u>ALBERT</u>	ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S)	SUFFIX
1c. MAILING ADDRESS <u>PO 204</u>	CITY <u>BRISTOL</u>	STATE <u>RI</u>	POSTAL CODE <u>02809</u>	COUNTRY <u>USA</u>

2. DEBTOR'S NAME: Provide only one Debtor name (2a or 2b) (use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name); if any part of the Individual Debtor's name will not fit in line 2b, leave all of item 2 blank, check here ☐ and provide the Individual Debtor information in item 10 of the Financing Statement Addendum (Form UCC1Ad)

2a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME				
OR	2b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME <u>ALBERT QUITO</u>	FIRST PERSONAL NAME <u>ALBERT</u>	ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S)	SUFFIX
2c. MAILING ADDRESS <u>PO 204</u>	CITY <u>BRISTOL</u>	STATE <u>RI</u>	POSTAL CODE <u>02809</u>	COUNTRY <u>USA</u>

3. SECURED PARTY'S NAME (or NAME of ASSIGNEE of ASSIGNOR SECURED PARTY): Provide only one Secured Party name (3a or 3b)

3a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME <u>Mello's Fruit</u>				
OR	3b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME <u>ALBERT</u>	FIRST PERSONAL NAME <u>ALBERT</u>	ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S)	SUFFIX
3c. MAILING ADDRESS <u>10 CASE AVE</u>	CITY <u>SECKONK</u>	STATE <u>MA</u>	POSTAL CODE <u>02771</u>	COUNTRY <u>USA</u>

4. COLLATERAL: This financing statement covers the following collateral:

5. Check <u>only</u> if applicable and check <u>only</u> one box: Collateral is ☐ held in a Trust (see UCC1Ad, item 17 and Instructions) ☐ being administered by a Decedent's Personal Representative	
6a. Check <u>only</u> if applicable and check <u>only</u> one box: ☐ Public-Finance Transaction ☐ Manufactured-Home Transaction ☐ A Debtor is a Transmitting Utility ☐ Agricultural Lien ☐ Non-UCC Filing	
6b. Check <u>only</u> if applicable and check <u>only</u> one box: ☐ Licensee/Licensors	
7. ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATION (if applicable): ☐ Lessee/Lessor ☐ Consignee/Consignor ☐ Seller/Buyer ☐ Bailee/Bailor ☐ Licensee/Licensors	
8. OPTIONAL FILER REFERENCE DATA:	



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 9/9/26

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Albert Quito, Quito's Shelfish and Restaurant, Inc. 411 Thames Street, requests transfer of Class BV Liquor License to Serve Up Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Q's Waterfront by O.M.G with Expansion of Licenses Premises (new ownership - Adam Oppenheimer, Frank Matucci, and Anthony Guaetta)

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Albert Quito

☐ LICENSE RENEWAL ☒ NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- ☒ APPROVED
☐ CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
☐ DENIED
☐ FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

2026 SEP 10 AM 8:20
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

NOTES:

I spoke with Mr. Martucci regarding this request. He stated that there will be no changes made to the bar area; however, he is requesting to add outside seating. I explained to Mr. Martucci that the outside seating must be used in conjunction with tables and dining and may not be used solely for the consumption of alcoholic beverages. For example, patrons may not purchase an alcoholic beverage, take it outside, and consume it while waiting for a table to dine. Mr. Martucci stated that he understood and confirmed that this is not his intention. After reviewing this petition, there is no known reason for denial of the Class BV liquor license transfer, provided that all guidelines set forth in the application, as well as all applicable laws and ordinances governing this practice, are followed. I recommend a six-month review continued

REVIEWING OFFICER: Lt. Paul Medeiros

DATE COMPLETED: 9/9/26

Concun

 STEVEN CONTENTE
 Town Administrator



Bristol Fire Department

Inter Office Memorandum

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Michael DeMello, Fire Chief
cc: File
Date: September 10, 2026
Re: License Recommendation, September 16 Council Meeting

2026 SEP 10 AM 8:20

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

The fire department has reviewed the license request presented as follows:

1. Transfer of Class BV Liquor License

Albert Quito, Quito's Shellfish and Restaurant Inc., to Serve Up Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Q's Waterfront by O.M.G. with Expansion of licensed premises (Adam Oppenheimer, Frank Martucci, Anthony Guaetta)

411 Thames St.

***Fire inspection required prior to opening**

There is no objection to the granting of said license provided the applicant is compliant with all applicable laws, codes, ordinances, and/or other compliancy requirements.

Concun
Am
 STEVEN CONTENTE
 Town Administrator



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
bristolri.gov
401-253-7000

September 9, 2026

TO: Steven Contente, Town Administrator

FROM: Diane M. Williamson, Director

RE: **Albert Quito, Quito's Shellfish and Restaurant, Inc.**
411 Thames Street
Transfer of Class BV with expansion of licensed premises to
New ownership – Oppenheimer, Martucci, and Guaetta

Review

2026 SEP 10 AM 8:20

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

I have reviewed the above petition and have no objection to the transfer, subject to the amendment to the Sublicense Agreement and State Property Commission approval as needed for the leased area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Steven Contente
STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator



Rhode Island Department of State

Gregg M. Amore

Secretary of State

[HOME](#)[BUSINESS SERVICES](#)[ELECTIONS](#)[CIVICS AND EDUCATION](#)

Entity Summary

ID Number: 001721251

[Request certificate](#)[New search](#)

Summary for: Korcula Culinary Consulting LLC

The exact name of the Domestic Limited Liability Company: Korcula Culinary Consulting LLC

The fictitious name of: Prudence was filed on 07-20-2026

Entity type: Domestic Limited Liability Company

Identification Number: 001721251

Date of Organization in Rhode Island: 03-25-2021

Effective Date: 04-01-2021

The location of the Principal Office:

Address: 1 STATE STREET

City or Town, State, Zip, Country: BRISTOL, RI 02809 US

The mailing address or specified office:

Address: 20 HOPE STREET

City or Town, State, Zip, Country: BRISTOL, RI 02809 US

Agent Resigned: N

Address Maintained: Y

The name and address of the Resident Agent:

Name: STEPHEN DELEO

Address: 495 HOPE STREET, SUITE 8

City or Town, State, Zip, Country: BRISTOL, RI 02809 USA

The limited liability company is to be managed by its Members

The name and business address of each Manager:

Title	Individual name	Address

Purpose:

CULINARY SERVICES

North American Industry Classification System Code(NAICS):

722511 Full-Service Restaurants

View filings for this business entity:

ALL FILINGS

Annual Report

Annual Report - Amended

Annual Report - Reinstatement

Annual Reports - Prior to 2006

Click here to access 2006 and 2007 annual reports filed prior to July 25, 2007. The corporate ID is required.

[View filings](#)[New search](#)



PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:
The undersigned hereby respectfully requested of your
Honorable Body that:

Rhode Races & Events Inc., in partnership with the Bristol 4th of July Committee, wishes to execute a half marathon on Saturday, June 26, 2027. The race would begin on Thames St at 6:30a and conclude in Independence Park at 10am. Maps of the route are attached.

Rhode Races & Events is a professional race organization company and will secure the proper safety and security personnel to execute a safe and enjoyable race for all involved while representing Bristol in the best possible manner. We will also secure all necessary insurance and safety protocols to protect our participants and the Town of Bristol. As per past practice, and mindful of our neighbors, we will have some race announcements in the morning before the race, including the National Anthem at the start. As people are finishing, we will have some inspirational music.

We will work with Town Officials, local charities and merchants to build the economy, ensure residents are minimally affected and the race is a benefit to the Town of Bristol.

Thank you for your consideration.

PLEASE NOTE:

Petition must be returned by 4:00 PM, two (2) Fridays prior to the Town Council meeting to appear on the docket of the Sept 16 meeting for review and possible action. It is Council policy that action may not be taken on petitions unless recommendations, if necessary, from appropriate departments are received prior the Council meeting.

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME: Cameron Rancourt

ADDRESS: 3 Mayo Dr

DATE RECEIVED: _____

2026 AUG -6 PM 2:34
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

STRAVA

2027 Independence Rhode Race - possibility

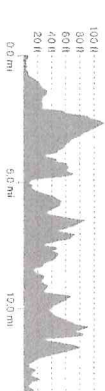
<https://www.strava.com/routes/3517201685431555526>

13.3 mi **501 ft** **2:02:35**

Distance

Elevation Gain

Est. Moving Time



Routine recommendations may be incomplete and/or inaccurate and may contain sections of private land and/or sections of terrain that could be challenging or hazardous. Always use your best judgement about the safety of road and trail conditions and follow traffic and property laws.

DIRECTION	DISTANCE				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	0.0 mi				
Continue on East Bay Bike Path	0.1 mi				
Proceed onto East Bay Bike Path	0.2 mi				
Proceed onto East Bay Bike Path	0.4 mi				
Proceed onto East Bay Bike Path	1.1 mi				
Proceed onto East Bay Bike Path	1.6 mi				
Right onto Beach Road	2.0 mi				
Proceed onto Beach Road	2.2 mi				
Right onto Hope Street	2.6 mi				
Proceed onto Hope Street	3.2 mi				
Left onto Chestnut Street	3.8 mi				
Proceed onto Chestnut Street	3.9 mi				
Right onto Sherry Avenue	4.2 mi				
Proceed onto Sherry Avenue	4.4 mi				
Continue on Perry Street	4.6 mi				
Proceed onto Perry Street	4.8 mi				
Continue on Monroe Avenue	5.0 mi				
Right onto Washington Street	5.1 mi				
Proceed onto Washington Street	5.2 mi				
Left onto High Street	5.2 mi				
Proceed onto High Street	5.3 mi				
Proceed onto High Street	5.6 mi				
Left onto State Street	5.6 mi				
Proceed onto State Street	5.7 mi				
Left onto Wood Street	5.8 mi				
Proceed onto Wood Street	5.9 mi				
Right onto Bayview Avenue	6.2 mi				
Proceed onto Bayview Avenue	6.3 mi				
Right onto Burtonwood Street	6.5 mi				
Proceed onto Burtonwood Street	6.6 mi				
Left onto State Street	6.9 mi				
Right onto Dewolf Avenue	7.0 mi				
Proceed onto Dewolf Avenue	7.1 mi				
Right onto Mount Hope Avenue	7.2 mi				
Proceed onto Mount Hope Avenue	7.2 mi				
Continue on Church Street	7.7 mi				
Left onto High Street	7.8 mi				
Proceed onto High Street	7.8 mi				
Proceed onto High Street	8.3 mi				
Left onto Walley Street	8.3 mi				
Left onto Wood Street	8.5 mi				
Proceed onto Wood Street	8.5 mi				
Right onto Richmond Street	8.8 mi				
Proceed onto Richmond Street	8.9 mi				
Right onto Foxhill Avenue	9.0 mi				
Right onto Charles Street	9.1 mi				
Left onto Foxhill Avenue	9.1 mi				
Left onto Woodlawn Avenue	9.3 mi				
Proceed onto Woodlawn Avenue	9.5 mi				
Right onto Metacom Avenue	9.6 mi				
Proceed onto Metacom Avenue	9.7 mi				
Proceed onto Metacom Avenue	9.9 mi				
Proceed onto Metacom Avenue	10.6 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	10.7 mi				
Right onto Ferry Road	10.7 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	10.8 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	11.0 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	11.2 mi				
Left onto Ferry Road	11.5 mi				
Continue on Hope Street	12.1 mi				
Proceed onto Hope Street	12.2 mi				
Proceed onto Hope Street	12.7 mi				
Left onto Constitution Street	12.8 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	12.9 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	13.0 mi				
Left onto Church Street	13.0 mi				
Right onto Thames Street	13.0 mi				
Proceed onto off-road waypoint. No data available	13.3 mi				
Arrive at Finish	13.3 mi				



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
TOWN CLERK

DATE: August 6, 2026

RE: Camron Rancourt, Rhode Races & Events Inc. in
Partnership with the Bristol 4th of July Committee
to hold a Half Marathon on Saturday, June 26, 2027
6:30AM-10:00AM at Independence Park

May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **September 16, 2026**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 9/3/26

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Camron Rancourt, Rhode Races and Events Inc. in partnership with the Bristol 4th of July Committee to hold a Half Marathon on Saturday, June 26, 2027. 6:30am-10:00am

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Camron Rancourt

☐ LICENSE RENEWAL ☒ NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- ☒ APPROVED
☐ CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
☐ DENIED
☐ FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

NOTES:

I conducted a check of calls for service for the previous Half Marathons; the checks do not display any calls of service that would be of concern. There is no known reason for denial of this license provided that all laws and ordinances to include insurance governing this practice are followed. I recommend as in the previous year the petitioner request 6 detail Officers.

REVIEWING OFFICER: Lt. Medeiros

DATE COMPLETED: 9/3/26

Steven Contente
STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

2026 SEP - 8 AM 9:39
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND



Bristol Fire Department

Inter Office Memorandum

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Michael DeMello, Fire Chief
cc: File
Date: August 17, 2026
Re: License Recommendation, September 16 Council Meeting

The fire department has reviewed the license request presented as follows:

1. Use of Independence Park/Public Roads- Camron Rancourt for Rhode Races & Events, Inc.

Saturday June 26, 2027 beginning at 0630 ending at 1000

Tent permitting to follow its usual application process to ensure any tents comply with the RI Fire Safety Code. A plan for EMS personnel to be onsite for any emergencies must be submitted a minimum of 1 month prior to the event. Any requests for town EMS personnel must be received a minimum of two weeks prior to the event date and may be submitted in person or through the town website using the Fire Detail request form. Otherwise, there is no objection to the granting of said use.

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Am Intuit
STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

2026 AUG 17 PM 1:23

10/16/2026 04:01
Bristol Fire Dept

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Christopher J. Parella
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: September 8, 2026

RE: Camron Rancourt, Rhode Races & Events Inc. in partnership with the Bristol 4th of July Committee to hold a Half Marathon on Saturday, June 26, 2027 6:30AM-10:00AM at Independence Park

2026 SEP -8 PM 12:08

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Mr. Administrator,

I have no objections to this request. I would recommend that the Honorable Town Council grant this petition, provided that all applicable laws and ordinances are adhered to.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns.

Conclu
th Int

STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

Warren Rensehausen, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation
wrensehausen@bristolri.gov

Tim Shaw
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation
tshaw@bristolri.gov



RECREATION BOARD

Karl Antonevich
Mike Cabral
N. Diane Davis
Kevin Manuel
Patti Nenna
Donald Squires
Michael Tomaselli

MEMORANDUM

To: Steven Contente
 Town Administrator
 From: Warren Rensehausen, CPRP
 Director
 Bristol Parks and Recreation Department

Date: September 8, 2026

Re: Cameron Rancourt and Rhode Races half Marathon event on June 26, 2027

2026 SEP - 8 PM 3:33
 TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

The Department of Bristol Parks and Recreation supports the request and ask the following.

- Allow open access to Independence Park and any sidewalk or walkway in the vicinity.
- Remove any rubbish and signage that the event accumulates.
- Provide Insurance for event, listing the Town of Bristol as additionally insured.
- Provide payment for any damage done to the grounds or property of Independence Park from this event.
- Be sure that no vehicles enter or exit from the Park during the event without an event organizer guiding them.
- Contact the Parks & Recreation Director or designee in advance and post event to meet onsite .

Warren Rensehausen, CPRP

Concun
Am
Int
 STEVEN CONTENTE
 Town Administrator



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE ◊ BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH

August 25, 2026

Bristol Town Council
Town Hall
10 Court Street
Bristol Rhode Island 02809

RE: Request for Contingency Funding for 7th 2026 Halloween Walkabout/Trunk or Treat Event (Sunday October 25th)

Dear Chairman Calouro and Honorable Members of the Bristol Town Council,

On behalf of the Bristol Police Department, I am writing to request contingency funding to support the unbudgeted costs associated with organizing a safe and enjoyable Halloween weekend event for the youth of Bristol in collaboration with the Downtown Merchants Association.

Last year, the Bristol Police Department participated in a successful "Trunk or Treat" event in front of Bristol House of Pizza during the Merchants Halloween Walkabout. The event saw significant community participation and was highly regarded by residents, thanks in part to the funds approved by the Town Council. Building on this positive experience, we have been coordinating with Tanya Costa of the Merchants Association to once again provide a fun-filled afternoon for the children of Bristol in 2026. Our aim for this year's event is to bring joy to our community's children. The requested funding will be used for several key aspects of the event, including:

1. **Candy:** Ensuring there is an ample supply of candy for participating children.
2. **Children's Entertainment:** Organizing activities and entertainment to create a memorable experience for the kids.
3. **Traffic Safety Measures:** Implementing safety measures to ensure the well-being of all attendees during the Halloween festivities.
4. **Event Supplies:** Covering the necessary supplies for the 7th Annual Trunk or Treat, held in conjunction with the Bristol Merchants Association Halloween Walkabout.

We understand the financial constraints the town may face, and we are seeking assistance in any capacity the Town Council finds feasible. Specifically, we are requesting \$1,500.00 in funding to help cover these costs.

We are confident that this year's Trunk or Treat event, in collaboration with the Bristol Merchants Association Halloween Walkabout, has the potential to build on the success of previous years and create a safe, enjoyable experience for Bristol's families.

Your support in providing this contingency funding will greatly contribute to our shared goal of fostering a strong sense of community and ensuring a safe environment for our youth. With your assistance, we can make this event even more meaningful for the residents of Bristol.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your response and hope to work together to create a memorable Halloween celebration for our community.

Respectfully,

Officer Stefanie Salisbury #30
Bristol Police Department



Town of Bristol
Board Book Report (Saved as: Board
Book with Terms and Positions)

Harbor Commission Advisory Committee

Basic Information

Creating Authority

There is hereby established a harbor commission advisory committee, which shall report to and provide advice and assistance to the town harbor commission regarding policies and regulations to be established with regard to the coastal and harbor waters under the jurisdiction of the town.

Therefore, at least one member of the advisory committee shall be a user of the Kickemuit River, at least one member of the advisory committee shall be a user of the downtown waterfront, and at least one member of the advisory committee shall be a user of the Poppasquash shore. If there are more than three members on the advisory committee, the additional members may be users of any geographic area, provided that at all times at least one member of the advisory committee shall represent each one of the aforementioned geographic areas.

Composition

3-7 members , 3 year term

Board Seats

Position	First Name	Last Name	Address	Calculated End Date	Actual Start Date	Status
Member	Paul	Labonte	22 Casey Drive	8/1/2028	8/1/2025	Active
Member	Bruce	Palumbo	6 Mallory CT	8/1/2028	8/1/2025	Active
Member				8/1/2029		Vacant
Member	Jeff	Doran	4 Dolly Drive	8/1/2028	8/1/2025	Active
Member	Owen	O'Rourke	41 Fales Road	8/1/2027	8/1/2024	Active
Member	Paul	Hebert	80 Duffield Road	8/1/2028	8/1/2025	Active
Member				8/1/2029		Vacant

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries
Generated 9/8/2026, 11:34:07 AM

Tim Serbst

Town of Bristol | Generated 9/8/2026 @ 11:35 am by OnBoardGOV - Powered by ClerkBase

Status

Name	Tim Serbst
Application Date	1/2/2026
Expiration Date	1/2/2028
Board Member	Tim Serbst
Status	Validated BY: UNKNOWN USER @BEFORE 4/1/2026

Board

Harbor Commission Advisory Committee

Vacancies

2

Status

Pending

Basic Information

Name
Tim Serbst

I would like to be appointed to the position because:
Life long resident, and boat owner . Would like to see Bristol's harbor and waterfront be successful

Contact Information

Address
7 Basswood Drive
Bristol, RI 02809

Yes, I am a resident
Yes

Email

Phone

Cell Phone

Occupation

Yes, I am a city employee
No

Board Application Comments

- Carla DaCosta | 8/7/2026 @ 10:09 am
sent resume to Steve J/Gregg M 8/7/26

Generated 9/8/2026 @ 11:35 am

James Ferrato

Town of Bristol | Generated 9/8/2026 @ 11:32 am by OnBoardGOV - Powered by ClerkBase

Status

Name	James Ferrato
Application Date	4/6/2026
Expiration Date	4/6/2028
Board Member	James Ferrato
Status	Validated BY: DEPUTYCLERK @4/7/2026 7:16 PM ET

Board

Harbor Commission Advisory Committee

Vacancies

2

Status

Pending

Basic Information

Name
James Ferrato

I would like to be appointed to the position because:
As a Bristol resident, active sailor, and retired executive, I am eager to put my professional and maritime experience to work for the community I call home.

Contact Information

Address
23 Noyes Avenue
Bristol, RI 02809

Yes, I am a resident
Yes

Email

Phone

Cell Phone

Occupation

Yes, I am a city employee
No

Board Application Comments

- Carla DaCosta | 8/7/2026 @ 10:09 am
sent resume to Steve J/Gregg M 8/7/26

Generated 9/8/2026 @ 11:32 am

James (Jim) Ferrato

Bristol, Rhode Island

April 5, 2026

Harbor Commission Advisory Committee
Bristol Harbor Commission
127 Thames Street
Bristol, RI, 02809

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong interest in the open advisory seat on the Bristol Harbor Commission. As a Bristol resident, active sailor with a mooring in Bristol Harbor, I have both a personal stake in the harbor's future and the professional background to contribute meaningfully to its governance.

My time on the water — navigating Bristol Harbor and tending to my mooring south of the Coast Guard Station — has given me firsthand appreciation for the Commission's work on mooring regulations and transient access. I'm also particularly interested in the Herreshoff Marine Museum's proposed marina and the Bristol Harbor Protection Team's breakwater study. While both efforts may be years in the making, I believe each could have a meaningful and lasting impact on Bristol Harbor.

Professionally, I bring 25 years of executive leadership to this role, most recently serving as Chief Information Officer of IBEX Global Solutions, a large international outsourcing firm. Over that career I developed expertise in strategic planning, technology-driven operations, vendor and stakeholder management, and data-informed decision-making — skills I believe translate directly to advisory board service.

"I am committed to Bristol — as a resident, a boater, and a neighbor — and would be excited to contribute to the work of the Harbor Commission in an advisory role."

Respectfully,

James (Jim) Ferrato

James (Jim) Ferrato

Bristol, Rhode Island

PROFILE

Bristol resident and active harbor boater with a mooring in Bristol Harbor. Brings 25 years of C-suite executive leadership in technology, operations, and strategic planning. Seeking to contribute professional expertise and deep local maritime perspective to the Bristol Harbor Commission.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Information Officer | IBEX Global Solutions | Washington, DC | 2016 – 2024

- Led technology and digital operations strategy for a global BPO firm with thousands of employees across multiple continents
- Developed the BPO 2.0 platform and Wave iX product suite, integrating AI-driven analytics into large-scale contact center operations
- Managed complex multi-vendor ecosystems, capital project planning, and regulatory compliance across international jurisdictions
- Served as executive advisor to board-level stakeholders on technology investment and risk

Executive Leadership Roles | iPacesetters / ACCENT Marketing / Protocol Global / Aspect Communications / Stream International | 1999 – 2016

- 25-year career spanning VP and C-suite roles in BPO, CX technology, and operational strategy
- Deep experience in vendor negotiation, infrastructure planning, data governance, and large-scale change management
- Consistent track record of translating complex operational challenges into clear, actionable policy and investment recommendations

SKILLS RELEVANT TO HARBOR COMMISSION SERVICE

- **Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis** — experience developing long-range plans in complex, regulated environments
- **Stakeholder Engagement** — skilled at synthesizing input from diverse community, government, and commercial stakeholders
- **Data-Driven Decision Making** — translating technical studies and data into clear advisory guidance
- **Project Oversight** — managing multi-year infrastructure and technology projects on schedule and within budget
- **Environmental Awareness** — active interest in Bristol's coastal resilience, climate adaptation, and harbor protection issues

COMMUNITY & CIVIC INTERESTS

- Bristol, Rhode Island resident — committed to the town's waterfront heritage and long-term coastal resilience
- Interested in harbor protection infrastructure, climate-adaptive planning, and public access to Bristol Harbor
- Follower of CRMC coastal policy, Rhode Island Sea Grant initiatives, and Narragansett Bay environmental issues

Dr. Thomas Enright

Town of Bristol | Generated 9/8/2026 @ 11:30 am by OnBoardGOV - Powered by ClerkBase

Status	Board	Vacancies	Status
Name Dr. Thomas Enright Application Date 9/1/2026 Expiration Date 9/1/2028 Board Member Thomas Enright Status Validated BY: MCordeiro@BristolRI.GOV @9/1/2026 1:09 PM ET	Harbor Commission Advisory Committee	2	Pending

Basic Information

Name
Dr. Thomas Enright

I would like to be appointed to the position because:

Cover Letter This letter is to introduce my desire to serve the town of Bristol on the Harbor Advisory Board. My name is Dr Tom Enright, and I have worked and resided here since 1978. I am recently retired, and I am available to give back to the town where my wife, the former Lisa Pearson, raised our family. My grandfather was Dr C Paul Bruno, a well respected physician and native born Bristolian. Notably, he was the 1st town health inspector and largely responsible for moving the Yacht Club from Constitution St to its present location for increased safety and protection in the anchorage from the prevailing SW breeze during the summer season. My late father-in-law, Clint Pearson, employed over 300 boat builders with a start on the property that houses the now harbor masters office and the town's marina. He also run the former Bristol Marine boat yard and marina on Poppasquash. Our families have a deep attachment to the town's waterfront, and I am available to share my experience and on-site to the Board

Contact Information

Address
129 Poppasquash Road
Bristol, RI 02809

Yes, I am a resident
Yes

Email

Phone

Cell Phone

Occupation

Yes, I am a city employee
No

Board Application Comments

- **Melissa Cordeiro** | 9/1/2026 @ 01:43 pm

Resume submitted to harbor master

Generated 9/8/2026 @ 11:30 am



Cover Letter

From Thomas Enright

Date Tue 9/1/2026 11:12 AM

To Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

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Cover Letter

This letter is to introduce my desire to serve the town of Bristol on the Harbor Advisory Board. My name is Dr Tom Enright and I have worked and resided here since 1978. I am recently retired and I am available to give back to the town where my wife, the former Lisa Pearson, raised our family. My grandfather was Dr C Paul Bruno, a well respected physician and native born Bristolian. Notably, he was the 1st town health inspector and largely responsible for moving the Yacht club from Constitution St to its present location for increased safety and protection in the anchorage from the prevailing SW breeze during the summer season. My late father in law Clint Pearson employed over 300 boat builders with a start on the property that houses the now harbor masters office and the towns marina. He also run the former Bristol Marine boat yard and marina on Poppasquash Our families have a deep attachment to to the town's waterfront and I am available to share my experience and on-site to the Board

Sent from my iPhone



Resume

From Thomas Enright ·

Date Tue 9/1/2026 11:13 AM

To Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

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- Resume

1983 Doctor of Dental Medicine. Boston Ma

Private Dental practice maintaining offices in Bristol and Warren for 43 years. My practice was assumed by my son Jonathan a life long Bristol resident

State and National Dental Society leadership experience. ADA scientific commission member and youngest RIDA president. Experience with Roberts rules of order, government policy and hearings

I have maintained waterfront property with a dock for 25 years and have complied with town and state regulations. Poppasquash taxpayer and resident since 1985

Past volunteer to town of Bristol on the Historic District commission, 1st serving on in the adhoc committee to study reforms and recommendations to the HDC and then rose to serve on the Commission as a standing member for 2 terms

I was appointed by our present town manager, Steve Contente, to proudly serve on the search committee that recommended our current police chief Kevin Lynch

Presently maintain and limited captain's license monitored by random drug screening. Current Safe Boating Certificate as well as CPR and advanced life support. Worked as a deck hand on Prudence ferry spring and summer 2024

I maintain a hunter safety card, and RI fire arms ID. I actively hunt water fowl on the Bristol waterfront as well as enjoy fishing as well. These qualifications are being mentioned because of recent Harbor

Master/ local Law Enforcement actions resulting in a shooting death of a boat thief suspect in Newport. There is liable to be a state wide review of of interactions between both agencies. I have safe fire arm experience and am familiar with type, storage and usage

Lastly, I am a life long sailor yachtsman. I was 1st taught by my mother and then at the Bristol Yacht Club program. I own a 42 ft down east power boat and a 60 year old Pearson sailboat built in the Constitution St factory

References provided by request

- B

Sent from my iPhone



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Town Clerk's Office Staff

From: Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

Date: July 21, 2026

Re: Summary of Council Member Recommendations – Liquor License Policy/Procedure

The following is a summary of the recommendations submitted by individual members of the Town Council regarding the Town's current liquor license procedure. This memorandum is intended only to provide a brief overview of each member's recommendation regarding how the Town should proceed.

The individual written recommendations submitted by each Council member should be reviewed in their entirety for the full reasoning, considerations, and details supporting each recommendation.

- **Councilman Timothy Sweeney** – Recommends replacing the current unwritten six-month practice with a formal, written, risk-based policy utilizing individualized review. A new restaurant applicant meeting all state and local requirements, receiving favorable departmental recommendations, and presenting a complete and responsible operating plan would be eligible for a full Class BV license, with an administrative compliance check-in approximately two to three months after issuance. The Council would retain discretion to impose conditions, issue a limited/provisional license, continue an application, or deny an application when specific concerns are identified.
- **Councilman Tony Teixeira** – Recommends that the review/probationary period be based primarily upon the applicant's prior experience and circumstances. New applicants without previous

relevant experience would be subject to a six-month review period before receiving a full liquor license. Applicants from outside Bristol with established prior experience would be subject to a three-month Limited BV review period before receiving a full license. Transfers to a new owner without demonstrated relevant experience would also be subject to a three-month trial/review period before transfer of the full license. Background checks and verification of prior violations or records would be part of the review process.

- **Vice Chairwoman Mary Parella** – Recommends allowing an applicant to receive a full liquor license without first completing the existing limited-license period only when the applicant can demonstrate that they personally owned or managed a restaurant with a full liquor license for at least 18 months within the previous three years. The experience would need to be verifiable, including verification with the police chief in the community where the prior establishment operated. Qualifying applicants receiving a full license would be subject to Council reviews every three months during the first year. Applicants without qualifying ownership or management experience would not be eligible for this option
- **Councilman Aaron Ley** – Recommends eliminating the current practice requiring newly created liquor licenses to begin with a six-month Limited BV license. Instead, a new establishment would be eligible to receive a full Class BV license from the outset, subject to a uniform probationary/review period consisting of two Council check-ins at three-month intervals. This approach would apply consistently whether the license is newly created through the ordinance process or obtained through a transfer.

Note: *This memorandum is intended solely as a condensed summary of the recommendations submitted. Please refer to each Council member's original written submission for the complete recommendation, supporting rationale, and additional considerations.*

Timothy Sweeney
Melissa Cordeiro
Deputy Clerk

Hi Melissa,

Thank you for confirming that the Town's current six-month practice for new restaurant liquor licenses is not written in an ordinance or formal policy.

My recommendation is that the Town replace the unwritten practice with a clear, written, risk-based policy.

A new restaurant applicant should be eligible for a full Class BV license if the applicant satisfies all state and local requirements, receives favorable departmental recommendations, and presents a complete and responsible operating plan. The fact that a restaurant is newly opened should not, by itself, require a limited license or a six-month waiting period.

To protect the Town and nearby residents, newly issued full BV licenses could be subject to an administrative compliance check-in after approximately 2–3 months. If no material concerns are reported, the matter can be received and filed. If concerns are reported, the Council could schedule a further review, consider lawful conditions, or take any other action available under law.

The Council should still retain discretion to impose reasonable conditions, grant a limited/provisional license, continue an application, or deny an application where specific concerns are identified, such as public safety, police impact, fire/code issues, zoning, outdoor service, entertainment, late-night operations, neighborhood impacts, incomplete documentation, or prior compliance history.

In short, I recommend replacing the blanket six-month custom with individualized review, written criteria, departmental recommendations, reasonable conditions where needed, and a 2–3-month compliance check-in for new full BV licenses.

Best,

Tim

Timothy E. Sweeney
Bristol Town Council, Member

To: Town Council

From: Tony Teixeira, Councilor

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Re: Long Standing Liquor License Policy

Proposed suggestions

New petitioner – a business that **is coming into Bristol** without previous experience – a six (6) month should be established for a review period before acquiring a full liquor license with background check*

New petitioner – those who **live in town** but with no previous experience – a six (6) month should be set as a review period without any issues/violations dealt with the Police before issuing a full liquor license with background check*

New petitioner – who comes from out of town but has previous experience and is established elsewhere, the Town Council can establish a three (3) month review period of Limited BV – wine/beer before issuing a full liquor license with background check*

Transfer - For an existing business with a full liquor license, if a new owner requests a transfer but has not demonstrated relevant experience, a three (3) month trial review period should be required before a full liquor license is transferred with background check*

***Background check** – the Bristol Police Department will be requested to check whether previous community or Bristol for violations or record.

From: Mary Parella
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 1:45 AM
To: Melissa Cordeiro
Subject: Alcohol Licenses

Hi Melissa,

Nathan reminded me of this upcoming agenda item. My thoughts are that we could allow a full license only if the application currently owns or has managed a restaurant with a full liquor license for at least 18 months. The ownership/management must be within the last three years and must be verifiable. The Council reviews will be every three months for the first year.

If the applicant can prove that they owned/managed a restaurant with full liquor license we will check with the local police chief in the former community to verify if said person was a responsible owner of such an establishment.

I do not think that someone with no restaurant experience who hires a person with some experience to run the place should have this option because there is [no](#) verification.

Bristol's government has worked hard to have a liquor policy that is good for the town. We have been successful in maintaining a sense of decorum with our liquor establishment because we have a set policy to ensure the safety and security of residents. This was not always the case, and I do not want to see us return to the "old ways."

Mary

Memo Regarding Policy Changes to Liquor License Approvals

Prepared by:
Aaron Ley
Bristol Town Council

Recommendation

For the reasons given below, my preference is that the Council eliminate the requirement that new liquor licenses created through the ordinance process begin with a six month probationary limited BV license. In its place, my preference is to grant a full BV license with a uniform probationary period involving two council check-ins at three month intervals for all establishments, whether they receive a transferred license or a license created through the ordinance process.

Background

The topic of liquor licenses has come before the Town Council recently, particularly with Thames Street Bistro's request for a full liquor license. Our current practice allows the Council to consider the transfer of a full liquor license without imposing a six month probationary period under a limited BV license. By contrast, new licenses created through the ordinance adoption process are required to demonstrate responsible stewardship of a limited liquor license (beer and wine only) before becoming eligible for a full liquor license. While this informal practice has been governed by past precedent, we do not yet have a formal written policy.

My preference is to eliminate the requirement of a six month probationary period under a limited BV license. In its place, I recommend that the Council consider granting a full BV license with two three-month council reviews while under a full BV license.

Several considerations have shaped this preference, particularly as alcohol consumption trends continue to evolve.

Competitive disparity between new and transferred licenses

Newly established restaurants that obtain a liquor license through ordinance adoption are unable to compete on equal footing with newly established businesses that receive their full licenses through a transfer (or long established businesses operating under a liquor license). The following example illustrates how a beer and wine only restriction can disadvantage a new establishment during its first six critical months of operation.

A 1.75 liter (roughly 25 ounce) bottle of wine, served in 6 ounce pours, yields approximately four glasses. At \$15 per glass, one bottle generates \$60 in sales. Assuming a wholesale cost of \$20, the bottle produces a profit of \$40.

Beer sells for roughly \$10 per pint at a cost of approximately \$5 per pint, producing a profit of \$5 per pint.

A 1.75 liter (60 ounce) bottle of rum or gin costs about \$30. Most pours are 1.5 ounces, which yields roughly 40 pours per bottle. At an average drink price of \$15, those pours generate \$600 in sales and a profit of \$570.

Put another way, an establishment operating under a limited BV must sell fifteen bottles of wine to equal the profit from a single bottle of rum or gin, and must pour roughly 110 beers to do the same. This margin gap is significant during the early months when a new business is working to establish itself. It is especially significant when a business operating under an ordinance-created liquor license must compete against another new business that operates under a transferred full liquor license.

Here is a scenario that I would not expect to occur under our current policy, but illustrates a worst-case scenario: a single business owner opens two new identical restaurants in Bristol at roughly the same time. One acquires its license through a transfer and may offer a full beverage program from day one. The other, located a few blocks away, receives its license through the ordinance process and must operate under a limited BV license for six months. Due to the path taken to establish the license one restaurant captures full margins and a complete drink menu during its critical opening window, while the other is disadvantaged for reasons the owner cannot meaningfully address.

Public perception during the opening window

A second concern relates to how patrons perceive a new establishment's drink offerings. The first six months represent the period of greatest public curiosity about a new business, yet during precisely that window patrons cannot experience the full dining and beverage program the establishment intends to offer. Not every patron prefers beer or wine; many seek gluten free or lower calorie spirit options. In fact, operation under a limited liquor license does not allow the purchase of popular low alcohol spirit-based drinks like High Noon, Sun Cruiser, etc. Patrons whose preferences are not accommodated may share their impressions with prospective customers, which can shrink the customer base or create lasting misperceptions about what the business offers.

Larger Venues vs. Smaller Venues

I understand the reasoning behind past practice. A probationary limited BV requirement signals that the Town takes alcohol related transgressions, noise complaints, and similar disturbances seriously. However, small bistros and craft dining establishments that offer intimate dining experiences may not generate the kinds of disturbances we might reasonably anticipate from larger venues that cater to a younger, college aged crowd.

My hope is that an ordinance allowing a two 3-month council check-ins allows our community to continue our close monitoring of drinking establishments, while also providing a more flexible pathway for our restaurants to experience success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aaron Ley

Cr

RECEIVED AT MEETING

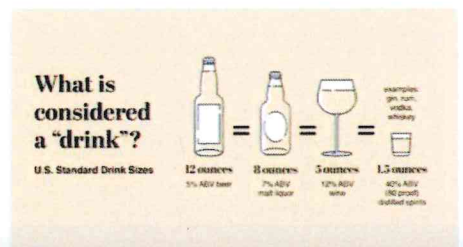
Subject: Tonight's Considerations for BV licenses policy

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Dear Town Administrator, Town Council, and Town Clerk, Respectfully,
Please consider these scientific facts from the CDC while determining the allowance of BV v. limited BV licenses for start-ups. Any drink, whether wine, beer or mixed, is a "drink." See the CDC's equivalents attached.

One standard drink is equivalent to:

- 12 ounces of beer with 5% alcohol.
- 8 ounces of malt liquor with 7% alcohol.
- 5 ounces of wine with 12% alcohol.
- A shot or 1.5 ounces of liquor or distilled spirits (80-proof liquor).
- 80 proof means the liquor has 40% alcohol.
- Brandy, gin, rum, tequila, vodka, and whiskey are examples of types of liquor.



The Town Council has the power and tools to closely monitor new establishments by allowing a probationary license for the first six months instead of denying the full license.

People often comment on the vibrant restaurant scene in Warren and how it is lacking in Bristol. Warren responded to the influx of new residents by granting full liquor licenses to startup restaurants on the day of their openings. Warren signaled that the Town is welcome to business expansion.

Please consider making Bristol ready for the vibrance that many residents want and will need. You worked diligently to allow for the addition of more than 120 new residences in the Historic Downtown area. We will need new restaurant spaces to accommodate those new residents without delay.

The Town Council can staunchly enforce the laws governing establishments who serve alcohol. A few bad actors who continuously abuse the law - by overcrowding, over-serving, serving underaged drinkers, and breaking noise ordinance laws have shown that THEY are the problem. Instead of unfairly anticipating those problems with new establishments, I ask that you strictly enforce the laws on the books for ALL licensed operators to protect Bristol as you wish, and allow new restaurants to operate fairly with the competition.

Thank You,

Marianne Bergenholtz



Item #H2, Review of Municipal Licensing Practices

RECEIVED AT MEETING

From bergie@hhcne.com <bergie@hhcne.com>

Date Wed 7/29/2026 3:00 PM

To Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

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Dear Melissa,

Please forward this to the Town Council Members for tonight's meeting. Thanks.

Dear Members of Town Council,

Thank you for finally seeking an alternative to the current inequality that exists when granting a BV License to new restaurants wanting to open. By changing the current policy which grants only a 6 month beer/wine license to new establishments to a full liquor license results in doing what is best for Bristol as opposed to doing what is good for Bristol.

This change should promote many positive results: it will allow all restaurants (new and existing) to compete on a level playing field for financial success: it will open up opportunities for new establishments wanting to come here by eliminating the current 6 mth policy: it will result in additional tax dollars for the town based on increased liquor sales: it will result in more employment opportunities for Bristol citizenry. Instead of wishing new restaurants success you are now helping them succeed.

RI has 39 cities and towns and yet only Bristol is the only one with this 6 month beer/wine license. Last year when 205 Thames Street was vacant, we had numerous restaurant owners approach us about leasing the property.. but each one bailed out when they realized the current 6 month policy the town follows. Let's look at math for an explanation - a bottle of wine is 1.75 ml or 25 oz. At 6 oz pour gets you 4 glasses. At average \$15.00 per glass gets \$60 revenue. Cost of bottle is \$20 nets you a profit of \$40. A bottle of rum or gin is around 1.75 liters or 60 oz. A 2oz pour gets you 30 pours. Average sell is \$15. so 30x 15 gets you \$450 in revenue. If cost is \$30 that gets profit of \$420. With only a beer/wine license one has to sell 90 beers or 12 bottles of wine to equal a profit of \$420 from rum/gin. As anyone can see the financial hardship of the 6 month beer/wine policy just isn't helping gain financial success. Frankly it is unfair. It needs to change to granting a full BV license and join the other 38 cities and towns. If a restaurant meets all State and Local requirements (TIP Certified) they should be granted a full BV license.

It's a slippery slope if you now base it on experience (subjective) or base it on different criteria if you are from outside Bristol. If you owned or managed a successful restaurant having a full liquor license for the past 9, 12, or 24 months in the past 3 years you would not be granted a full BV license in Bristol? That seems more than unfair. Let's make the playing field level for all. By eliminating the unwritten 6 month policy and grant full BV Licenses with a monitoring system to assist in maintaining success. Thanks

Sincerely,

Tom Bergenholtz

RESOLUTION OF THE BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL

ADOPTING A POLICY ON

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, the Bristol Town Council is authorized, pursuant to applicable state law, to review and act upon applications for liquor licenses within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to establish a consistent and transparent policy for evaluating new applicants for liquor licenses while providing the Council with an opportunity to review an applicant's operation after the business has commenced serving alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that a limited license for an initial period will allow the Council to evaluate an applicant's compliance with applicable laws, regulations, license conditions, and Town requirements before determining whether a full license should be issued;

WHEREAS, however, the Council recognizes that applicants with demonstrated managerial experience in the lawful service and sale of alcoholic beverages may present a reduced level of risk and may warrant issuance of a full license without an initial limited-license period; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Bristol Town Council hereby adopts the following policy, and directs the Town Clerk, the Town Administrator, and through the Town Administrator the Chief of Police to enforce such policy:

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Resolution, an applicant seeking a new liquor license shall, upon approval of the application by the Council, initially be issued a **limited Class BVL license**.
2. The BVL license shall be subject to all applicable laws, regulations, license conditions, and any additional requirements imposed by the Council.
3. The licensee shall appear before the Town Council for a review of the license three (3) months after the date of issuance and again six (6) months after the date of issuance for a review of the operation and compliance of the licensee
4. The Council reviews shall be based upon the licensee's compliance with all laws, rules, and conditions and performance during the review period and any other factors the Council is authorized by law to consider.
5. Following the six (6) month review, the Council may:
 - i. Approve the issuance of the full BV license originally sought;

- ii. Continue the limited BVL license if the Council determines that additional review is warranted; or
 - iii. Take such other action as may be authorized by applicable law based upon the circumstances presented to the Council.
6. **Exception for Demonstrated Managerial Experience.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, an applicant may be eligible to receive a full BV liquor license upon initial approval if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Council that the applicant possesses significant managerial experience in the lawful service and sale of alcoholic beverages at a licensed establishment, and that the applicant will personally oversee and manage the operation of the proposed establishment. Such approval shall still be subject to the three (3) and six (6) month reviews set forth above.
7. This resolution shall take effect upon passage, and may be amended or repealed at any time by the Town Council at a duly noticed meeting.

Adopted by Town Council vote on August 19, 2026.

ATTEST:

Melissa Cordeiro
Town Clerk

\\SERVER1\Share\Bristol\Resolutions\Bristol TC resolution re Liquor License Procedure_D4 Clean.docx

- F3.** Richard Rocha, 9 Jessica Drive, requests the installment of two stop signs at the intersection of Kathy Court and Jessica Drive

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Parella/Teixeria- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to the next meeting and instruct Clerk Cordeiro to notify the petitioner of the petition requirement follow the same general approach utilized for traffic-calming requests and should demonstrate support from approximately 75% of the impacted neighbors.

It was noted for the record that the petitioner was not present.

Prior to the vote being taken, the Council discussed the need for a petition demonstrating support from the impacted neighbors before further consideration of the request. The Council stated that the petition process should follow the same general approach utilized for traffic-calming requests and should demonstrate support from approximately 75% of the impacted neighbors.

Clerk Cordeiro asked how the affected area should be identified for purposes of obtaining the required neighborhood support. The Council directed that the petition follows the same approach used for traffic-calming requests. Council members discussed the importance of obtaining input from a substantial majority of nearby residents before installing stop signs, including consideration of the potential impact on neighboring properties and the Town costs associated with evaluating and implementing the request.

- F4.** Melissa Parsons, Executive Director, Bike to the Beach for Autism - request for approval of Cycling Event through Bristol on September 19, 2026

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to approve the petition per the recommendations received and conditions delineated and also subject to



Jessica Drive Stop Sign Petition

From Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

Date Fri 8/28/2026 12:02 PM

To

Cc DeputyClerk <DeputyClerk@bristolri.gov>

 2 attachments (1 MB)

Affected neighbors - 9 Jessica.pdf; Map- image .png;

Hi Rich,

We left you a couple of messages the week of August 10 regarding the petition you submitted to the Town Council requesting a stop sign on Jessica Drive.

The Council reviewed your request and has asked that you obtain signatures from at least 60% of the affected neighbors showing that they are in favor of the proposed stop sign.

I've attached a copy of the area identifying the neighbors who would be included in determining the 60%. If you could circulate a petition among those neighbors and obtain the required signatures, you can return it to our office.

Once the 60% support has been received, the Council can move forward with having a study conducted to further review the request.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need anything from our office while you're gathering the signatures.

Thank you!

Melissa Cordeiro

Melissa Cordeiro / Town Clerk
Town of Bristol, Rhode Island
10 Court St Bristol, RI 02809
P: 401-253-7000 F: 401-253-2647
E: mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

2026 ELECTION INFORMATION

Statewide Primary Election: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Early Voting: August 20 – September 8, 2026

Guiteras School, 35 Washington Street

Monday–Friday | 8:00 AM–4:00 PM



Search Results Report

Bristol, RI
August 28, 2026

Parcel Number: 150-127 CAMA Number: 150-127 Property Address: 11 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: TAVARES, JAMES JR. 11 ADDY DRIVE BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-128 CAMA Number: 150-128 Property Address: 17 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: TAVARES, MANUEL ALBERTO & MARY JO FIDALGO CO-TRUSTEES, TAVARES FAMILY TRUST 17 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-129 CAMA Number: 150-129 Property Address: 15 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: GERMANO, JOHN M & MARIA F. LE OLSON, LIZA MARIE & SILVA, MELISSA TC 15 JESSICA DRIVE BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-130 CAMA Number: 150-130 Property Address: 11 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: MOLL, JEFFREY M & TARA E TE 11 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-131 CAMA Number: 150-131 Property Address: 9 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: ROCHA, RICHARD D DIANE M TE 9 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-132 CAMA Number: 150-132 Property Address: 7 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: CORREIA, LOUIS MARY ETUX TE 7 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-134 CAMA Number: 150-134 Property Address: 2 KATHY CT	Mailing Address: ROBINSON, MICHAEL W & CHERYL A, CO-TRUSTEES ROBINSON FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST 2 KATHY CT BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-135 CAMA Number: 150-135 Property Address: 10 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: JANUARIO, STEVEN M. KIMBERLY A. TE 10 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-136 CAMA Number: 150-136 Property Address: 14 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: RESENDES, ROLANDA R. LE BELANGER, DIANE & SHERMAN, DOROTHY TRUSTEES 14 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-137 CAMA Number: 150-137 Property Address: 16 JESSICA DR	Mailing Address: LOXLEY, DAVID & SUMMERS, ADRIAN TE 16 JESSICA DR BRISTOL, RI 02809



www.cai-tech.com

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8/28/2026

Page 1 of 3

Find Results Report - Bristol, RI



Search Results Report

Bristol, RI
August 28, 2026

Parcel Number: 150-138 CAMA Number: 150-138 Property Address: 14 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: OLIVEIRA, LINA SUSANA TRUSTEE SILVA, LUIS M. 14 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-139 CAMA Number: 150-139 Property Address: 12 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: ALMEIDA, NORBERTO M. MARIA A TRUSTEES 12 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-140 CAMA Number: 150-140 Property Address: 10 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: CORDEIRO, EMANUEL COSTA 10 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-141 CAMA Number: 150-141 Property Address: 8 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: ANDRADE, JOAO F & MARIA MARGARIDA TE 8 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-142 CAMA Number: 150-142 Property Address: 6 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: VIANA, MATTHEW J 6 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-143 CAMA Number: 150-143 Property Address: 4 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: GALLAGHER, JASON T & ERIN E TE 4 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-144 CAMA Number: 150-144 Property Address: 2 ADDY DR	Mailing Address: CALOURO, CESAR P & PAMELA C TC c/o 2 ADDY DR BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-145 CAMA Number: 150-145 Property Address: 11 KATHY CT	Mailing Address: TAVARES, DEOLINDA M. JOSEPH A. TE 11 KATHY COURT BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-146 CAMA Number: 150-146 Property Address: 9 KATHY CT	Mailing Address: DION, LOUISE A. TRUSTEE OF THE LOUISE A. DION IRREVOCABLE TRUST 9 KATHY CT BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-147 CAMA Number: 150-147 Property Address: 5 KATHY CT	Mailing Address: CAMELO, JONATHAN D & MARCY J TE 5 KATHY CT BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-148 CAMA Number: 150-148 Property Address: 4 KATHY CT	Mailing Address: RAPOSO, LUIS M & MARIA G CO- TRUSTEES 4 KATHY CT BRISTOL, RI 02809
Parcel Number: 150-149 CAMA Number: 150-149 Property Address: 6 KATHY CT	Mailing Address: LOTERO, DAVID & SANDRA TE 6 KATHY CT BRISTOL, RI 02809



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Search Results Report

Bristol, RI
August 28, 2026

Parcel Number: 150-150
CAMA Number: 150-150
Property Address: 8 KATHY CT

Mailing Address: MALAFRONTA, FRANK L & PAMELA
TRUSTEES
8 KATHY CT
BRISTOL, RI 02809

Parcel Number: 150-151
CAMA Number: 150-151
Property Address: 10 KATHY CT

Mailing Address: MANCIERI, SHIRLEY L & SAVERIO LE
JOSEPH S MANCIERI TRUSTEE 5-15-
2015 IRREV TRUST
10 KATHY CT
BRISTOL, RI 02809

Parcel Number: 150-152
CAMA Number: 150-152
Property Address: 12 KATHY CT

Mailing Address: RAPOSO, FERNANDO JR. & AURA M. TE
12 KATHY CT
BRISTOL, RI 02809

Parcel Number: 150-153
CAMA Number: 150-153
Property Address: 14 KATHY CT

Mailing Address: COSTA, JOSE M
14 KATHY COURT
BRISTOL, RI 02809



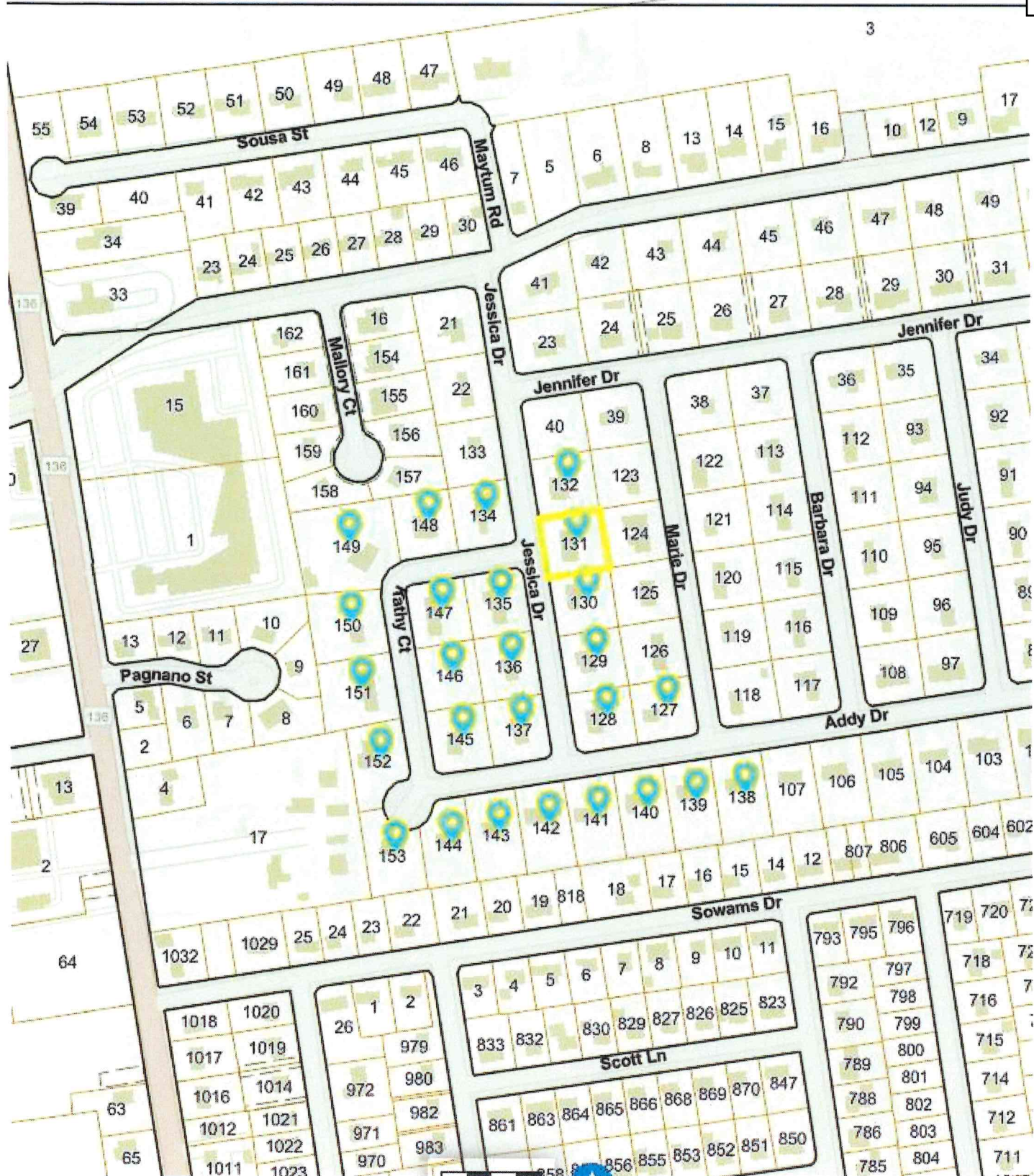
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8/28/2026

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Find Results Report - Bristol, RI





Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:

The undersigned hereby respectfully request of your

Honorable Body that:

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2025 AUG -4 PM 12:35 DATE RECEIVED

To whom it may concern,

I am proposing adding two "STOP" signs at the intersection of Kathy Ct. and Jessica Dr. Due to the length of Jessica Dr many vehicles travel above the speed limit which has affected the safety of our families + pets I have also spoken to the Bristol police but their efforts have not influenced considerable change. I have included a map of proposed area for your reference.

Thank you)

Richard Rocha

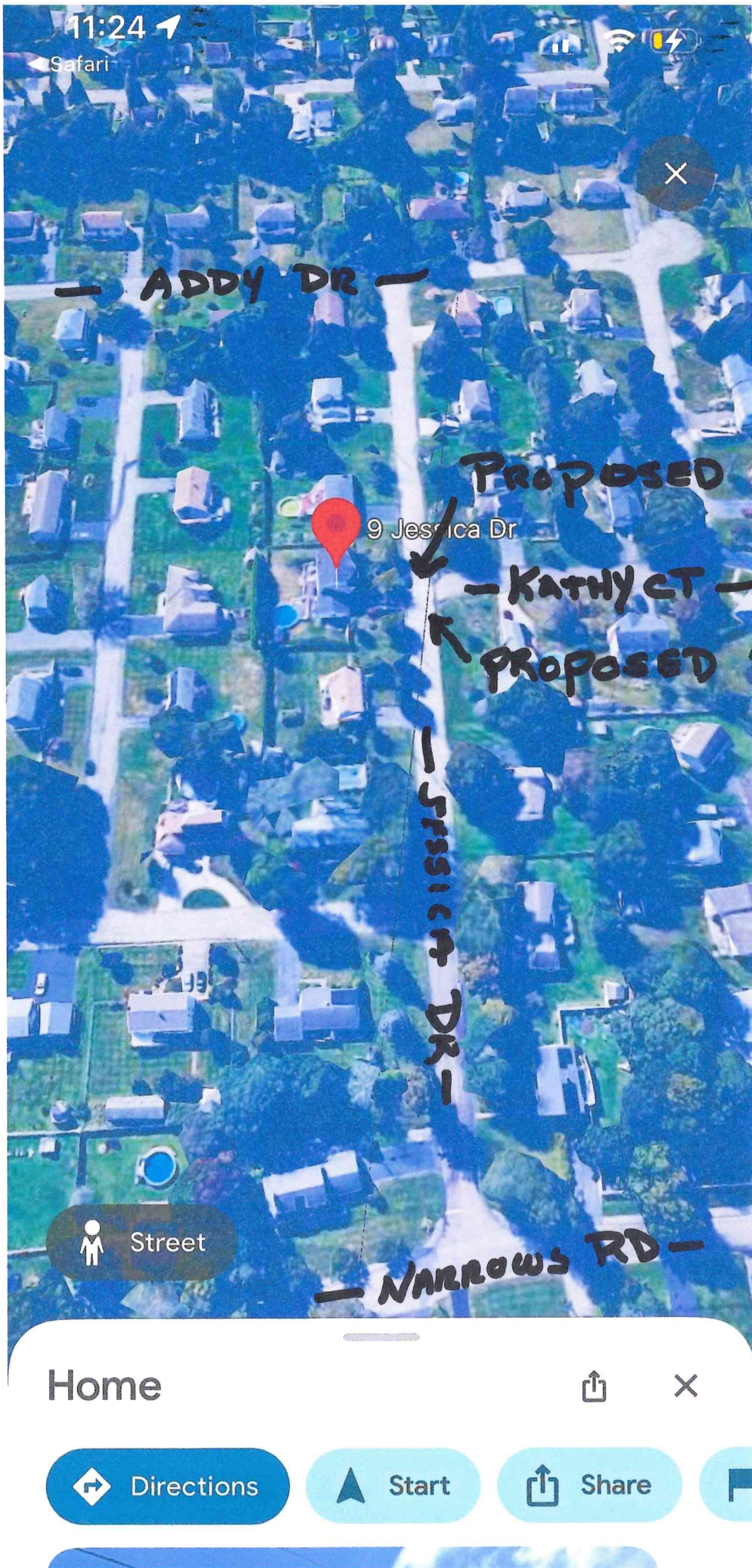
PLEASE NOTE:

Please ensure that your petition is submitted by 4:00 PM two (2) Wednesdays before the Town Council meeting scheduled for 8/19/2026. In order to be included on the Town Council docket. According to Council policy, petitions cannot be addressed unless recommendations, if needed from the relevant departments are received before the Council meeting.

SIGNATURE: Richard D. Rocha

NAME: RICHARD D. ROCHA

ADDRESS: 9 JESSICA DR.





TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
TOWN CLERK

DATE: August 4, 2026

RE: Richard Rocha, 9 Jessica Drive request an
installment of two stop signs at the intersection
of Kathy Court and Jessica Drive



May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **August 19, 2026**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, August 12, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 08/10/2026

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Richard Rocha, 9 Jessica Dr. request an installation of two stop signs at the intersection of Kathy Ct. and Jessica Dr.

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Richard Rocha

☐ LICENSE RENEWAL ☒ NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- ☐ APPROVED
☐ CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
☐ DENIED
☐ FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

NOTES:

A review was conducted of calls for service at this location over the past three years. The review identified two calls for service, both of which involved parking complaints in 2022.

At this time, we have received only one request regarding the installation of a stop sign at Kathy Ct. and Jessica Drive. To further evaluate the request and determine the level of neighborhood support, we are requesting that the petitioner obtain signatures from neighborhood residents in support of the petition before the request proceeds through the process.

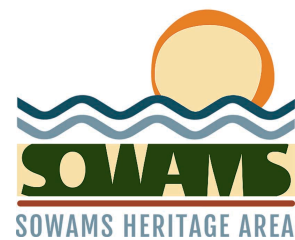
REVIEWING OFFICER: Capt. Roman Wozny

DATE COMPLETED: 08/12/2026

Steven Contente
STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

September 9, 2026

Ms. Melissa Cordeiro,
Town Clerk
Town of Bristol
10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809



Dear Melissa,

After four years of comprehensive research and intensive community outreach, the Sowams National Heritage Area Feasibility Study is complete. On behalf of the Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors, I would like to present a bound copy of the document to the Bristol Town Council at their next meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 and to express our thanks for supporting the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

We recommend that the printed copy of the study be made available to the general public at Rogers Free Library or the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society. Since the document is more than 300 pages, most people will find it convenient to read it digitally on the ["Feasibility"](#) page of our [sowams.org](#) website, which summarizes the study and provides a link to the entire document, including appendices: <https://www.sowams.org/sowams-heritage-area-feasibility>

The Bristol Town Council is one of nine municipal leaders who have documented their support for a Sowams National Heritage Area (NHA). In Appendix I at the back of the study, you will find a copy of the Bristol Town Council resolution among 73 other letters of support and resolutions throughout the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams Heritage Area.

Now, our focus shifts to garnering congressional support for NHA designation. Congress has begun holding hearings and advancing legislation to designate new National Heritage Areas, opening a critical window for introducing a bill to establish the Sowams National Heritage Area and possibly positioning it for inclusion in a future legislative package. We encourage all Bristolians to join us in asking our congressional representatives to introduce legislation designating Sowams as a National Heritage Area. More information about our [legislative action campaign](#) can be found on the home page of [sowams.org](#).

With thanks and kind regards,\

Andrea Rounds, Chair
Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors

SOWAMS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc.



Developed by:



June 2026
sowams.org

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Sowams National Heritage Area Feasibility Study
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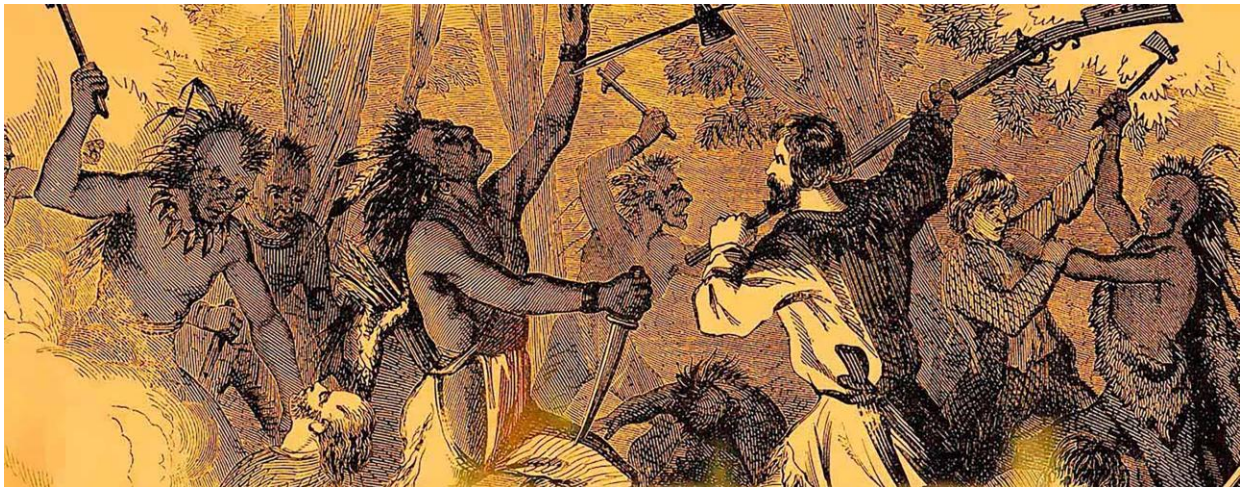
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – SOWAMS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

A Significant Place

The *Sowams National Heritage Area Feasibility Study* examines whether nine closely linked Rhode Island and Massachusetts communities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay should be federally designated to preserve and share a landscape of national consequence. Spanning 140 square miles and anchored by the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe, Sowams is where two worlds converged, creating and then shattering a 50-year alliance that shaped American history. Five chapters synthesize three years of research and public outreach; their essential findings are distilled below.

The *Sowams National Heritage Area Feasibility Study* explains why this compact landscape – nine Rhode Island and Massachusetts communities bound by water, memory, and more than 12,000 years of human presence – merits a place in the National Park Service system of National Heritage Areas. It documents a sweeping narrative that shifted profoundly in 1621, when the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin welcomed Plymouth’s settlers, endured through a devastating war that reshaped Indigenous-colonial relations, and reverberated in later struggles over religious liberty, the business of human enslavement, and industrial innovation. Sowams, the study concludes, “is the setting for one of our nation’s origin stories... and ground zero for the fracturing of that alliance” whose legacy has molded American political, economic, and social life.



King Philip’s War (1675-1676) ravaged colonial settlements and Native villages throughout New England, resulting in the largest per capita fatality rate in North American history.

To convey that national significance, the feasibility study frames five interwoven interpretive themes that examine this history, along with an inventory of 191 historic, cultural, and natural resources that still retain the integrity needed to bring the themes alive. Tribal sacred places, colonial homes and farmsteads, battlefields, working waterfronts, and estuarine habitats form what the National Park Service calls a “strategic assemblage,” a single heritage landscape rather than isolated points of interest.

Guiding this work is a clear sense of purpose. The proposed mission pledges to “instill a sense of stewardship and deep appreciation for the profound historical, cultural, and natural significance of the Sowams region... through preservation, regional collaboration, community development, and experiential learning.” Its companion vision imagines “a vibrant network of diverse communities sharing a deep sense of belonging... where all who experience Sowams honor this sacred place and help steward the land and water that has defined the culture of this region for millennia.” A nonprofit coordinating entity, Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc., and its partnership network provide the organizational foundation, financial roadmap, and collaborative ethos needed to translate mission and vision into lasting public benefit.



Detail of John Sellers' map of Pokanoket Country, 1675

Courtesy of McCorkle, B. *New England in Early Printed Maps*, 676.5 Stevens & Tree. *Comparative Cartography*, 34



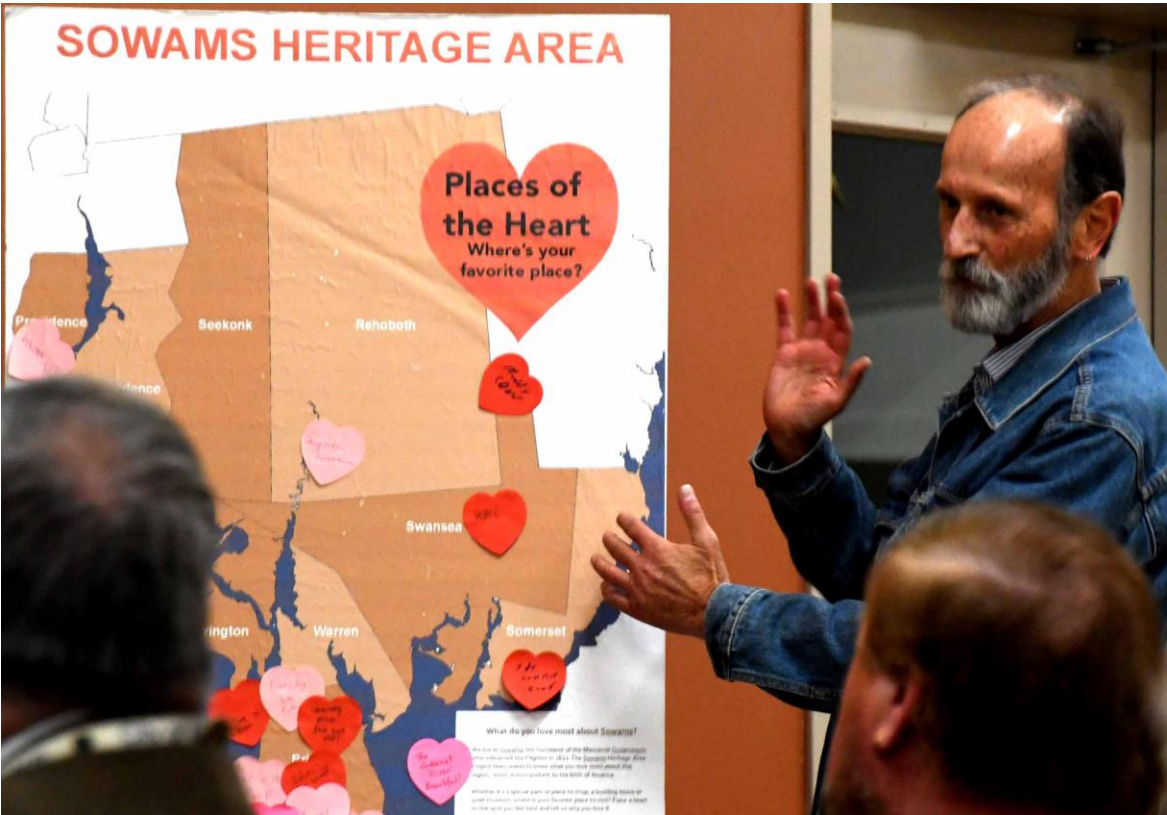
The ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin is situated on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay on the border of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

About the Study

- Chapter 1 introduces Sowams, the feasibility process, and the community-led coalition that shaped the study.
- Chapter 2 offers a narrative historic context spanning 12,000 years, illuminating the region's pivotal role in American history.
- Chapter 3 articulates national significance, presents the interpretive themes, maps the proposed boundary, and summarizes the resource inventory.
- Chapter 4 sets out the mission, vision, governance model, partnership strategy, and preliminary financial plan that will guide the National Heritage Area.
- Chapter 5 evaluates Sowams against the seven requirements of the National Heritage Area Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-339) and recommends congressional designation, noting that the region's story, resources, and capacity “suggest that Sowams is well positioned for designation as a National Heritage Area.”

A Call to Action

Sowams offers the nation a rare opportunity – to experience, in one compact place, the promise and the peril that marked America’s beginnings; to confront stories both triumphant and painful; and to foster renewed dialogue about belonging and stewardship. By designating Sowams National Heritage Area, Congress can elevate a landscape where diplomacy once flourished, war reshaped destinies, freedom of conscience took root, and the tide of enterprise carried New England into a global age. Designation will not only safeguard irreplaceable resources; it will invite residents and visitors alike to engage with the complex beginnings of the American story, encouraging meaningful interpretation, reconciliation, and collaborative conservation.



During the planning process, the Steering Committee of Sowams Heritage Area Project met with more than 460 individuals, organizations and stakeholders throughout the Sowams region.

CHAPTER 1 – AN INTRODUCTION TO SOWAMS

Introduction

An important chapter in our nation's origin story is rooted in the landscape known as Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe. Today, Sowams comprises nine town/cities on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay, straddling the border between Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The region's history flows from the convergence and conflict that marked the relationship between the Pokanoket Tribe of Sowams and the Separatist Pilgrims that arrived on the Mayflower and settled in Plymouth 40 miles east. Sowams' heritage today is steeped in the natural environment – the rivers that feed Narragansett Bay and the land that people have called home for millennia.



The Mill Gut estuary in Colt State Park, which spans 464 acres of walking paths, biking trails, and picnic grounds, overlooks Narragansett Bay in Bristol, RI.

A National Heritage Area for Sowams

The Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. commissioned Point Heritage Development Consulting, LLC (PointHDC) to assess the feasibility of creating a National Heritage Area (NHA) in Sowams – a cultural landscape of national significance grounded in the pivotal events of the contact period. The three-year project occurred in two phases. The first phase of the project was funded through the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Telling the Full History program. The second phase was supported by the Taunton River Stewardship Council and Papitto Opportunity Connection, a Rhode Island nonprofit foundation.

Interest in establishing an NHA focused on the Sowams region arose in the early 2000s, with archaeological excavations and land protections laying an important foundation for expanding understanding of the region's history. The initiative in its current form can be traced to 2017, when

Dr. David Weed of Warren, Rhode Island, connected with the Sagamore and Sachem of the Pokanoket Tribe and early NHA advocate Helen Hersh Tjader. From that core, the nonprofit organization Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. was established in 2020, and a project steering committee was created in 2022. The 15-member Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, which transitioned into a formal board of directors in January 2026, was a volunteer coalition of partners from Massachusetts and Rhode Island that represents a wide range of interests in the region. The steering committee included representatives of local government, tourism entities, historical societies, museums, and land trusts; Pokanoket leadership; and volunteers from the arts and education sectors (see Appendix A – Planning Participants).

The first formal step in becoming a National Heritage Area (NHA) is to develop a feasibility study. The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee has overseen the development of this draft National Heritage Area feasibility study in conjunction with the PointHDC planning team. The study serves both as an analytical assessment and a tool for garnering public support. The study entails an evaluation of the significance of a region's historical, cultural, and natural resources, determining whether these resources contribute to an important part of the nation's history. The study also assesses the region's capacity to support the plan and identifies the organizations and partners necessary to execute it. As such, it requires extensive public engagement and collaboration. The ultimate goals are to produce a comprehensive document that outlines the region's significant stories and resources and to foster a strong coalition of partners dedicated to preserving and promoting the region's heritage.

This draft feasibility study contains the following elements:

- Chapter 2 presents the history of Sowams from prehistory to the present.
- Chapter 3 provides a detailed examination of the region's national significance, its historical themes and the places associated with those themes, and a description of the proposed boundary for the NHA.
- Chapter 4 examines the long-term vision of the regional partnership, including the proposed coordinating entity and an overview of what the communities hope to accomplish through NHA designation.
- Chapter 5 evaluates the way in which the Sowams region addresses the seven legislated requirements for NHA feasibility studies, established in the National Heritage Area Act of 2023.
- Appendices include detailed information on participants, public outreach, concurrent planning efforts, existing and potential partners, and an inventory of historic, cultural, and natural resources.

The Landscape of the Sowams Heritage Area Region

The Sowams region is located on the eastern side of Narragansett Bay. The majority of the eastern shore is in Rhode Island, but small parts of the bay extend into Massachusetts. The bay forms New England's largest estuary, which functions as an expansive natural harbor and includes a small archipelago.

Bodies of water that drain into Narragansett Bay include the Sakonnet and Warren rivers, Mount Hope and Greenwich Bays, and the southern, tidal portions of the Taunton and Providence rivers. Narragansett Bay opens onto Rhode Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean.

Within Sowams there are many rivers that break up the land mass, including the Providence River, the Seekonk River, the Barrington River, the Palmer River, the Warren River, the Kickemuit River, and the Taunton River. In addition, there is a body of water called the Hundred Acre Cove that is associated with the Runnins River. The land is mostly flat, averaging less than 20 feet in elevation with a few higher hills, but none more than 150 feet above sea level. It is comprised of small towns (there are four in Massachusetts – Seekonk, Rehoboth, Swansea, and Somerset – and five in Rhode Island – East Providence, Bristol, Warren, Barrington, and portions of Providence) interlaced with residential areas, farmlands, and urban areas. Wooded land and wetlands are common natural areas, many of them protected. A network of two-lane roads and bridges cross the many rivers, coves, and inlets. The only major road to bisect the area is I-195, although I-95 lies directly to the north and runs east to west. Many of the region’s farms are historic and are under protections such as conservation easements, including Osamequin Farm, Bridgham Farm, Chace Farm, Johannis Farm, Perry Farm, and Mount Hope Farm. Colt State Park, a 464-acre park overlooking the bay in Bristol, Rhode Island, is a popular recreational area. There are also numerous protected landscapes within the region with many accessible to the public, including conservation trust properties, wildlife refuges, and nature trails that include woods and meadows.

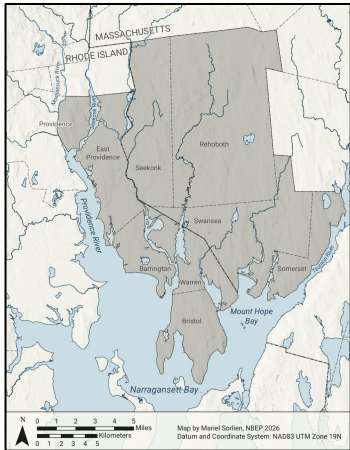


The Old Grist Mill Tavern,
Seekonk, MA

The Preliminary Study Area

The steering committee identified a study area in the early stages of planning, understanding that the final boundary for the NHA could change over the course of the planning project, as determined by the region’s resources, public input, and how the boundary reflects the region’s history, culture, existing political jurisdictions, and topographical features. Although the Pokanoket Massasoit led a loose confederation of more than 60 allied Tribes throughout southeastern New England during the 17th century, the preliminary study area was focused on Sowams, the homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe. The feasibility study includes a justification for the boundary recommended for NHA designation in

Chapter 3.



Sowams is located on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay, 40 miles west of Plymouth, MA.



The planning team considered expanding the boundary to include Plymouth and other regions where the Pokanoket had influence, however, that proved unmanageable. Apart from renaming the heritage area, it would have involved engaging hundreds of unique communities, adding complexity to the interpretive themes and confusing the public. The feasibility study expands on the justification for the boundary recommended for NHA designation in Chapter 3.

Courtesy of Mariel Sorlien, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

The Collaborative Power of National Heritage Areas

National Heritage Areas were first developed in the 1980s as a conservation strategy involving grassroots efforts and local stewardship of historically significant resources. This model marked a shift from the traditional approach of the Department of the Interior and NPS, which owns and operates such resources across the nation. NHAs unite public and private sectors, promoting conservation without requiring federal ownership. Early NHAs proved successful, leading Congress to designate more across the country, with the concept gaining traction by the mid-1990s.

In 2006, the National Park Service Advisory Board, appointed by President George W. Bush, published a report, *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*, in which Douglas P. Wheeler, Chairman, stated:

*National Heritage Areas represent a significant advance in conservation and historic preservation: large-scale, community-centered initiatives collaborating across political jurisdictions to protect nationally-important landscapes and living cultures. Managed locally, National Heritage Areas play a vital role in preserving the physical character, memories, and stories of our country, reminding us of our national origins and destiny. This is a citizens' movement of high purpose and great benefit to the nation.*¹

The National Heritage Area Act of 2023 formally incorporated the system of NHAs as a program under NPS. Today, the system includes 62 NHAs in 36 states and territories. NHAs emphasize local collaboration and community involvement, making them examples of how government and private sectors can work together. They have been recognized for their entrepreneurial approaches



to heritage conservation and their ability to bring together diverse stakeholders to address common concerns and achieve shared goals. The core goals of NHAs are to conserve historic, cultural, and natural resources; develop interpretive and recreational opportunities; stimulate heritage tourism and economic development; and build partnerships to advance regional heritage initiatives. Each NHA may prioritize these goals differently depending on the needs and characteristics of its region. NHAs aim to protect and share the unique character and history of their communities, providing a strong sense of place and identity.

On August 25, 2025, 300 people attended the dedication of the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker, which commemorates the enslaved Pokanoket and African people who were impacted by the business of slave trading from the 17th to the 19th century in Bristol, RI.

"Our Ancestors Come with Us" sculpture by Spencer Evans

¹ Douglas P. Wheeler, foreword to *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*, National Park Service Advisory Board, National Park Service, 2006, 1.

The National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Process and Community Engagement

An NHA is a living landscape where people and land have had a significant impact on each other over a long period of time. NPS, which administers the NHA program, initially established the criteria that are considered for designation; those criteria were included in the National Heritage Area Act. They can be summarized in three critical components of an NHA: a nationally significant story; resources that continue to be visible and utilized on the region's landscape to tell that story; and a network of partners with the capacity to create and implement a regional vision. The feasibility study process facilitates developing and evaluating these components. The seven criteria and an analysis of Sowams' achievement in meeting them are set forth in Chapter 5.

The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and PointHDC developed and carried out a comprehensive public engagement strategy for the NHA feasibility study over the course of three years. The strategy entailed a range of activities that provided important information for the development of the study and also helped increase the community's understanding of NHAs and the steering committee's cohesion and organizational capacity. The planning process included affinity group meetings; a series of community meetings; engagement of professionals with expertise in the history and cultures of the region; interviews with key stakeholders; outreach to municipal, state, and federal leaders; and discussions with Native American Tribes with connections to the study area. Over the course of the study, over 460 meetings were held concerning the proposed National Heritage Area. The strategy also included establishment of a brand identity, print media, development of a new website, electronic mailings to a list of 565 subscribers, and social media postings. Public engagement activities are described briefly below and detailed in Appendix B – Sowams Public Outreach Activities.

Meetings and Orientation Visit

Throughout the project, the steering committee held monthly meetings led by Project Coordinator Dr. David Weed and Project Advisor Andrea Rounds and attended by PointHDC consultants Dr. Nancy Morgan, August Carlino, and Peter Samuel. A planning subcommittee of the Project Coordinator and Project Advisor met regularly with the PointHDC team to advance specific elements of the project. The PointHDC team participated in an orientation visit to the Sowams region in August 2022. The orientation included site visits in six of the nine communities that comprise the study area, as well as initial meetings with the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee



During their orientation visit to Sowams, the PointHDC consulting team visited King Philip's Seat, the Pokanoket's sacred meeting place in Bristol, RI.

and several affinity groups. Specific meetings included leadership of the Pokanoket Tribe; area historic sites and organizations; arts and tourism representatives; town planners; and NPS staff from Roger Williams National Memorial and Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. The site visits and meetings provided the PointHDC team with important backgrounding in the project, helped both PointHDC and steering committee leadership engage partners in the feasibility study process, and highlighted important consider-

ations that shaped the planning project. Following the trip, the planning team shared a report with the steering committee that summarized those considerations, including:

- Expansion of inclusion of significant histories and resources in the Sowams region
- Establishment of the study area and identification of factors that might influence final boundary
- Perspective of the Pokanoket leadership
- Opportunities that can be realized if an NHA is established
- Challenges to developing an NHA

Steering Committee Survey and Internal Meetings

The orientation visit laid groundwork for the PointHDC team to further explore key considerations with the steering committee. PointHDC developed an electronic survey on the SurveyMonkey platform. Fifteen members completed a 35-question survey that asked about:

- Significant histories in the region
- Significant historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources
- Visitation
- Engagement and capacity of Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc., and its partnership network
- Outreach and communication, including messages and methods
- Purpose of and goals for an NHA
- Steering committee priorities

In addition, the Project Advisor held meetings with individual steering committee members. The purpose of the meetings was to identify potential stakeholders in the nine communities who might be interested in the project as it moves forward, and who might provide the necessary support.

Planning Subcommittees

The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee established three subcommittees comprised of steering committee members to help with the development of the feasibility study. The themes and resources committee was responsible for defining the significance and themes for the heritage area; identifying historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with the themes; overseeing the work of the subject matter experts; and reviewing the historic context. The outreach committee implemented a comprehensive outreach strategy, publicized meetings, and led rebranding for the organization. As part of the rebranding effort, a logo, website, e-newsletter, and brochures were developed, giving the initiative substantially more visibility. The governance committee crafted mission and vision statements, articulating the priorities for the NHA. In addition, the governance committee analyzed potential NHA coordinating entities and established a governance framework that would transition the steering committee into a nonprofit coordinating entity. By the end of the feasibility process, most of the recommendations of the governance committee of the steering committee had been adopted by the new board of directors. (See Chapter 4).

Stakeholder Interviews

The PointHDC team conducted interviews with 12 individuals from several sectors related to NHA development. The confidential interviews enabled the planning team to explore in depth the opportunities and challenges related to the development of an NHA. The interviews built on the information gathered through the other methods of public engagement, with many of the topics addressed in the interviews already having been broached during those activities. The interviews also provided the opportunity for stakeholders to express their support, their concerns, their priorities, and their vision for how a heritage partnership network can be created and sustained. Stakeholders that were interviewed are listed in Appendix A – Planning Participants.

Subject Matter Expert Review

National significance and themes that can support that significance are foundational elements of an NHA. As such, it is valuable to have those elements reviewed by experts in the fields of history and culture who are not otherwise directly involved in the development of the feasibility study. The experts who reviewed the work of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and PointHDC collectively have demonstrated knowledge of the region's history and culture from pre-history to the present; they are listed in Appendix A – Planning Participants. The subject matter experts reviewed the preliminary themes and significance, and their suggested revisions were incorporated into the final version. All seven subject matter experts are supportive of NHA designation based on the national significance, themes, and resources described in detail in Chapter 3.

Places of the Heart

Before the public meetings began, the steering committee launched the “Places of the Heart” campaign to raise awareness about Sowams. The campaign emphasized that many people who live within Sowams have strong connections to its cultural and natural resources. It also served to promote the upcoming public meetings and provided valuable input to inform those discussions.

As part of the campaign, a large map of the Sowams region was displayed in public spaces such as libraries, churches, municipal buildings, and community festivals. Community members were invited to mark places that held personal significance by placing heart-shaped sticky notes on the map. Steering committee members were instrumental in placing the posters and engaging people in the campaign. The input collected through this activity was then shared at the public meetings, sparking conversations about what makes Sowams special and how its important places can be preserved and celebrated.

Community Conversations

The steering committee has hosted two rounds of meetings to engage the public in the planning process. In October 2023, Community Conversations were held at the First Congregational Church in Swansea, Massachusetts, and the Hope and Main Food Incubator in Warren, Rhode Island. More than 60 participants convened to learn about NHAs and discuss the history and places found in the Sowams region that are significant to them. The second round of meetings in March 2024 drew in more than 120 participants. Those meetings took place at the Seekonk Public Library in Seekonk, Massachusetts, and Mt. Hope Farm in Bristol, Rhode Island. Attendees participated in workshops to review the statement of significance and themes and discuss priorities for a Sowams NHA.



One of the Community Conversations was held at The Barn on Mt. Hope Farm, a 127-acre property on the National Register of Historic Places, overlooking Mt. Hope Bay, Bristol, RI.

In February 2026, the draft feasibility study was posted on the Sowams website for an 8-week public comment period, culminating in the last public input session “Community Conversation” at the Newman First Congregational Church in East Providence, Rhode Island, on March 19, 2026. Over the course of these five events, two individuals expressed concern for private property rights – one during the meeting at Hope and Main in October 2023 and the other at the Newman Church in March 2026. With those exceptions, all other participants during the meetings expressed overwhelming support for NHA designation.

Tribal Engagement and Perspectives

Sowams’ national significance hinges on the creation and destruction of the relationship between the Plymouth colonists and the Pokanoket Tribe, the headship Tribe of a confederation of allied Tribes in southeastern New England. The Pokanoket leader, the Massasoit Ousamequin, was the signatory to the pivotal alliance with the Pilgrims. His son, the Massasoit Metacomet (King Philip) was a major figure in the eponymous King Philip’s War. The Pokanoket Tribe is one discrete player among several multi-directional relationships and alliances between the Indigenous people that had inhabited southeastern New England for millennia and the English settlers who sought religious freedom and economic opportunity. The history of Sowams begins with the Pokanoket Tribe, but its sphere of influence reaches other Tribes who were members of the Pokanoket confederation, unallied Tribes in the surrounding areas, and the English colonies in Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, and Providence.

A single generation after the initial contact between Indigenous Tribes and English settlers, huge cultural shifts occurred based on evolving alliances, changing technologies, and the human penchant for wealth and power. More than 400 years after that initial contact, the relationships among descendants, and their multiple interpretations of the past, are incredibly complex. As a recent article about legislation regarding Tribal issues in Rhode Island stated, “the tribes’ goals are both conflicting and interwoven.”²

During the planning process, stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels recognized this complexity. They expressed the importance of examining history through multiple perspectives and engaging Tribes and partners from beyond Sowams’ borders, and they looked at the Sowams initiative in the larger context of Indigenous history and politics in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

² Antonia Noori Farzan, “Tribal Tensions in RI,” *Providence Journal* (USA Today Network: April 7, 2023, A01), https://providencejournal-ri.newsmemory.com/?publink=0ccdeb33_134ab2b. Accessed April 7, 2023.

Description of Tribes in the Region

The Pokanoket

In the words of the Pokanoket Sagamore Po Wauipi Neimpaug (“Winds of Thunder,” William Guy):

Sowams is the ancestral realm of the Pokanoket Tribe, the headship Tribe of the Pokanoket confederation. Sowams was the land of the Pokanoket Tribe, not the confederation – this was where the Tribe actually lived. The confederation went all the way down to Cape Cod and had connections up to the Hudson River.³

According to the Sagamore, the Pokanoket confederation included about 60 Tribes, bands, and clans when the Separatists arrived. Coastal Indigenous communities that had pledged fealty to the Pokanoket lost the majority of their population in the Great Dying, the plague that began in 1616. This left the Pokanoket vulnerable to the Narragansett, their ancestral rivals on the other side of Narragansett Bay, setting the stage for the watershed alliance between the Pokanoket and the Separatist Pilgrims.

The leadership of today’s Pokanoket Tribe includes tenth, eleventh, and twelfth generation descendants of the Massasoit Ousamequin. Having fought on the losing side in King Philip’s War, their ancestors were forced to give up their land as war reparations, hide their identities, and leave the region through enslavement, forced relocation, or integration into other Tribes. In spite of this, they still maintained their identity.

The federal recognition program, which grants funding and other benefits to federally recognized Tribes, has become divisive in Indigenous communities. This is explored further in “Contemporary Native American Tribes” in Chapter 2. Outside the Sowams boundary, there are three modern-day federally recognized Tribes: Narragansett west of Narragansett Bay, Mashpee Wampanoag to the east of Sowams, and Aquinnah on the island of Martha’s Vineyard.

One tragic and poignant story of Sowams is the Pokanoket diaspora after their violent expulsion from Sowams at the end of King Philip’s War. Although the Pokanoket did not have a strong presence in Sowams for 300 years, they kept their culture alive in oral traditions and close family ties. Since the 1990s, the Pokanoket Tribe has made great strides in raising awareness of their existence. Local support has grown stronger, especially in the last decade.

The Tribe has partnered with local historical societies, churches, neighboring Tribes, and Roger Williams University on events and interpretation, and schools have reintroduced the Pokanoket into their curriculum. Most importantly, in November 2024, Brown University transferred 255 acres of land – including Potumtuk (Mount Hope), the historic seat of the Pokanoket confederation – to a preservation trust established by the Pokanoket Tribe, recognizing the importance of the Tribe and its history, and ensuring that access to the land and waters the parcel includes extends to Tribes outside Sowams for whom the land has significance.

Today, the breadth of community engagement with the Pokanoket is evidenced by more than 55 letters of support for Sowams Heritage Area from heritage, cultural and environmental organizations, as well as from leaders from civic, tourism and economic development entities. All nine municipalities in Sowams have documented their recognition of the Pokanoket Tribe, its ancestral

³ Pokanoket Sagamore Po Wauipi Neimpaug (“Winds of Thunder,” William Guy), personal communication, January 24, 2023.

homeland of Sowams, and their support for designating Sowams as a National Heritage Area. (See Appendix I – Resolutions and Letters of Support.)

Members of the Pokanoket Tribe believe an NHA would help with preservation and cultural conservation. There are many sites significant to Pokanoket history that need protection, Potumtuk foremost among them. During planning, the Tribe voiced that it would like to play a bigger role in those efforts. They see benefit in an NHA that provides grants for preservation, cultural programming, and marketing, thereby bringing more attention to the programs and general culture of the Pokanoket.

Regional Tribes

In the 17th century, the landscape surrounding Sowams encompassed a vibrant mosaic of Tribes. Today, many descendants of those Tribes remain in the region. Some are recognized by the federal government, some by the state governments, and some have found other ways in which to organize and recognize their communities, cultures, and history. The Tribal entities that the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee invited to engage in the feasibility study are listed below:

- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (Massachusetts, recognized by state and federal governments)
- Chappaquiddic Band of Massachusetts (Massachusetts)
- Mashapaug Nahaganset Tribe (Rhode Island)
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (Massachusetts, recognized by state and federal gov't.)
- Mattakeeset Tribe of the Massachuset Nation (Massachusetts)
- Narragansett Indian Tribe (Rhode Island, recognized by state and federal governments)
- Pocasset Wampanoag Indian Tribe (Massachusetts)
- Quinsigamond Band of the Nipmuc (Massachusetts)
- Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe (Massachusetts and Rhode Island)
- Usquepaug-Nehantick Nahaganset Tribe (Rhode Island)

Engaging the Tribes

During the initial planning phase, the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee sent a letter by registered mail to the leadership of each Tribe inviting them to the first round of public meetings in October 2023 and offering to meet individually with each Tribe. An information sheet about the project was included with all correspondence. Although no Tribes accepted the invitation for an individual meeting with the group, several acknowledged the communication about the initiative, including representatives of the Narragansett, Mashapaug Nahaganset, Aquinnah, Mashpee Wampanoag, and Seaconke Tribes.



Pokanoket Historian Don "Strong Turtle" Brown and
Plimoth Pawtuxet Museums Deputy Executive Director
Richard Pickering, Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Leadership among all Tribes was included in all public outreach. As with the first round of public meetings, all Tribes above were issued individual invitations to the second round of meetings held in March 2024 and the final meeting in March 2026. In addition to the Pokanoket, members of the Seaconke, Nipmuc, and Mashapaug Nahagansett Tribes participated in those meetings.

Steering committee members assisted with, promoted, and documented community cultural events that engaged numerous Tribes from the region. These include public events organized by the Tribes, such as Pokanoket Heritage Day,

as well as events, presentations, and lectures organized by the steering committee. An excellent example of the latter occurred when the steering committee and Roger Williams University convened partners to share history in a March 2023 presentation. Po Menuhkesu Menenok, Historian of the Pokanoket Tribe/Pokanoket Nation, and Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director of Plimoth-Patuxet Museums, offered reflections on the 400th anniversary of Plymouth Colony leader Edward Winslow's second visit to Sowams in an event at Roger Williams University. At time of writing, the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee is partnering with the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, and other heritage organizations in a 14-month commemoration of the 350th anniversary of King Philip's War, offering another avenue to engage Tribes across New England.

Throughout the feasibility process, Steering Committee representatives consistently reached out to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers all three of the federally recognized Tribes surrounding Sowams to engage them in the planning process. However, they could not advance the conversation beyond the Tribes' objection to the territorial claims of the Pokanoket Tribe. At issue was not National Heritage Areas per se, but the exclusive right of federally recognized Tribes to relate history from the Indigenous perspective. The meeting with the Wampanoag Consulting Group established that they do not choose to be engaged in the initiative at this time but would like to be kept informed.

Given the muted response from the federally recognized Tribes, the new board of directors of Sowams Heritage Area established a Tribal Engagement Committee, comprised of board and non-board members, to explore new ways to engage all the neighboring Tribes, including those recognized by the federal government. One of the primary tenets of the National Heritage Area initiative is to create a platform for all to tell their own stories and ultimately to have resources that enable the Tribes and other stakeholders in the region to do that. The door will remain open for future involvement. The steering committee and the coordinating entity that follows it will prioritize inclusivity while respecting Tribal sovereignty and remaining neutral in intertribal matters.

Concurrent Plans

The proposed Sowams National Heritage Area (NHA) aligns well with many existing plans and initiatives on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In developing a partnership network, the steering committee recognized the contributions of its partners in identifying the area’s rich history, quality of life, economic opportunities, and the responsibilities of local communities and government agencies in preserving this cherished region. Planning documents considered encompass plans related to education, economic development, historic preservation, land use, recreation, natural resources, tourism, and transportation.



The Swansea Redevelopment Waterfront Project includes a new playground and upgrades to the town beach, Swansea, MA.

Courtesy of the Town of Swansea, MA

For example, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program’s 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update is a “regional call to action for shared efforts that can measurably improve the region’s water quality, wildlife, and quality of life over the next decade.” This aligns with the priorities of Sowams Heritage Area and its environmental partners. Goal #2 in the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Strategic Plan (2024–2026), focuses on advancing the cultural sector by building partnerships and storytelling, which mirrors the outreach strategy of Sowams NHA. As of this writing, the Town of Barrington, RI is drafting its Barrington 2050: Comprehensive Plan, which designates as a critical environmental and cultural asset Nockum Hill. The archeological projects on this site are central to interpreting the causes and consequences of King Philip’s War in Sowams.

Appendix C – Concurrent Plans contains information on organizations and, where possible, links to plans. Upon Congressional designation of the Sowams NHA, these plans, along with any new initiatives, will serve as critical tools for developing the Sowams NHA management plan and building a unified vision and collaborative strategy.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Other Federal Laws

Federal funding was not used in the development of the feasibility study, and the planning project has no potential for significant adverse impacts on the many cultural and natural resources in the region within the proposed boundary of the NHA. As such, no formal declaration is needed regarding NEPA. Upon designation as an NHA, the local coordinating entity named in legislation will be responsible for ensuring that federal laws pertaining to preservation and conservation are properly applied in the NHA. Such laws include NEPA, the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). After designation, if future projects of the NHA are developed that have a direct effect on cultural or natural resources in the region, the entity responsible for the individual project will review the project through appropriate pathways, such as the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA processes, as applicable.

Next Steps

Sowams is a storied landscape, where the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket people lies at the headwaters of a history that flows through the centuries, shaping all that follows. Here, on the nexus of what is now northeastern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, powerful stories of diplomacy, resilience, cultural exchange, and conflict have shaped the foundations of American identity. The region includes sites of national significance – Indigenous sacred places, early colonial sites, historic town centers, and coastal ecosystems that have supported human life and economies for thousands of years.

Designating Sowams as an NHA would recognize its unique contributions to the nation's story. Across the country, NHAs have proven to support economic development, increase heritage tourism, enhance educational and recreational opportunities, and foster community pride. Federal investment in NHAs has helped share significant histories, preserve historic sites and landscapes, conserve natural resources, expand access to recreation, enhance visitors' experiences, and improve quality of life for residents. These outcomes translate into job creation, stronger local economies, and revitalized communities.

To reach national recognition, a diverse coalition of local leaders – local government and Tribal representatives, educators, nonprofit organizations, historians, and residents – has come together to explore the feasibility of establishing Sowams National Heritage Area. This study outlines the region's national significance and demonstrates the capacity of the proposed coordinating entity and its regional partners to manage an NHA effectively. With its deep cultural roots, nationally significant history, and engaged community support, Sowams is poised to join the system of National Heritage Areas. This designation would honor its past, strengthen its future, and connect people across the region and the nation to this vital chapter of American history.

CHAPTER 2 – SHIFTING CURRENTS: SOWAMS AND THE EVOLUTION OF PLACE

A Distinctive Place

During the Pleistocene Era, the Wisconsin ice sheet plowed through the bedrock of New England, foreshadowing a pattern of disruption and renewal that would define the Sowams landscape up to the present day. This glacial devastation would leave a primeval network of life-giving water and fertile soil, which, around 12,000 years ago, drew the first humans to this place.



"Sowams" oil painting by Tim Ohliger, graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

Courtesy of TimOhliger.com

For millennia, the land was stewarded by the Pokanoket people until other worlds discovered it, coveted it, fought for it, and took it. Sowams is a distinctive setting for some of America's origin stories – ground zero for what would become a traumatic pattern of exploration, colonization, and exploitation across the continent.

Sowams is also a microcosm of Americans' persistent struggle for individual freedom – the right to live on our land, protect our family, practice our faith, and build our lives. Little more than a decade after the Separatist Pilgrims escaped the Old World to find refuge and isolation in Plymouth, Massachusetts, theological reformers settled on the frontier of Plymouth Colony, preaching tolerance and freedom of conscience. A century later, while American colonists fought for "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," speculators were fueling the local economy, building businesses that financed the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans and Indigenous people.

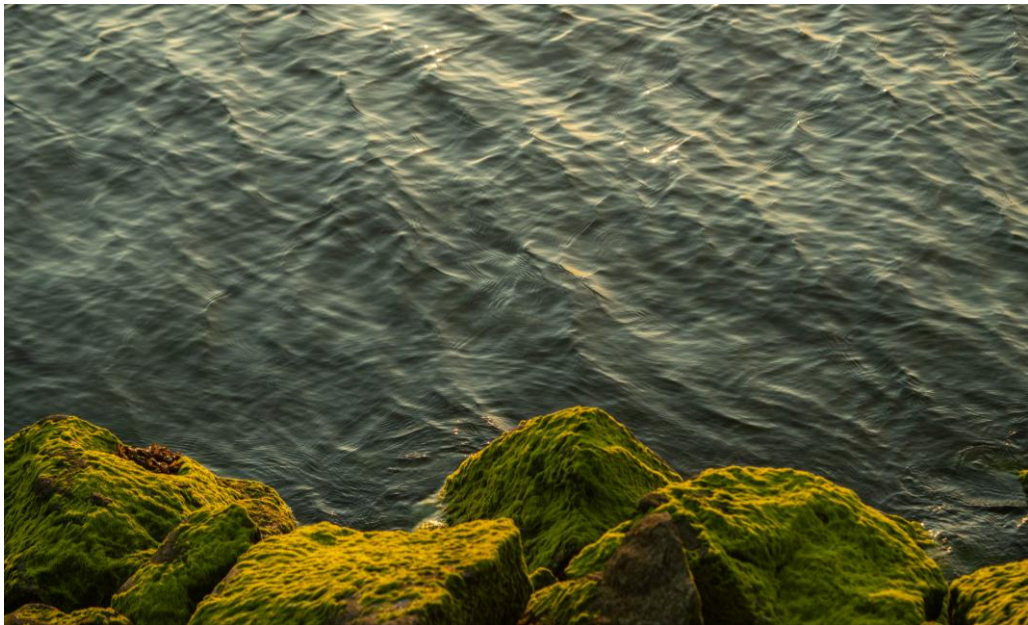
In Sowams, the clash of Indigenous and European worldviews at First Contact ignited a lasting struggle over the land and water, pitting a culture of spiritual reverence against resource exploitation. The network of rivers, streams and estuaries that empties into Narragansett Bay gave the people of Sowams the freedom to travel beyond the bounds of their own communities. Water was their connection to new worlds, products, ideas, and possibilities, which created a climate for economic freedom and innovative manufacturing. But progress came at the expense of exploiting

natural resources, amassing great wealth, and exerting power over others. Still, the immigrants who followed the Pilgrims in waves over the next 350 years were determined to create better lives and contributed to the dynamic interplay of cultures that are part of the region’s success.

The 21st Century heralded the Digital Revolution, which again disrupted and liberated Sowams in ways that were inconceivable only a generation earlier. The impact of universal access to information and artificial intelligence has yet to be fully understood, but there are signs of hope. The citizens of Sowams are restoring the salt marshes. They are revitalizing 19th century factory buildings for the blue economy. And the stories of what happened on this landscape are finally being told. Throughout the centuries of upheaval in Sowams, the Pokanoket have been listening to nature’s beating heart. Today they are joined by many others who cherish the land as they do and who honor those who lived and died here.

Geologic History – The Landscapes of the Narragansett Watershed and Sowams

Narragansett Bay sits within the ancient Narragansett Basin, an area lined with bedrock that dates back over 300 million years to the Pennsylvanian period. This bedrock includes sedimentary conglomerates, sandstones, and shales. The Bay itself is a classic example of a drowned river valley estuary, formed when rising seas flooded ancient river valleys, making it an estuary. It is comprised of three main drowned valleys, the East Passage, West Passage, and the Sakonnet River. The landscape of Narragansett Bay and its watershed took shape during the Pleistocene epoch,



Where land meets water on Narragansett Bay

a period of glacial activity spanning between 2.5 and 3 million years ago. The most recent glacier, the late Wisconsin ice sheet, covered the area around 18,000 years ago and retreated roughly 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, around the time that humans were beginning to populate New England. The glacier left its mark with a terminal moraine, a collection of debris at its endpoint that stretched from just south of the Bay’s mouth to Long Island, Block Island, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket.

The retreating glaciers deposited layers of rock, sand, silt, and clay. Over time, riverine sediments covered these glacial deposits. Together, these layers reach depths from 50 to over 300 feet thick.⁴ Today, Narragansett Bay is New England's largest estuary. It includes the Sakonnet River, Mount Hope Bay, and the southern tidal portion of the Taunton River. Its watershed also features sub-drainage basins including the Providence, Seekonk, Barrington, Palmer, Ten Mile, Runnins, Warren, and Kickemuit Rivers, all of which contribute to the Bay's unique and dynamic ecosystem.

An Overview of Indigenous Prehistory in Rhode Island and Massachusetts

The precolonial archaeological history of Indigenous peoples in Rhode Island and Massachusetts reveals a rich and complex history of human habitation spanning thousands of years.⁵ These regions were home to diverse Native American cultures who adapted to their environment, developing sophisticated tools, trade networks, and cultural practices long before European colonization.

Paleo-Indian Period (12,000–9,000 BP)

The earliest known inhabitants arrived shortly after the last Ice Age, during the Paleo-Indian period. These groups were hunter-gatherers who used finely crafted stone tools, such as fluted projectile points, to hunt large game. Populations were mobile, flexible, and adaptable to a world with a changing climate. Archaeological sites from this period, though rare, provide evidence of their presence, particularly near glacial lakes and upland areas.⁶

Archaic Period (9,000–2,500 BP)

As the climate warmed, Indigenous peoples transitioned to a more diverse subsistence strategy during the Archaic period. They exploited rivers, forests, and coastal resources, hunting smaller game, fishing, and gathering plants and nuts. Sites from this era reveal the use of ground stone tools, such as axes and pestles, canoes, and the development of semi-permanent settlements. Trade networks expanded, as evidenced by the distribution of materials like rhyolite and quartzite.⁷

Woodland Period (2,500 BP – 450 years ago)

By the beginning of the Woodland Period, the coast had reached its current level, and the climate had settled into patterns similar to today. The Woodland Period marks significant cultural and technological advancements. Indigenous peoples began cultivating crops like maize, beans, and squash, supplementing their hunting and gathering activities. Native American agriculture in New England involved rotating to different fields to prevent the soil from losing its fertility, as well as using a system of slash and burn. For these methods to work efficiently and to maintain soil fertility, Indigenous farmers moved their settlements every few years. This period also saw the introduction of pottery, used for cooking and storage, and the construction of burial mounds, reflecting more complex social and spiritual practices.⁸

⁴ Kenneth B. Raposa, "Ecological Geography of the NBNERR," in *An Ecological Profile of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*, eds. Kenneth B. Raposa and Malia L. Schwartz (2007). <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/39325>. Accessed December 16, 2024, pg. 83.

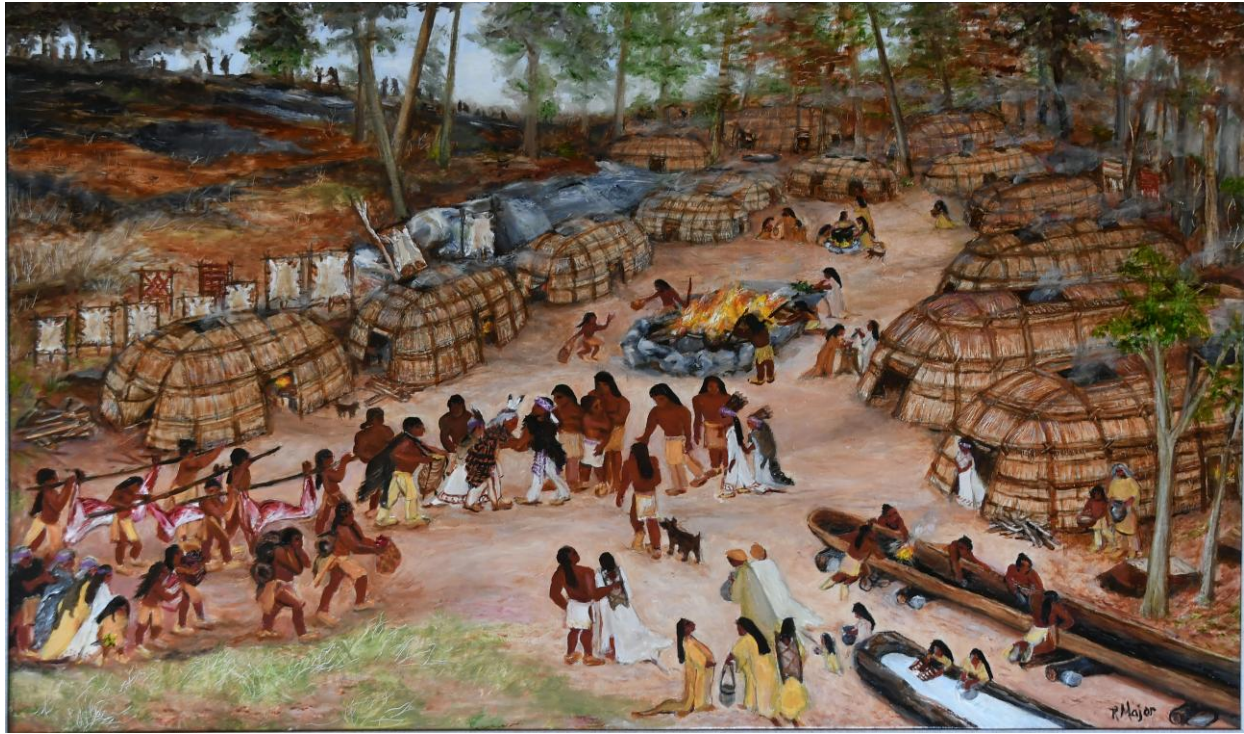
⁵ The terms "Indigenous" and "Native American" are used interchangeably in this document.

⁶ Christoph Strobel, *Native Americans of New England* (New York, Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc., 2024).

⁷ "12,000 Years of Local History," Natick Historical Society. <https://www.natickhistoricalsociety.org/12000-years>. Accessed December 16, 2024.

⁸ "12,000 Years of Local History."

Trade and interaction among regional groups flourished during this time, with materials such as copper, shell beads, and exotic stones being exchanged over long distances. Ancestors of Tribes present during the colonial era began to develop distinct cultural identities, including those who occupied well-defined territories in what would become Rhode Island and Massachusetts.



A contemporary artist's historical interpretation of a Pokanoket village: "A Visit to Massasoit's Village, Pokanoket at Sowams, c.1620" by Ruth Wilde-Major.

By the Late Woodland Period, the final six centuries of this archaeological era, Native American communities had established semi-permanent villages and seasonal camps. Coastal and riverine environments were particularly important for fishing, shell fishing, and transportation. Archaeological evidence, such as shell middens, fishing weirs, and storage pits, highlights the importance of coastal resources. Ceremonial sites and rock carvings also reflect sophisticated spiritual traditions.⁹

The Late Woodland Period is most closely aligned with how Native Americans were living when the first traders and settlers arrived on the shores of North America. The Pokanoket and the Narragansett were among the prominent Tribes on either side of Narragansett Bay, each with complex political structures, spiritual beliefs, and a deep connection to their ancestral lands. At the time of European contact, these Tribes and those who paid tribute to them were thriving, with well-established trade networks and a deep understanding of their environment.

⁹ Alan Leveillee, Joseph Waller, Jr., and Donna Ingham, "Dispersed Villages in Late Woodland Period South-Coastal Rhode Island" in *Archaeology of Eastern North America*, Vol. 34 (2006), 74.

Listening to the Past, Reading the Landscape

In addition to the archaeological record, Tribes have passed down their own histories across generations. These include creation stories that include the physical landscape and establish their presence on ancestral lands from time immemorial. Many Algonquian- and Iroquoian-speaking peoples in the northeastern part of North America call the continent “Turtle Island.” In various Indigenous origin stories, the turtle is said to support the world and is an icon of life itself. Turtle Island, therefore, speaks to various spiritual beliefs about creation. Moreover, for some the turtle is a marker of identity, culture, autonomy and a deeply-held respect for the environment.”¹⁰



The name "Weypoyset" (often spelled "Waypoyset") is derived from the Algonquian language and roughly translates to "the place at the river" or "the head of the river." An archeological survey of Weypoyset Preserve in Bristol, RI, determined that humans used this shoreline and estuary for the last 7,000 years.

Language is a window into Native American worldviews. An important source of information about the past and the places associated with it is oral tradition and storytelling. Through the spoken word, Tribes communicate creation stories, cultural beliefs, and personal, family, or Tribal history and experiences.¹¹ Lisa Brooks, in her book *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War*, observes, "The land itself is an archive that demands interpretation... These ancient and ongoing places all have stories attached to them – features that evoke memories,

¹⁰ The Canadian Encyclopedia, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/turtle-island>. Accessed December 30, 2024.

¹¹ Lisa Brooks. *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019), 7. "One of the most crucial lenses to viewing history anew is Indigenous language, a vastly underutilized archive of place names and concepts... being able to understand the nuances of language has at times shed remarkable light on the historical landscape."

embed oral traditions, and map subsistence and survival, and that can reveal acute insight into a historical document.”¹² Her landscape analysis and interpretations informed by Tribal history offer a model for understanding significant places. Sowams, like much of New England, abounds with Indigenous place names that still exist. The names provide context about Native American beliefs and daily practices and strongly contradict the idea that the land was empty when Europeans arrived.

Indigenous Cultures at European Contact

Forty years before Christopher Columbus’ voyage forever linked two hemispheres, a papal bull laid the foundation for European colonization. The first version of the Doctrine of Discovery was



Pope Alexander VI issued the 1493 Doctrine of Discovery, a papal bull, which asserted that lands inhabited by non-Christians were terra nullius, or virtually empty, and therefore could be claimed by explorers, irrespective of the sovereignty of the Indigenous people who lived there.

clearing” in the Massachusetts language.¹⁵ Demographers estimate between 70,000 and 100,000 Native Americans were living in New England at the beginning of the 17th century.¹⁶ The Indigenous population density around Narragansett Bay at this time was far greater than any other place in southern New England.¹⁷ In 1524, the explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian sailing for the

issued in 1452, reiterated in 1455, and expanded in 1493, after Columbus encountered the Taino people in the West Indies. The doctrine claimed the right of Christian nations to take possession of the lands of non-Christians, converting them to Christianity.¹³ It established centuries of precedent that would be first considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1823 and as recently as 2005. In 2023, Pope Francis finally repudiated the doctrine.¹⁴

In the region that would become New England, Native American communities were part of the Algonquian people and shared a similar language and culture. There were many different groups – among them were the Abenaki, Micmac, Pennacook, Pequot, Mohegan, Nauset, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Woronoco, and the Pokanoket. Sowams, which means “south land,” is the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket, whose name refers to the “place of

the cleared land” or “land at the



Explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano (1485-1528) was the first European to record contact with the Indigenous communities around Mt. Hope Bay.

¹² Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 13.

¹³ “Doctrine of Discovery,” World History Encyclopedia. https://www.worldhistory.org/Doctrine_of_Discovery/. Accessed January 20, 2025.

¹⁴ “The Vatican repudiates ‘Doctrine of Discovery,’ which was used to justify colonialism,” Religion, NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/30/1167056438/vatican-doctrine-of-discovery-colonialism-indigenous>. Accessed January 20, 2025.

¹⁵ “History,” The Pokanoket Tribe. <https://www.pokanokettribe.org/history>. Accessed April 12, 2025.

¹⁶ “Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness,” National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/198.html>. Accessed December 16, 2024.

¹⁷ James A. Warren. Personal communication based on the content of his book *God, War, and Providence* (2018), March 16, 2024.

French, traveled the coastline of Rhode Island, observing a “highly populated” region marked by villages and agricultural fields.¹⁸

Algonquian-speaking peoples have lived in what is now eastern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts for at least 12,000 years. From Potumtuk, also known as “Montaup” or “Mt. Hope,” the Pokanoket Massasoit presided over a loose confederation with vast geographical reach.¹⁹ Verrazzano mentioned people residing in Mt. Hope Bay on the northeastern edge of Narragansett Bay, although his records do not provide the exact details of his route, anchorages, or the name of the people he encountered.²⁰ Verrazzano called Narragansett Bay “Refugio” (meaning “refuge”) because it had several entrances from the ocean.

From Trade to Colonization

Beginning in the 16th century, frequent contact with Europeans placed immense pressure on the Native ways of life that had developed over thousands of years. Early interactions were primarily based on trade, as French, Dutch, and English traders sought beaver pelts in exchange for goods like metal tools, glass items, and cloth. By 1600, these traders regularly visited the northeast coast of North America, fostering initial trade relationships built on reciprocity. While these exchanges mirrored Native peoples' preexisting trade networks on the surface, they lacked the deep social and cultural frameworks that had traditionally governed Native American trading practices.

The arrival of European traders brought notable changes. Native groups participating in the fur trade altered their lifestyles to accommodate and maintain access to European goods. Hunting for valuable beaver pelts began to overshadow traditional subsistence practices, and competition for these resources intensified as the beaver population dwindled. Those with direct access to European goods gained an economic and political edge, disrupting established power balances and creating divisions among Native American groups. Over time, Native people grew increasingly dependent on European materials, incorporating them into their daily lives while sacrificing some of their traditional autonomy.²¹

The consequences of trade among Indigenous and European peoples extended beyond economic and political shifts, triggering devastating demographic impacts. Tribes used their established trade routes to procure the pelts desired by European traders and, in return, received textiles, firearms, metal tools, and other items. These goods, however, often carried with them Old World diseases like smallpox and measles, which swept through Native communities with catastrophic effects. Lacking immunity to these illnesses, Indigenous populations experienced epidemics that reduced their numbers by as much as 90 percent in some areas. This “demographic catastrophe” not only decimated populations but also disrupted societal structures, eroded leadership, and compromised the transmission of cultural knowledge and traditions.²²

¹⁸ Leveillee, Waller, and Ingham, “Dispersed Villages in Late Woodland Period South-Coastal Rhode Island,” 74.

¹⁹ Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025. “Potumtuk” is an amalgamation of “Po” a reference to “Pokanoket,” and “Tumtuk,” a variation of the word “Montaup.” “Montaup,” which has been anglicized to “Mount Hope” from the Massachusetts language, translates to “Lookout Mountain.” The term “Massasoit” is an inherited title for a great leader.

²⁰ Giovanni da Verrazzano. *The Voyage of Verrazzano, 1524*. National Humanities Center, 2006. nationalhumanities-center.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text4/verrazzano.pdf. Accessed April 11, 2025.

²¹ Angela Goebel Bain, Lynne Manring, and Barbara Mathews, “Native Peoples in New England,” American Centuries, Memorial Hall Museum. http://www.americancenturies.mass.edu/classroom/curriculum_6th/lesson2/bkgdessay.html. Accessed December 16, 2024.

²² Strobel, *Native Americans of New England*, 73.

These devastating epidemics weakened many coastal Native nations long before Europeans arrived in significant numbers to settle the land. The cultural and social fragmentation caused by high mortality rates left many communities vulnerable to encroachment by European settlers. Thus, the early interactions between European traders and Native peoples set the stage for far-reaching transformations in the region's Native American societies, laying the groundwork for future colonization.



It is estimated that 80-90 percent of Indigenous communities in New England were decimated in “The Great Dying,” which may have been caused by a combination of diseases, including small pox and leptospirosis, a bacterial infection spread by rats on European ships.

In 1614, Dutch navigator Adriaen Block, for whom Block Island is named, explored and mapped Narragansett Bay. Just two years later, an epidemic referred to as “The Great Dying” broke out, resulting in the deaths of most of the inhabitants of the southeastern shore of modern-day Massachusetts. There is no definitive answer regarding the disease that caused the epidemic that raged from 1616 through 1619. New research suggests rats from European ships carried leptospirosis complicated by Weil syndrome, contaminating fresh water sources.²³ Regardless of the specific cause, this horrific event facilitated the successful colonization of the Massachusetts Bay area; the English settlers who reached the coast on the Mayflower in 1620 encountered a region that, despite signs of previous inhabitation, had no living communities.

When the Mayflower passengers arrived in Massachusetts, they introduced a new dynamic to European-Indigenous relationships: colonization. Like the trading ventures that preceded them, colonization was heavily driven by economic motives. The companies that backed early settlement aimed to build profitable trade relationships with Indigenous communities, using North American resources to finance their exploration and expansion efforts. Unlike previous interactions in

²³ John S. Marr and John T. Cathey, “New Hypothesis for Cause of Epidemic Among Native Americans, New England, 1616-1619,” *Emerg Infect Dis* [serial on the Internet], (February 2010). <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1602.090276>. Accessed December 16, 2024.

New England, colonization set the stage for competition for land.²⁴ The geopolitical landscape shifted amongst the New England Tribes, as some capitalized on and benefitted from the challenges and opportunities brought by European trade and settlement, while others were weakened by it and were compelled to find new ways to survive. The impacts of trade, disease, population pressure, and widely divergent worldviews among Europeans and Native American people ultimately changed the historical trajectory of not only Native people in New England, but also Native people across North America.

New Colony, New World(s)

Arrival of the Mayflower and the Contract with the Pokanoket

In the fall of 1620, 102 English passengers boarded the Mayflower to journey to North America. Some of them were merchants and craftsmen, but for half of the passengers, the voyage marked the second attempt to settle in a foreign land in pursuit of religious freedom. Dissatisfied with what they saw as the corruptions of Christianity since the early church, they followed a strict interpretation of the Bible. They rejected church hierarchy, elaborate ceremonies, and even traditions like celebrating Christmas, which they saw as influenced by paganism. As “Separatists,” they made the difficult decision to leave England rather than try to reform the Church of England from within.²⁵

The religious pilgrims had established a close-knit community in Leiden, a Dutch university town known for its tolerance. Over time, however, they saw their children adopting Dutch customs and losing their English identity. This led them to the decision to create a colony in North America where they could uphold their culture and build a community based on their Separatist Christian principles. A London merchant gathered investors for the colony and hired the aging merchant ship, the Mayflower, to transport the Separatists and the other English emigrants on the journey.

Negotiations caused them to miss the summer sailing season, leading to an autumn departure. They were headed towards the upper part of the Virginia Colony, but after a grueling journey and an unexpected turn northward, they arrived in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in early November. Recognizing the challenges ahead, the men on board drafted the Mayflower Compact, an agreement that laid the foundation for a self-governing community. This first act of governance on foreign soil set a significant precedent for democratic principles in the New World.

The Mayflower passengers sent scouting expeditions along the coast, ultimately finding safe harbor at a place they called “Plymouth” in December of 1620. Among their leaders were William Bradford, who became the first governor of Plymouth Colony, Edward Winslow, a subsequent governor and London agent, and Miles Standish, an English military officer hired as an advisor for the colony. Their writings offer a window into the Separatists’ lives and their interaction with their native neighbors.

²⁴ Bain, Manring, and Mathews. “Native Peoples in New England.”

²⁵ The Separatists from the Church of England are also known as “Pilgrims,” although this term was not made popular until the 1800s. The terms “Separatists” and “Pilgrims” are used interchangeably in this narrative to refer to these initial English settlers.



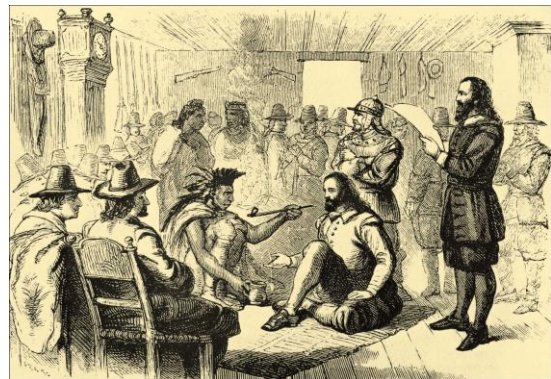
Mayflower passenger Elizabeth Tilley-Howland is thought to be an inspiration for Henry Hudson Kitson's sculpture "The Pilgrim Maiden." Although she was the only one in her family to survive the first winter in Plimoth, she left 10 children and 88 grandchildren when she was buried in Ancient Little Neck Cemetery, East Providence, RI.

The Great Dying had left the land the Separatists encountered uninhabited, despite clear evidence of villages. Standish's men found caches of corn, and Bradford observed "skulls and bones were found in many places lying still above the ground."²⁶ Throughout that first winter, the Separatists battled the elements, disease, and a lack of food and shelter. They stole the buried corn reserves they found, an action that would anger surrounding Tribes. By spring, only 52 of the original 102 passengers were still alive.

Although the Separatists saw some Native Americans at a distance, it was not until March of 1621 that true contact was made. An Eastern Abenaki man named Samoset walked into Plymouth Colony, saying "Welcome, Englishmen."²⁷ Samoset had learned English from traders and fishermen in Pemaquid Point, Maine. He informed the settlers that the Native name of Plymouth was "Patuxet," and that the leader of the Tribal confederation was the Pokanoket Massasoit, who lived 40 miles west in a place called "Sowams" on the northeast coast of Narragansett Bay.

The Massasoit had been watching the Separatists with interest and trepidation since they landed. The Great Dying had weakened the Pokanoket and the tributary Tribes, leaving them vulnerable to the Narragansett Tribe on the western side of Narragansett Bay. The Pokanoket had been reduced to about 300 warriors, markedly less than the 3,000 warriors the Massasoit could muster prior to the Great Dying.²⁸ Samoset arranged a meeting between the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin and the Separatists with the help of Tisquantum, or Squanto, a Patuxet man who also spoke English. Squanto, who had been kidnapped years earlier by European traders and taken to England, acted as Ousamequin's translator. This meeting between the Pokanoket leader and the settlers from the Mayflower became a critical and significant moment in the history of what eventually became the United States. On March 22, 1621, William Bradford and other men from the Mayflower signed a treaty of mutual protection with the Pokanoket leader Ousamequin. Part of the language in the agreement stated, "If any did unjustly war against him, we would aid him; if did war against us, he should aid us."²⁹

For the Massasoit, one of the primary objectives of the alliance was to establish a defense against the Narragansett, who had not suffered as much population loss in the Great Dying. The Massasoit had found a way to give the Pokanoket some military equality with their rivals. Likewise, the Pokanoket soon began to provide help to the Separatists to teach them survival in North America. The Massasoit instructed some Indigenous families to show the settlers their



In March 1621, the Separatists Pilgrims and the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin forged a mutual protection alliance that lasted more than 50 years.

²⁶ Nathaniel Philbrick. *The Mayflower*, (New York, Penguin 2008), 82.

²⁷ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 92.

²⁸ Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

²⁹ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 105.

methods for growing corn, squash, and beans and for fertilizing the soil by burying fish. The Massasoit's influence and the terms of the alliance also protected the English from the animosity of the surrounding Tribes, many of whom preferred armed resistance against the colonists.

The Origins of America's Thanksgiving Holiday

In the fall of 1621, the Separatists hosted a harvest feast that is the origin story for the American holiday of Thanksgiving.³⁰ The Massasoit and his retinue attended, greatly outnumbering their English hosts despite their losses in the recent epidemic. What actually transpired more than 400 years ago and how that was perceived by the individuals involved is open to historical interpretation. The Tribe may have been alerted by the sound of celebratory gunfire and came expecting battle – a logical reason for the Pokanoket contingent consisting of 90 warriors – or they may have been invited as a Biblical allusion to the stranger at the harvest feast (Deuteronomy 16:13–14).³¹ The Pokanoket may also have seen the occasion as one of reciprocity, as they likely had previously shared one of their 13 “moons” or thanksgivings with the people of Plymouth Colony.³² The feast lasted for several days and included a variety of fish, deer, fowl, and dishes made from corn meal. Plymouth leader Edward Winslow recorded the event in *Mourt's Relation*, an account of the Separatist's first year published in London in 1622. The myth of this event is sometimes interpreted as the Indians gifting their country bloodlessly to Europeans and their descendants to launch the United States as a great Christian nation blessed by God.³³ In reality, however, this event – initiated by the English, carrying both religious and military overtones, and similar to traditional harvest feasts they had experienced in their home country – provided an opportunity for the Pokanoket and the Separatists to confirm their agreement to not wage war on one another and to assure mutual protection.



Native farming practices followed seasonal cycles and were celebrated in ceremonies like harvest festivals.

The early cooperation between the Separatist pilgrims and the Pokanoket is often symbolized by the 1621 harvest feast, remembered today as the First Thanksgiving. While this event represented a moment of shared success, it also highlighted the fragile nature of peace. Cultural differences and divergent goals lingered beneath the surface, seeds of the ultimate destruction of this alliance. Moreover, the story of survival and the roots of a nation for one people is the story of loss of life, land, and the beginning of centuries of betrayal for another. On Thanksgiving in 1970, Frank “Wamsutta” James, an Aquinnah Wampanoag man, gave a protest speech on Thanksgiving in front of Plymouth's statue of the Massasoit Ousamequin after his invitation to speak at a state celebration was rescinded.

³⁰ Thanksgiving as a national holiday was established by President Lincoln in 1863.

³¹ Jeremy D. Bangs, “Thanksgiving – A Usable Feast,” Leiden American Pilgrim Museum. <https://leidenamericanpilgrimuseum.org/en/page/thanksgiving>. Accessed December 18, 2024; and

David J. Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, (New York, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019), 171.

³² Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

³³ Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, 171.

The speech described the welcome that Native peoples gave Europeans, as well as the mistreatment of Native Americans and the theft of land that followed. In part of the speech, James stated:

This is a time of celebration for you – celebrating an anniversary of a beginning for the white man in America. A time of looking back, of reflection. It is with a heavy heart that I look back upon what happened to my People.

James' protest led to the establishment of the United American Indians of New England and the National Day of Mourning, commemorated annually on the fourth Thursday of November.³⁴

The Pokanoket Alliance with the Colonists

Over the next few decades, the alliance between the Separatists and the Pokanoket faced numerous challenges, driven by internal conflicts, growing tensions with neighboring Tribes, and the increasing pressures of colonial expansion.

In the early years, Squanto played a divisive role, spreading rumors among both the English and local Tribes in a bid for power. His actions strained relations, nearly inciting a war when he falsely claimed the Pokanoket planned to attack Plymouth. The Massasoit demanded Squanto be turned over for questioning, but Governor William Bradford refused because he relied heavily on Squanto's interpreting skills. Because the terms of the alliance dictated that the Massasoit would exercise legal jurisdiction over their own people, this action nearly broke the alliance. Shortly after, Squanto fell gravely ill on a trading mission with Bradford and died, fueling suspicions that the Massasoit or Corbitant had orchestrated his demise. Had he not perished, hostilities may have erupted much earlier than King Philip's War.

Around the same time, new settlers arrived in Massachusetts, many of whom were secular young men unlike the devout Separatists. Establishing a fur trading post in Wessagusset (modern Weymouth), they provoked local Tribes by stealing food and occupying Native lands. News of a massacre at Jamestown in 1622 heightened the colonists' fears, prompting Miles Standish to advocate for stronger defenses and more aggressive action.

A series of 1623 occurrences reinforced the alliance. First, the Massasoit fell gravely ill, possibly with typhus brought by Dutch traders whose ship had just left the Massasoit's settlement. Edward Winslow led a small group to Sowams on a political and compassionate mission. Winslow provided medical aid, and his care saved the Massasoit's life along with the lives of several others in the community. This occasion cemented a friendship that underpinned the alliance between the Pokanoket and the Separatists; without the strength of this personal relationship, the alliance may have crumbled. In the days following the Massasoit's recovery, the Pokanoket informed the English that the Massachusetts and other northern Tribes were planning an attack on Plymouth and Wessagusset. Standish led the response, in which the Native leaders were brutally assassinated, and many others died in battle. Standish's attack on the warriors from the north intimidated the Tribes located close to Plymouth,



Frank "Wamsutta" James' protest speech in Plymouth, MA, 1970, led to the National Day of Mourning

Courtesy of the United American Indians of New England (UAIINE)

³⁴ "Frank James (Wamsutta, 1923–2001) National Day of Mourning," in *Dawnland Voices: An Anthology of Indigenous Writing from New England*, ed. Siobhan Senior, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press), 455–458.

discouraging them from allying with the Narragansett. It also gave the English a reputation for brutality.³⁵ Thus, healing and conflict strengthened the alliance between the Pokanoket and the Plymouth settlers. Both events also contributed to the idea that the fate of the Pokanoket was increasingly tied to that of the English.



The Massasoit Ousamequin was given a red horseman's coat by Mayflower passengers Stephen Hopkins and Edward Winslow, who wrote, "In his person he is a very lusty man, in his best years, an able body, grave of countenance, and spare of speech. In his attire...a great chain of white bone beads about his neck, and at it behind his neck hangs a little bag of tobacco...in his bosom hanging in a string, a great long knife."

Pilgrim Emmanuel Altham described the Massasoset wearing a "black wolf skin" on his shoulder and beads "about his middle," observing, "....He is as proper a man as ever was seen in this country, and very courageous."

Gifts for Massasoit, 1621 by Ruth De-Wilde-Major

By the 1630s, new waves of settlers across Massachusetts Bay escalated tensions. Unlike the Separatists, the newly arrived colonists were not reliant on Native assistance for their initial survival. Furthermore, they brought livestock that needed pastures. The colonists began to consume vast tracts of land that appeared empty, but in reality, were the fallow fields of the crop rotation common among the Native American population.

Many Indigenous leaders, the Massasoit Ousamequin among them, initially responded by selling their lands to maintain peace. Into the 1640s, Ousamequin sold off large tracts of property to promote "a loving and just carriage" with Plymouth.³⁶ This included lands that become the towns of Taunton, Rehoboth, and Swansea. Furthermore, as the fur trade declined in New England, Native Americans had fewer items to trade that the English wanted – land was the great exception. To the Pokanoket and their neighbors, land contracts meant shared use, and in early instances, this was occasionally written into the deeds. To the English, however, the agreements signified exclusive ownership. This cultural divide, coupled with the lack of settlers' fences and livestock damaging Indigenous crops, led to disputes. Furthermore, the documents were executed in English, putting Native speakers at a disadvantage regarding their contents. While many of the land agreements were legal, at least by English standards, as colonists' greed for land escalated over time, so did the manipulation and outright fraud to obtain it.

Disease and war exacerbated the shift in the balance of power. In 1633, a smallpox epidemic raced through the region, weakening the Narragansett and Pokanoket Tribes. Three years

³⁵ Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, 199.

³⁶ Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, 231.

later, the Pequot War began in nearby Connecticut Colony in retaliation for the killing of an English trader. In spring of 1637, English settlers, joined by Mohegan and Narragansett allies, attacked a Pequot fort on the Mystic River, killing between 400 and 700 Pequots, including women, children, and the elderly.³⁷ In many ways, the Pequot War was a harbinger of King Philip's War that would occur three decades later.

Between 1630 and 1640, more than 20,000 English people arrived in New England. In 1643, the settlers of the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies realized that the Tribes were becoming increasingly hostile and discontent with land deals. In response to rising tensions with the Tribes and competition from the Dutch Colony of New Netherland, English colonists established the United Colonies of New England, also known as the New England Confederation. This colonial government included the colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven. Each colony had a vote through an elected commissioner. The intent of the alliance was to bind the members of the confederation to each other if war occurred. If any member of the confederation came under attack, the other members agreed to come to their aid without delay. The alliance would prove to be critically important during King Philip's War, but would ultimately dissolve in the 1680s.³⁸



The Village Dam in Old Rehoboth, MA, which Plimoth Colony purchased from the Massasoit for "ten fathoms o wampum and a coat" in 1641.

Another transformative influence during this period was English settlers' attempts to convert Native people to Christianity. While some Tribes saw Christianity as a potential source of protection against the devastating plagues, the Massasoit Ousamequin resisted and discouraged his people from adopting the colonists' religion. Tribes that converted became known as "Praying Indians" and formed separate communities. This caused tensions with traditional sachems, as converts stopped paying tribute and abandoned their cultural practices. Late in his life, Ousamequin even tried to include in a land transfer the stipulation that missionaries stop converting his people. The English refused its inclusion, and Ousamequin retracted it.³⁹

If the English had maintained their original small numbers, the Massasoit Ousamequin's agreement with the colonists might have continued to be of benefit to the Tribe, but as more settlers sought opportunity in New England, things changed for the worse for all Indigenous peoples. By the late 1650s, Ousamequin was able to see that his agreement with the English, his "experiment," was not going to continue to provide the benefits he originally envisioned.⁴⁰

While the Separatists viewed the Massasoit as a staunch ally until his death, other Tribes likely resented the leader whose "personal prosperity depended on the systematic dismantling of their homeland."⁴¹ With a final land contract in 1657, the man who had struck an alliance that changed

³⁷ "1637 – The Pequot War," The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Connecticut. <https://www.colonialwarsct.org/1637.htm>. Accessed December 18, 2024.

³⁸ "New England Confederation," Britannica Encyclopedia. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/united-states-and-canada/us-history/new-england-confederation>. Accessed December 18, 2024.

³⁹ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 192.

⁴⁰ Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, 250.

⁴¹ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 172.

the course of history in the Western hemisphere disappeared from historical records.⁴² Ousamequin is presumed to have died in 1660 in Brookfield, Massachusetts.⁴³ In 2017, his body was returned to the Royal Burial Ground at Burr's Hill in today's Warren, Rhode Island.

King Philip's War – Causes and Consequences

King Philip's War, which began in 1675, was one of the most devastating conflicts in early American history. Rooted in long-standing tensions between Native American Tribes and English settlers in New England, the war was driven by issues of land encroachment, the erosion of Native American sovereignty, economic pressures, internal Tribal divisions, and specific triggering events. Together,



King Philip's War (1675-1676) shifted the balance of power to the English and changed the course of history.

these factors culminated in a brutal conflict that permanently shifted the balance of power to the English and devastated Native and English communities. The Pokanoket homeland of Sowams, and Metacom, the Massasoit Ousamequin's second son, lay at the heart of the conflict.

The Massasoit Ousamequin's leadership had preserved peace for nearly half a century. His diplomacy ensured a period of coexistence, during which the Pokanoket and the Separatists of Plymouth Colony avoided major conflicts despite their significant cultural differences. However, after the deaths of the Massasoit and the first generation of Plymouth leaders, the fragile alliance unraveled. The Massasoit's sons struggled to maintain the relationship amid increasing colonial encroachment and hostility.

The Massasoit Ousamequin's sons requested English names for themselves for their dealings with the colonists. Wamsutta was called Alexander by the English, and Metacom was called Philip.⁴⁴ The English gave a subtle insult in choosing the names of pagan Greek leaders.⁴⁵

⁴² Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 195.

⁴³ Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025; Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director of Plimoth-Patuxet Museums, March 17, 2024. At this later stage of life, the Massasoit Ousamequin was married to the daughter of the Quabog Nipmuc sachem. Although his death is not recorded, by June 1660, the Massasoit is mentioned as deceased in the record of the Plymouth General Court that describes Wamsutta and Metacom taking English names.

⁴⁴ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 196.

⁴⁵ Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

Wamsutta, who was older, took over as Massasoit of the Pokanoket and its tributary Tribes after the death of his father. The sons were married to Weetamoo and Wootonakanuske, the daughters of the Pocasset Sachem Corbitant; these marriages cemented an alliance that would prove important in the war a decade later.⁴⁶ Such intermarriages were common among Indigenous families in leadership, contributing to the strength of alliances and the cohesion of the confederacy.

As Massasoit, Wamsutta had the respect of other sachems in the region and showed promise of being a strong, capable, and assertive leader who may have been considered a threat by colonial authorities.⁴⁷ Among his most notable accomplishments was pressing for and receiving compensation for the Pokanoket for Moshassuck, a contested area in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1662, Wamsutta appeared before the Plymouth colonial court, accused of independently negotiating land sales to colonists other than those of the Plymouth Colony in violation of the Pokanoket agreement with the Separatists. He became very ill in Plymouth and was allowed to go home with promises to return. On the journey to Potumtuk in Sowams, Wamsutta died, raising suspicions about his cause of death.⁴⁸

Metacom was only 24 years old when he succeeded his brother as the Massasoit of the Pokanoket. The English gave him the name “King Philip” as a gesture of sarcastic disdain. Metacom rose to power in challenging times, and his people were anxious for him to demonstrate leadership. He believed his brother had been murdered by the Plymouth authorities; Pokanoket land was regularly being sold and occupied by the English; and the Narragansett continued to be a threat to the west. For Metacom and his people, these are the factors that tipped the balance from peace to war.

Erosion of Indigenous Sovereignty

The English’s imposition of their legal and cultural systems challenged the autonomy of Native American Tribes. Colonists insisted that Tribal leaders adhere to English laws, diminishing their ability to govern their own people. For Metacom, these efforts represented an existential threat to his people’s sovereignty. His brother’s trial in Plymouth and unexplained death were symptoms of this erosion.

Another symptom was the Taunton Agreement of 1671. Hugh Cole, one of the founders of Swansea, warned Plymouth authorities of a rumored alliance between the Pokanoket and Narragansett to attack the colonists. To address this, Metacom met with colonial leaders in Taunton and, under pressure, signed the Taunton Agreement, in which he admitted to plotting an attack and agreed to surrender weapons. Metacom, humiliated and forced to surrender his sovereignty under threat of war, outwardly complied with English demands while covertly preparing for conflict. He failed to turn over weapons, keeping his people armed and leading to a fine later that year. His strategy of buying time through land sales and submission allowed for quiet mobilization, but it also weakened his standing, leading some sachems and allies to distance themselves from the Pokanoket and reject his leadership.⁴⁹ In the months that followed the agreement, Plymouth Colony required that Indigenous leaders all along

⁴⁶ Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 4.

⁴⁷ Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025. “We, just as our Pokanoket ancestors such as Weetamoo and Metacom, unquestionably believe that he was poisoned by the English, who had all the motive to eliminate a perceived threat, as it is too convenient for such an illness to have occurred within these circumstances.”

⁴⁸ Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 50–52.

⁴⁹ Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

the coast sign documents affirming their loyalty to the colony. The subsequent years saw increasing unease and arms buildup on both sides.⁵⁰

Wamsutta's trial and death and the Taunton Agreement exemplified the increasing loss of Indigenous self-determination. Over time, the colonists' refusal to respect Native American governance deepened mistrust, with Metacom and other leaders striving to preserve their independence in the face of mounting pressures.

In addition, the English legal system was based on *couverture*, in which women's possessions became their husbands' upon marriage; this undermined the sovereignty of Native women like the Pocasset Sachem Weetamoo, who were powerful in their own right.⁵¹

Encroachment on Native Lands

The decline of Tribal sovereignty was not the only threat to Indigenous peoples' way of life. Across New England, the rapid expansion of English settlements placed immense pressure on the Tribes' ancestral lands. Colonists continually pushed westward, acquiring territory through a mix of deceptive treaties, coerced agreements, and outright seizure. English livestock played a major role in transforming and taking over the Indigenous landscape; their uncontrolled grazing was the vanguard of English settlement. This encroachment disrupted traditional ways of life, undermining the Tribes' ability to



Today Rehoboth has a vibrant agriculture community, including Homestead Farm, which raises Scottish Highland beef.

hunt, fish, and farm as they had for generations.⁵² The settlers' aggressive expansion was driven by a growing population and the colonists' belief in their right to claim the land for their own use. Algonquian languages used pronouns like "our," "my," and "his" to evoke responsibilities and shared histories, not sole possession, complicating interpretation of legal language on land deeds.⁵³ For the Tribes, including the Pokanoket, these losses were devastating, creating food shortages and sparking tensions over resource access. The gradual loss of their ancestral lands fueled resentment and set the stage for violent resistance.

Economic Pressures

Evolving trade dynamics in the region further exacerbated tensions. Early in the colonial period, trade between Native peoples and settlers had been mutually beneficial, with Tribes supplying furs, wampum, and other goods in exchange for European tools, weapons, and textiles. However, as settlers grew more self-reliant and fur-bearing animals became scarce, Tribes found themselves increasingly excluded from the colonial economy. They became economically marginalized and dependent on the settlers for essential supplies, with little to pay for the goods they needed or the debts that they had accrued except land.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 215–218.

⁵¹ Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 42.

⁵² Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 56.

⁵³ Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 29.

⁵⁴ Jeremy D. Bangs, personal communication, January 22, 2023, reflecting content of *New Light on the Old Colony*, (Brill: Boston, 2020).

Internal Tensions Among Tribes

The rising tensions between Native Americans and English settlers were layered on historical rivalries among the Tribes that stretched back centuries. These ancient alliances and disputes played a significant role in the growing conflict. Tribes like the Mohegan and Pequot had long-standing animosities with the Pokanoket and Narragansett, which the English cleverly exploited. The Pokanoket and Narragansett had long fought each other in maintaining sovereignty – trust was slow to build between them as they recognized a common threat in colonial settlement. Some Tribes allied with the colonists, seeing them as a means to gain an advantage over rival groups. As such, Native American unity against the colonists proved elusive, undermining Native resistance efforts. The English's ability to exploit these internal tensions highlights the strategic challenges faced by Metacom and his allies.

The Final Straw

Wamsutta's death and the Taunton Agreement set the stage for the war, but the final spark came in 1675, when English authorities executed three Pokanoket men. The men were accused of murdering John Sassamon, a Praying Indian who had left English service and become Metacom's translator. Though Sassamon was instrumental in land negotiations, Metacom ultimately lost trust in him, accusing him of fraud and favoring the English. By 1674, Metacom had dismissed Sassamon, suspecting him of being a spy, a plausible assumption given Sassamon's relationship with Rev. John Eliot, who hoped to convert Metacom to Christianity. In January 1675, Sassamon traveled to Plymouth and warned Governor Josiah Winslow that Metacom was planning a coordinated attack on the colonists. In February, Sassamon's body was found in Assawompset Pond. The English suspected Metacom, but he denied any involvement, suggesting the matter should be resolved within the Tribe. When the Plymouth General Court executed the three Pokanoket men, Metacom viewed this as the enforcement of English law on a Tribal matter. Under the terms of the 1621 alliance, Metacom had the right to administer justice to his people; Sassamon had been killed for betraying the Pokanoket. With this event, Metacom perceived that English dominance over his people had reached an intolerable level. The execution not only shattered any remaining faith in the alliance between the Pokanoket and Plymouth Colony, but also galvanized the Tribe to resist further English encroachment on their lands and lives.⁵⁵



John Sassamon, a Praying Indian who had left English service and become Metacom's translator, was murdered on Assawompset Pond, Lakeville and Middleborough, MA.

The War

The battle lines were drawn in 1675. Metacom created a coalition that included the Pokanoket, Pocassets, Nemaskets, and Nipmuks. Later in the war, the Narragansett and some of the Sakonnetts also aligned with the Pokanoket. In many ways, this was a civil war, as some of the tributary Tribes and even some of his own people believed their best option for survival was to side with the English.⁵⁶ Nevertheless, Metacom succeeded in creating a pan-Indigenous force with the strength to oppose the English. On the other side, the Massachusetts Tribe

⁵⁵ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 220–223.

⁵⁶ Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

and the Tribes of Cape Cod supported the English due to existing relationships and the influence of Christian missionaries. Eventually, the Mohegans and remnants of the Pequots in Connecticut Colony also sided with the English.⁵⁷

In the summer of 1675, the Pokanoket and their allies gathered at Potumtuk. Colonists left their farms to join their neighbors in garrisons for safety. Plymouth Governor Josiah Winslow, son of Edward Winslow, called up militias and requested help from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Although Metacom preferred to wait and continue to build his forces, tensions on both sides reached a boiling point and spilled over into war. In the third week of June 1675, the Pokanoket and their allies looted and burned settlers' homes, but killed no one. In retaliation for the destruction, a 12-year-old colonial boy fatally shot one of the warriors looting the farm of Job Winslow near the Myles Garrison in Swansea. The garrison was close to a meeting house that had been established in 1663 by a group of Baptists who had broken off from the Newman congregation in Rehoboth. With first blood drawn by the English, the Native American warriors attacked the meeting house, shooting at worshipers who had gathered for a day of prayer. By the end of the day on June 24, 1675, ten Swansea residents were dead, and King Philip's War had begun.⁵⁸

Shortly after the attack, the Pokanoket left Potumtuk for Pocasset where Metacom joined forces with his sister-in-law, the Sachem Weetamoo. While most of the English saw this as proof of an English victory, instead it was a shrewd move that expanded the scope of the war to include Tribes and territory beyond the Pokanoket Tribe's homeland of Sowams. Massachusetts Bay sent a militia to aid Plymouth, presenting a unified English front.⁵⁹ These tactical moves on both sides pushed the conflict from a local battle to the war that eventually reached across New England.

Early victories by the allied Native forces devastated towns and caused widespread panic among the settlers. The Tribes held a great advantage because of their familiarity with the terrain. Warriors were particularly adept at using swamps as places to reconvene, as well as to launch ambushes. On multiple occasions, Metacom was almost captured but used his knowledge of the landscape to escape unharmed. However, the English's superior resources and their ability to recruit Indigenous allies of their own eventually turned the tide of the war.

By late 1675, the United Colonies of New England had gathered the largest army ever assembled in the region, consisting of 1,000 soldiers – about five percent of the adult male population. At this time, the Narragansett Tribe, rumored to be at least 2,000 warriors strong, was considering an alliance with Metacom. The widowed Weetamoo, the Pocasset sachem, sought refuge for her people among the Narragansett and married one of Narragansett sachems, Quiapen, who emerged as war leader.⁶⁰ With this alliance, the Pocasset sachem helped bridge the relationship between the Pokanoket and the Narragansett, and Metacom began sending Pokanoket women and children to safety in Narragansett territory. The Narragansett Sachem and war leader Canonchet made his decision to fight the English when colonial forces attacked a Narragansett fort located on an island surrounded by swampland in present-day South Kingstown, Rhode Island. The Great Swamp Massacre was one of the war's most pivotal and devastating battles. The

⁵⁷ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 219–220.

⁵⁸ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 237–238.

⁵⁹ Philbrick, *The Mayflower*, 244–245.

⁶⁰ Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, 332–333.

colonists and their Pequot and Mohegan allies suffered 70 casualties, about a third of their soldiers at the battle. Tribal losses among the Narragansett and their allies included 300 men and nearly 400 women and children, including the Pokanoket non-combatants.⁶¹ In a tragic conclusion, the English forces set fire to the fort, destroying the homes inside and leaving no survivors. The war spread to New York and Connecticut, and Metacom was able to secure some assistance from the French in Canada. By the spring of 1676, however, the war was turning in favor of the English, who had augmented their militias with Indigenous allies of their own. In early April, warriors from the Mohegan, Pequot, and Niantic Tribes joined the English and went in search of Canonchet, who they eventually captured and executed.⁶² Metacom's own forces were dwindling, running out of food and ammunition. English adversaries under the leadership of Benjamin Church made progress against them throughout the spring and summer.

In August 1676, Church learned that Metacom was hiding near Potumtuk in Sowams with a small group of family and loyal warriors. John Alderman, an Indigenous Christian convert whose brother died at Metacom's hands, betrayed Metacom's location and ultimately tracked him through the swamps, killing him.⁶³ Days later, Metacom's trusted ally Anawan, the last warrior who had also served his father, Ousamequin, was captured in Rehoboth and executed in Plymouth, officially ending King Philip's War in southern New England.⁶⁴

The Aftermath

Fourteen months after the first shots were fired, King Philip's War ended in Sowams, a few miles from where it had begun. Its consequences, however, were felt throughout the region and across time. With a per capita casualty rate higher than any other war in North America, the war ended Indigenous sovereignty in southern New England, and the balance of power shifted decisively and permanently in favor of the settlers. Conflicts persisted until 1678 in the north, where five Tribes in Acadia formed the Wabanaki Confederacy, allying with New France to resist New England's expansion onto their lands.⁶⁵

The loss of life and property was staggering. During the fourteen-month conflict, Native American forces struck 52 English communities, destroying 17 of them. Of Plymouth's 14 towns, six were razed or suffered substantial damage, with only those on Cape Cod remaining safe.⁶⁶ Two of Plymouth Colony's towns were in Sowams – Swansea (Barrington, Somerset, Swansea and Warren) and Rehoboth (Seekonk and East Providence) – and both were razed during the war. Providence, which was outside Plymouth Colony, was also destroyed. Plymouth Colony lost 8 percent of its men.⁶⁷ These losses pale in comparison to Native American losses. Assuming the Native population was approximately 20,000 in the early 1670s, between 60 and 80 percent were gone by the end of the war. This included Native people who were killed, died of sickness or starvation, were shipped out of the country to be slaves, or fled to join other Tribes such as the Iroquois and the Abenakis in the north.⁶⁸

⁶¹ "Roger Williams: King Philip's War," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service.

<https://home.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/philipswar.htm>. Accessed December 26, 2024; and Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

⁶² Phibrick, *The Mayflower*, 304.

⁶³ Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin*, 328–330.

⁶⁴ Phibrick, *The Mayflower*, 343.

⁶⁵ Acadia consisted of current day Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

⁶⁶ Silverman, *This Land is Their Land*, 334.

⁶⁷ Phibrick, *The Mayflower*, 332.

⁶⁸ Phibrick, *The Mayflower*, 332.

While the war was devastating for the Tribes and the English colonists, the English quickly recovered, their numbers continuing to grow as more settlers immigrated from across the Atlantic. Yet victory for the English came at a steep price. Entire towns were destroyed, and the economic toll was severe. Despite these hardships, the shared struggle fostered unity among the colonies and contributed to their eventual growth and resilience. In Rehoboth, recovery included the development of a public education system in 1674. One of the earliest communities to prioritize education, the establishment of a school reflected residents' belief that an informed citizenry was vital for the well-being of the town.⁶⁹

While Native American Tribes fought on both sides of the conflict, the colonists had presented a united front, all without aid from the British crown or army. This success would be remembered a century later, when the colonists threw off the yoke of English government for American Independence. In a historical side note, Mary Rowlandson's *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, an account published in 1682 of her life as a captive in a Native village, became the American colonies' first best seller.⁷⁰ The book is the most widely read captivity narrative ever published, helping to establish many of the genre's key elements.

The Pokanoket population, however, was subjected to “damnatio memoriae” (meaning “condemnation of memory”) – the deliberate attempt to erase their reputation and memory of their existence. They were systematically pushed from their lands, killed outright, or sold into slavery. Despite some Native people's efforts to convince the English that they were not involved in the war, more than 1,000 men were indiscriminately rounded up and sold off to plantation owners in Barbados and other islands in the West Indies.⁷¹ Many women and children became slaves in New England households.

In the Sowams region, English laws were enacted to displace the Pokanoket from their land and suppress their identity and culture, forbidding them from speaking their language or identifying as Pokanoket. To avoid enslavement or execution in the aftermath of King Philip's War, many went into hiding or were absorbed into other Tribes. Metacom's surviving relatives were exiled to the Shetucket reservation in Connecticut under the supervision of Mohegan leader Uncas – an enemy of the Pokanoket – and Reverend James Fitch. Pokanoket descendants lived in Connecticut for several generations before some returned to Rhode Island in the late 19th century.⁷²

The colonies seized nearly all the territory of the Tribes they had defeated. Confiscated Pokanoket lands were distributed to English soldiers as payment for their service during the war. The Pocasset's land known as Shawomet was seized by Plymouth Colony and sold to individuals. Known as the “Shawomet Purchase,” the land was made part of Swansea; it kept its Indigenous identity in colonial records. In 1677, this land was split into three sections that encompass today's Somerset.⁷³ Those Tribes who had sided with the English were not treated well, but were relocated or allowed to stay on part of their ancestral homeland designated as a reservation. The aftermath of

⁶⁹ “A Journey through Rehoboth, Massachusetts History,” The Boston Day Book. <https://thebostondaybook.com/rehoboth-massachusetts-history/>. Accessed March 29, 2025.

⁷⁰ Phibrick, *The Mayflower*, 288.

⁷¹ Phibrick, *The Mayflower*, 345.

⁷² Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

⁷³ Austin, George. “Copies of Historic Documents Presented to Town,” *The Standard-Times*, September 30, 2015. <https://www.southcoasttoday.com/story/special/2015/09/30/copies-historic-documents-presented-to/33386556007/>. Accessed March 28, 2025.

the war, especially the differences in treatment of various Tribes, resulted in the complex post-colonization Indigenous communities that exist today.

Culturally, the war left deep scars. Relations between Native American Tribes and European settlers were permanently strained, marked by mistrust and hostility. Indigenous cultures and traditions faced steady decline, as Tribes were increasingly marginalized or pressured into assimilation. The death of Metacom in 1676 was a symbolic and brutal conclusion to the conflict. His body was desecrated, and his head was displayed on a pike in Plymouth for twenty years as a warning that underscored the consequences of resistance. Over the next 150 years, towns were laid out in what was once Sowams. What followed were years of continual development and the gradual loss of much of the original natural abundance that sustained the Pokanoket Tribe and that the colonists first encountered.



The Somerset Historical Society's James E. Bradbury Museum displays the works of "Pottersville" potters, a major local industry in Somerset for two centuries starting in 1705.

King Philip's War remains one of the deadliest conflicts in American history relative to population size. It reshaped New England's cultural and political landscape, paving the way for further colonial expansion at the expense of Native Americans, while leaving a legacy of loss and transformation. The war also laid the foundation for centuries of relations between North America's Indigenous population and European Americans. It was the first war that focused on irresolvable differences between Native American and colonial claims to sovereignty. Many of the patterns established leading up to and during the war played out time and again in Native communities across the continent over the next three centuries. These include the colonists' insistence that all disagreements be settled using their system of laws and courts, the taking of ancestral lands, the trail of broken alliances, the general unwillingness of colonists to tolerate Tribal cultures, and armed resistance when no options remained.

The Lively Experiment – Roger Williams and the Tenets of Religious Freedom

One of the towering figures of the colonial era was Rhode Island's founder, Roger Williams. In helping define the tenets of religious freedom, he laid groundwork for one of the pillars of democracy, the separation of church and state. His initial commitment to the fair treatment of Indigenous peoples was also important, although in the wake of King Philip's War he followed his countrymen in the enslavement of Native peoples.

Williams was born in 1603 in London, where he grew up. He studied to be a minister in the Church of England at Pembroke College of Cambridge, where he excelled with languages and acquired the learning that came to define his beliefs.⁷⁴ He was greatly influenced by his mentor, Sir Edward Coke, and the teachings of Francis Bacon.⁷⁵ Like others of his time, he eventually rejected the authority of

⁷⁴ "Frequently Asked Questions," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/rowi/faqs.htm>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

⁷⁵ John M. Barry. "Roger Williams's Opening Argument: Church, State and the Birth of Liberty," Small State, Big History, The Online Review of Rhode Island History. <https://smallstatebighistory.com/roger-williamss-opening-argument-church-state-birth-liberty>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

the Church of England. In addition to his belief in the separation from the established church, Williams also believed religion should remain independent of civil government. He saw human governance as imperfect, believing it would corrupt the church. Williams advocated for religious freedom, or “soul liberty;” he saw this “liberty of conscience” as the freedom to follow one’s own conscience in matters of God and religion, stating that “forced worship stincks in the nostrils of God.”⁷⁶ These tenets – separation from the Church of England, separation of church and state, and liberty of conscience – were foundational in the establishment of Rhode Island, which Williams referred to as “a lively experiment.”⁷⁷ The latter two remain important elements of religious freedom in the United States today.



Illustration (c. 1862) of Roger Williams, who died in Providence in the winter of 1683

While Roger Williams shared some beliefs with Protestant theologian John Calvin, he disagreed with Calvin’s idea that politics should enforce religious behavior. Calvin maintained that governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed, with their power being a gift from God. However, Williams believed the Church needed to distance itself from these Protestant principles, advocating for a separation between religious and political authority. Put simply, when religion and politics are mixed, the result is politics.⁷⁸

The Puritans that settled Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1630s had a distinct belief system from the Separatists of Plymouth Colony. They sought to bring their reformed belief system to the New England colonies, aiming to purify their interpretation of the Church of England while remaining connected to their homeland. Once in New England, they established congregational churches adhering to reformed theology. This approach differed from the Separatists in Plymouth, who believed the only way to practice their faith was to completely separate from the Church of England, despite retaining their English identity. Although Roger Williams emigrated with the Puritans, like the Separatists, he believed religion needed to distinguish itself from the Church of England entirely.

In February 1631, Roger Williams and his wife Mary Barnard arrived in Nantasket and were welcomed into the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Boston. All six of their children would be born in New England.⁷⁹ Williams declined an invitation to minister at a Puritan Congregational Church, believing it was still too closely tied to the Church of England. Williams then moved to Salem, where he began preaching at a church more in line with his beliefs, but the congregation’s concerns about the colonial government’s disapproval prevented the church from officially hiring him.⁸⁰

Seeking greater religious freedom, Williams moved to Plymouth Colony, where he lived among the Separatists. There, he engaged in trade with Native American Tribes, including the Pokanoket and their leader, the Massasoit Ousamequin. During this time, Williams developed a deep understanding of Indigenous culture, learned the Algonquian language, and came to the belief that colonists

⁷⁶ John M. Barry, “Good, Government and Roger Williams’ Big Idea,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, January 2012. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/god-government-and-roger-williams-big-idea-6291280>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

⁷⁷ “Royal Charter (1644-1663),” Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/charter.htm>. Accessed December 21, 2024.

⁷⁸ Barry, “Good, Government and Roger Williams’ Big Idea.”

⁷⁹ “Frequently Asked Questions,” Roger Williams National Memorial, National Park Service.

⁸⁰ “Life in Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth (1631–1636),” Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/rowi/faqs.htm>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

had no right to claim Tribal lands based on the English king's authority. After a few years, he returned to Salem, where his insistence on separating church and state and challenging English laws led to his trial in 1635. Convicted and ordered to leave the colony, Williams fled in January 1636, avoiding deportation to England and temporarily leaving his family behind.⁸¹

During that harsh winter, Williams found temporary refuge in Sowams, where he was welcomed by the Massasoit Ousamequin and nursed back to health following his winter trek. That spring, Ousamequin directed him to a place just east of the Seekonk River in today's East Providence. When Plymouth Colony authorities learned of Williams' efforts to establish a settlement, they informed him that the area lay within their jurisdiction and instructed him to relocate. Williams complied, crossing the river to what is now Fox Point, placing him beyond Plymouth's boundaries. There, Williams met Canonicus and Miantonomi, Narragansett sachems, who sold land to Williams. Claim to that land was contested by both the Pokanoket and Narragansett. In 1638, the Massasoit Ousamequin complained to Williams that he had not been compensated; in 1661, his son Wamsutta successfully pressed this claim until payment was made.⁸²

Williams shared the tract with his followers and named their new settlement "Providence," as he "desired it might be a shelter for persons distressed for conscience."⁸³ This set in motion the decisions that eventually defined the border between the colonies – and eventually the states – of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Over time, Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies would unite as Massachusetts, and Rhode Island would be granted a royal charter.

Each household in Providence was given a six-acre strip of land that stretched from the cove, over Towne Street (today's Main Street) and up the hill. This distribution of land established Providence as a community founded on principles of equality. This differed from Massachusetts, where land was distributed by the General Court of Proprietors in each colony, who established settlement patterns and determined who would be freeholders.



Shunning overt displays of worship, the early Baptists, like Roger Williams, met in people's homes.

In 1637, the Providence settlers formalized their commitment to governance and mutual respect by signing the Providence Agreement. This document declared that the settlement would operate under majority rule for civil matters while guaranteeing freedom of conscience in religious affairs. Unlike other English colonies, Providence had no upper class, no taxes were collected to support the church, and voting rights extended to all heads of households, regardless of gender or church membership.⁸⁴

The community's commitment to individual liberty was tested in the 1638 case of Joshua and Jane Verin. Joshua, who refused to attend religious services, attempted to prevent his wife

⁸¹ "Life in Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth," Roger Williams National Memorial, National Park Service.

⁸² Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

⁸³ Barry, "Good, Government and Roger Williams' Big Idea."

⁸⁴ "Providence (1636–1638)," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/inpvd.htm>. Accessed December 21, 2024.

from participating in church meetings held at Roger Williams' home. When Jane defied him, he resorted to physical violence. The town responded by reprimanding Joshua and banishing him from Providence. Importantly, Joshua's punishment was not for the physical abuse of his wife, but for infringing on her freedom of conscience. This case underscored Providence's dedication to protecting individual rights and the principles of the 1637 Agreement.⁸⁵

Rhode Island, known as Providence Plantations, became a refuge for those seeking liberty of conscience. Williams advocated not for protecting the state from the church but for freeing religion and personal belief from all government interference. He believed the state had no role in spiritual matters, which he considered vital to an individual's soul.⁸⁶

Williams' views aligned more closely with Baptist principles than with Puritan or Separatist beliefs. He rejected the idea of being born into a religion or paying taxes to support a church, insisting that religion should be a personal, voluntary commitment. His congregation in Providence is regarded as the first Baptist Church in America though a meeting house was not established until 1700.⁸⁷ However, within months, Williams questioned the legitimacy of any church, deeming them all corrupt. By the summer of 1639, he resigned from the church but upheld its foundation on biblical scripture. Though he stepped away from religious leadership, he remained active in advocating for religious freedom and civil governance.

During the 1640s, Williams operated a trading post on land sold to him by Canonicus along the western shore of Narragansett Bay, in what is now Wickford. This trading post became a vital meeting point between the English and the Narragansett and served as a key source of income for Williams.

In 1643, Williams traveled to England to secure a parliamentary charter for Rhode Island as an independent colony. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Plymouth were competing to claim the territory, but Williams sought to establish a colony based on his principles of religious liberty and a clear separation of church and state. He envisioned a democratic government deriving authority from the consent of its citizens rather than divine mandate, a sharp departure from the prevailing Calvinist belief that all power came from God. When Roger Williams arrived in England, he found the country embroiled in a civil war between King Charles I and Parliament. Despite the turmoil, Williams secured a Parliamentary Patent for "the Providence Plantations in Narragansett Bay," uniting Providence, Newport, and Portsmouth into a single colony.⁸⁸

During this time, Williams also arranged for the publication of two books. The first, *A Key into the Language of America*, was published in November 1643. The book served as a guide to the Algonquian language, offering Algonquian phrases alongside English translations, as well as detailed descriptions of Indigenous culture. At its core, the book was groundbreaking for its respectful portrayal of Native Americans. It emphasized their culture, governance, spirituality, and humanity, challenging the common colonial view of Native American communities. One contemporary reviewer praised Williams's work, noting it depicted Native Americans as "members of a civil,

⁸⁵ "Providence (1636–1638)," Roger Williams National Memorial, National Park Service.

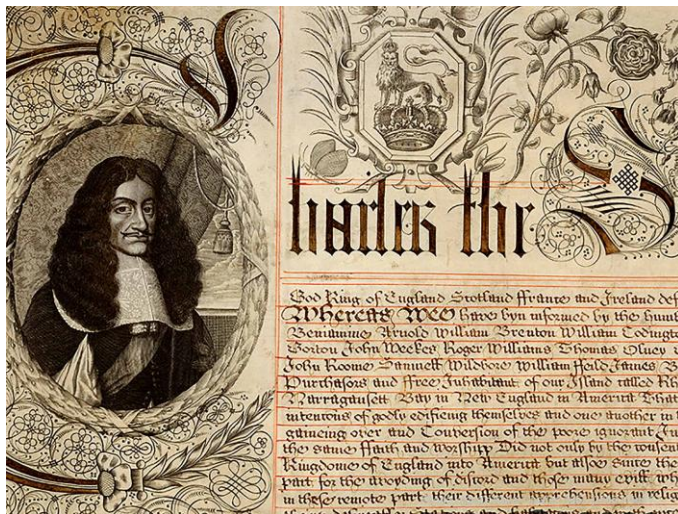
⁸⁶ Patrick T. Conley, *Rhode Island's Founders*, (Charleston: The History Press, 2010), 34.

⁸⁷ "The Prophet of Religious Freedom," The First Baptist Church in America. <https://www.firstbaptistchurchinamerica.org/history/the-prophet-of-religious-freedom>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

⁸⁸ "Back to England (1637–1644)," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service. <https://home.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/patent.htm>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

humane, and well-ordered society.”⁸⁹ This perspective sharply contrasted with the prevailing English belief, rooted in the Doctrine of Discovery, that Native Americans needed to be converted to Christianity and assimilated as part of colonization efforts.⁹⁰ Williams’s observations demonstrated his belief that individuals could lead spiritual lives outside the structure of traditional churches, a belief strengthened in his years of trading with and living near the region’s Tribes. Recently, the argument has been made by a Narragansett scholar that Williams’ belief in religious freedom can be traced directly to his experience with the Narragansett.⁹¹ By documenting how the Tribes lived harmoniously without Christianity, Williams provided further validation for his advocacy of religious liberty.

Williams’ second book, *The Bloody Tenent of Persecution*, set forth his argument for the separation of church and state. However, English authorities banned this book for its radical views on religion and politics.⁹² Despite Williams’ success in obtaining a patent, some leaders, like William Coddington of Newport, opposed the broad reach of the patent’s authority. In 1651, Coddington received a commission granting him lifetime governance over Aquidneck (Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth) and Conanicut Island. In response, Williams and John Clarke, an ally from Newport, returned to England to have Coddington’s commission revoked and to seek a formal charter for the colony. However, England’s political instability delayed progress. After the execution of King Charles I in 1649 and the rise of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector in 1654, securing a Charter was not a priority for the English government.⁹³



Royal Charter of Rhode Island, Rhode Island State House, Providence, RI

By 1654, Williams had returned to Providence, where he served as chief officer until 1658, while Clarke remained in England to continue advocating for a charter. Finally, in 1663, after the restoration of King Charles II, Clarke succeeded in obtaining a Royal Charter. This charter granted Rhode Island unprecedented religious freedom, making it a haven for those persecuted for their beliefs. It also allowed the colony to elect its own government, including its governor, independent of royal appointment.⁹⁴ Even though Williams attacked the teachings of Quakers, Puritans, and other religious denominations, the tenets by which the colony had been established held true. In the colo-

onial era, Rhode Island included congregations of Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Congregationalists, Puritans, Quakers, and radicals who fled the Antinomian Controversy that erupted in Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1630s. The region, specifically Newport, also included one of the first communities of Jews in North America.

⁸⁹ James A. Warren. *God, War, and Providence*. (New York: Scribner, 2018), 131.

⁹⁰ Edwin S. Gaustad. *Roger Williams*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 30.

⁹¹ Mack Scott. "I Pledge Allegiance: Sanctuary and Sovereignty in the Dawnland," lecture presented to The Partnership for Historic Bostons, November 18, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGJQSUVQ0dw&t=3s>. Accessed January 21, 2025.

⁹² "Providence (1637–1644)," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/patent.htm>. Accessed December 21, 2024.

⁹³ "Royal Charter (1644–1663)," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/charter.htm>. Accessed December 21, 2024.

⁹⁴ "Royal Charter (1644–1663)," Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island, National Park Service.

Roger Williams During and After King Philip's War

As described previously, by the 1670s, colonial-Tribal relationships in the region were becoming less stable. The Pokanoket were increasingly dissatisfied with the colonists who bought large plots of their land and imposed English laws that ensured that Indigenous people were continually indebted to them. Williams was contacted by the Plymouth Colony to intercede with Metacom on several occasions. Both cultures relied on him because of his ability to speak the Algonquian language. In 1675, when Metacom's interpreter Sassamon informed Plymouth authorities that the Pokanoket were contemplating war, the Massachusetts Bay Colony asked Williams to obtain assurances from the Narragansett Tribe that they were not in league with the Pokanoket. Early in the war, he succeeded in keeping the Narragansett neutral.

However, Williams's negotiating skills proved to be diminished once the war began. After the Great Swamp Massacre, the Narragansett felt they had no choice but to enter the war. Canonchet's army attacked towns in Central Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including Providence. Even as Providence burned, Williams went out to meet the Narragansett and ask why. They refused this final attempt at diplomacy, but directed him along a safe path home, avoiding young warriors who may have caused him harm.⁹⁵

King Philip's War forever changed Williams' relationship with the Narragansett. After the war, Williams and other colonists in Providence assisted in selling Native American prisoners and their families into indentured servitude, believing that this was better than sentencing them to death.⁹⁶ This was a shocking reversal for a man who was known to support Indigenous culture and land rights. Williams' change in attitude is an example of one of the war's major consequences – a shift toward racial and cultural hostilities that would mark English and American interactions with Native American populations for centuries.

Early Development of the Baptist Church in Sowams

Williams was not the only religious reformer in New England in the 1630s and 1640s. Among those who came to the lands around Narragansett Bay to escape the confines of religious traditionalists were the early Baptist leaders William Coddington and John Clarke and religious radicals Anne Hutchinson and Samuel Gorton. All believed in an alternative to the religious structure in England, and some even shared Williams' belief in absolute religious liberty.

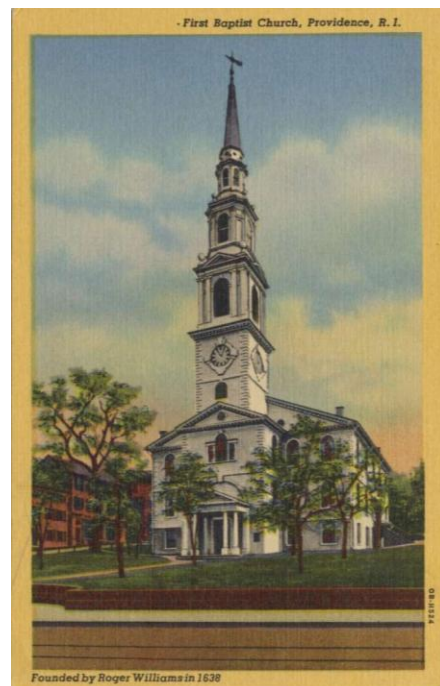
From 1636 to 1638, the Antinomian Controversy, or Free Will Controversy, boiled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. This political and religious conflict centered on where authority in the church rested, with individuals or with the Bible and those leaders who preached it. Anne Hutchinson was among the Antinomian leaders espousing the radical tenet that individuals were the recipients of God's grace independent of their good works and church leadership. Her influence on the colony's women was significant. In the end, the Antinomian leaders, including Hutchinson, were tried and banished from the colony. Many sought religious freedom in Providence and other communities in what would become the colony of Rhode Island.

⁹⁵ "Old Roger Williams Tries to Stop King Philip's War," New England Historical Society. <https://newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/old-roger-williams-tries-stop-king-philips-war>. Accessed December 26, 2024.

⁹⁶ "Our Hidden History: Roger Williams and Slavery's Origins," *The Providence Journal* (August 29, 2020). www.providencejournal.com/story/opinion/2020/08/29/our-hidden-history-roger-williams-and-slaverys-origins/42468467. Accessed December 26, 2024.

Samuel Gorton inspired free religious thinking along the shores of Narragansett Bay. Seeking a place where he could practice his divergent understanding of religion, he arrived in Boston in 1637, at the height of the Antinomian Controversy. Gorton's beliefs were grounded in Puritanism but considered radical by Puritan leaders, whose authority they challenged. He left Boston quickly, sharing his theology in Portsmouth, Plymouth, Providence, and England over the next decade. Eventually, he established a settlement southwest of Providence where he served in political positions until the community was devastated during King Philip's War.

Gorton emphasized the inherent divinity in every individual, stemming from the presence of the Holy Spirit within all people. He rejected the conventional distinction between saint and sinner, arguing that true religious conversion involved adhering to this inner divine guidance, even if it meant defying human authorities. He criticized reliance on external religious rituals, believing they subordinated individuals to human laws rather than Christ's teachings. His theology influenced movements like the Seekers and Ranters, and later the Quakers, though Gorton did not formally associate with these groups.



First Baptist Church in America stands in the historic College Hill district in Providence, RI.

William Coddington, who would later compete for Rhode Island's charter with Roger Williams, was another reformer tied to the Antinomian Controversy in Boston. He, too, was compelled to leave Massachusetts Bay Colony because of differences over religious beliefs. In March 1638, Coddington and John Clarke, who also had arrived at the Massachusetts Bay Colony at the height of the controversy, drafted the Portsmouth Compact, which was intended to form a "Bodie Politick" based on Christian principles. Both men brought Antinomian exiles to settle on Narragansett Bay on the advice of Roger Williams and went on to play influential roles in the founding of Rhode Island Colony.⁹⁷ Coddington eventually became the first Governor of Rhode Island Colony. John Clarke helped Roger Williams obtain the 1663 Charter for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and established the Baptist church in Newport, the second to be created in the colonies.

In order to find land that was not already under the jurisdiction of colonial government, Clarke led a delegation of three men to Plymouth Colony. Like Williams before him, he was informed that Sowams was under Plymouth's authority. However, Aquidneck Island was not. This suited Clarke, whose desire for his followers was to "get clear of all and be ourselves".⁹⁸

The Swansea congregation holds a unique position in Baptist history. The first Baptist church to be established in what would become Massachusetts, the Swansea church separated itself publicly from the earlier Rhode Island Baptist churches. The organizers of the Swansea congregation were persuaded by John Clarke and Mark Lukar, a Welsh Baptist reformist who helped establish

⁹⁷ Thomas Williams Bicknell. *The Story of Dr. John Clarke*. Little Rock, Arkansas: The Baptist Standard Bearer, Inc. 2005, archived from the original PDF on 6 November 2014.

⁹⁸ Louis Franklin Asher. *John Clarke (1609–1676): Pioneer in American Medicine, Democratic Ideals, and Champion of Religious Liberty*, (Pittsburgh, PA: Dorrance Publishing Company, 1997).

the Newport church, to take an antipedobaptist position, meaning they were against baptizing children at birth. Clarke and Lukar brought baptism by immersion to Swansea from England, a rite for adults who could profess their own faith. In 1663, the same year the colony was established, they called John Myles to lead the Swansea church.

Myles had arrived in the Plymouth Colony from Wales in the early 1660s, fleeing the newly restored English monarchy. He brought with him the historic *Ilston Book*, which is the earliest register of a Baptist church in Wales; the book is now located at Brown University. In the colonies, Myles first worked with the Congregationalist church in Rehoboth, which had been established in 1643 by Reverend Samuel Newman, a Puritan Congregationalist and leader of the Rehoboth settlement. After his group was expelled for its Baptist views, Myles served as pastor in Swansea for 20 years. His church represented not just a commitment to religious freedom in the abstract, but a deliberate effort to safeguard specific Baptist beliefs and practices.

The Baptists were primarily concerned with securing a space where their congregational autonomy, beliefs, and church governance could thrive, rather than fostering a multi-faith pluralism. While the legal and social frameworks of religious freedom in Swansea echoed Williams' influence, the Baptists in Swansea were more invested in protecting their community from external pressures – particularly from the Puritan authorities who had driven them out of Massachusetts Bay Colony – than in promoting religious diversity. In the period from 1692 to the religious revival of the Great Awakening in the first half of the 18th century, the Quakers and Anglicans each fought for exemption from compulsory religious taxes supporting Congregational churches. The Baptists played a secondary role, fighting mainly for the preservation of their privileged position in the town of Swansea.⁹⁹

Under Myles' leadership, the Swansea Baptists developed an academically inclined church that produced the Baptist Church in Warren and the College of Rhode Island, which later became Brown University. A century later, John Leland, leader of a congregation descended from the Swansea church, would preach the importance of religious freedom to President Thomas Jefferson and the United States Congress.¹⁰⁰

The ideals of religious freedom and the separation of church and state preached by religious reformers along the shores of Narragansett Bay, had a ripple effect on later colonies established in North America. Maryland was founded as a refuge for Catholics by the Calvert family. The Maryland Tolerance Act of 1649 was open to all denominations but allowed a state church and could be tempered by the Governor. When King Charles II granted a charter to Carolina in 1665, the charter stressed that inhabitants would not be punished for practicing different forms of religion. Pennsylvania, which



Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre, Brown University, Providence, RI develops new works and supports emerging artists blending scholarship and creativity on stage.

Courtesy of Rites and Reason Theatre

⁹⁹ William G. McLoughlin. *New England Dissent, 1630–1833, The Baptists and the Separation of Church and State*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press), 197.

¹⁰⁰ "John Leland," Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University. <https://firstamendment.mtsu.edu/article/john-leland/>. Accessed December 13, 2024.

was formed by a grant to its founder William Penn, was a haven for Quakers who had been persecuted in England and Ireland for their beliefs. The stream of influence from the Particular Baptist congregations in London and Wales, who settled in Sowams in the 1640s, spawned offshoots in Pennsylvania a century later.¹⁰¹ By the end of the 17th century, religious freedom had become a consistent policy in the colonies.

Religious freedom was enshrined in the early laws in Virginia by founding fathers James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, known formally as “Bill No. 82: A Bill for establishing religious freedom,” was drafted in 1779. The act says that “no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burdened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinion or beliefs.”¹⁰² Bill No. 82 was a critical precursor to rights enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As James Madison explained, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom “is a true standard of Religious liberty: its principle is the great barrier against usurpations on the rights of conscience. As long as it is respected & no longer, these will be safe.”¹⁰³

The Revolutionary War and Its Aftermath

Massachusetts, considered one of the major pillars in the founding of the United States, plays an outsized role in the history of the Revolutionary War. Americans are familiar with the Boston Tea Party and the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. In Rehoboth and Swansea, many men from local militias answered the call of the Lexington Alarm, the document that spread the word the American Revolution had begun with the Battle of Lexington. Town records document approxi-



The USS Constitution 1812 Marine Guard participated in the “History Through the Ages” historical timeline event at Redway Plain in Rehoboth, MA.

Courtesy of USS Constitution 1812 Marine Guard

mately 1,400 men from Rehoboth served the Continental Army at various points in the war.¹⁰⁴ Many members served with General George Washington’s forces in the 13th Continental Regiment.¹⁰⁵ Men from southeastern Massachusetts also participated in action in Rhode Island that stretched from Newport to Providence in 1777 and 1778.¹⁰⁶ Yet the celebrated founding father from Massachusetts, John Adams, took a measured approach to opposing the Crown, cleaving to the rule of law in his defense of the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre and other actions.

Rhode Island, on the other hand, had the most independent streak of the Thirteen Colonies, being one of the first to actively and decisively resist British rule. In 1764, Governor Stephen Hopkins carried to London a “Remonstrance” that decried the new taxes levied against the colonies. The Rhode Island Remonstrance lifted up principles of liberty and self-government, while also defending Americans’ right to engage in and profit from slavery and the slave

¹⁰¹ Walker, J Brent. *Church State Matters*. Mercer University Press, Macon, 2008, pg. 34ff.

¹⁰² “Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom,” Thomas Jefferson Monticello. <https://www.monticello.org/research-education/thomas-jefferson-encyclopedia/virginia-statute-religious-freedom>. Accessed December 13, 2024.

¹⁰³ “Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom”

¹⁰⁴ “Stories of Rehoboth Soldiers in the American Revolution,” *Reporter Today*, February 27, 2024. <https://reportertoday.com/stories/stories-of-rehoboth-soldiers-in-the-american-revolution,44139>. Accessed March 29, 2025.

¹⁰⁵ “Unit History,” 13th Continental Regiment. <https://sites.google.com/view/13thcontlregt/unit-history>. Accessed March 29, 2025.

¹⁰⁶ Herbert T. Wade. “Colonel Wade and his Massachusetts State Troops in Rhode Island, 1777–1778.” *Essex Institute, Historical Collections*, 89 (1953), 357-375.

trade.¹⁰⁷ In 1772, Rhode Islanders captured and burned the HMS Gaspee, a British customs schooner in Narragansett Bay, an important naval event that moved the Thirteen Colonies toward the American Revolution; John Brown of Providence's well-known merchant family participated in the event. The colony was the first to call for a continental congress in 1774, and in 1776, the first to eliminate an oath of allegiance to the British crown that had been required of colonial officials. On May 4, 1776, a full two months before the United States' Declaration of Independence, Rhode Island declared independence from England.

Once the Revolutionary War began in earnest, the state of Rhode Island suffered considerably. The British occupied Newport for more than three years from 1776 to 1779. Due to this occupation, the town of Bristol saw extensive action. Bristol was bombarded by the British and served as a point of command to control the large number of loyalists in Newport. The British then attacked Warren and burned dozens of colonial boats that had been moved to the Kickemuit River.

Rhode Island's quest for independence did not end with the war. Rural resistance to the new United States Constitution was strong in Rhode Island, and the anti-federalist Country Party controlled the General Assembly from 1786 to 1790. In 1788, anti-federalist politician and Revolutionary War General William West led an armed force of 1,000 troops to Providence to oppose a Fourth of July event that celebrated nine states' ratification of the Constitution. Civil war was narrowly averted through a compromise limiting the Fourth of July celebration. The State of Rhode Island became the last of the 13 states to ratify the United States Constitution on May 29, 1790. This was accomplished once assurances were made that a Bill of Rights would become part of the Constitution, in addition to the other states threatening that Rhode Island's exports could be taxed as a foreign nation.



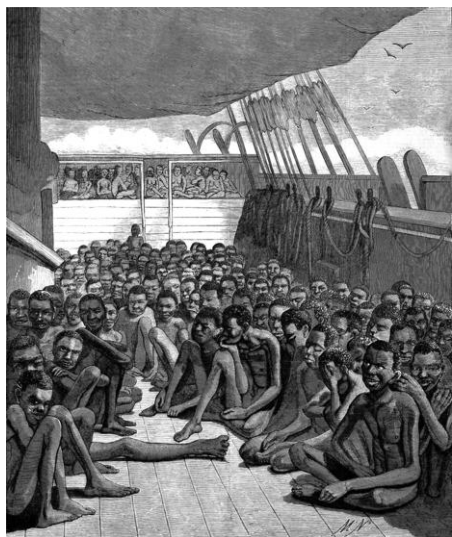
The Fourth of July parade is part of the oldest, continually running Independence Day celebration in America, Bristol, RI.

¹⁰⁷ *Slavery and Justice: Report of the Brown University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice*, Brown University. <https://slaveryandjustice.brown.edu/sites/default/files/reports/SlaveryAndJustice2006.pdf>. Accessed November 25, 2024, 12.

Ironically, the town of Bristol in Sowams has the oldest continuously celebrated Independence Day festivities in the United States. The first mention of a celebration comes from July 1777, when a British officer noted sounds coming from across Narragansett Bay, writing “This being the first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Rebel Colonies, they ushered in the morning by firing 13 cannons, one for each colony. At sunset, the rebel frigates fired another round of 13 guns.” The Bristol Fourth of July Celebration, originally called the “Patriotic Exercises,” was founded in 1785, and the Fourth of July has been celebrated every year in Bristol since that date. The Military, Civic and Firemen’s Parade is an event that today draws over 50,000 people from Rhode Island and around the world. These elaborate celebrations give Bristol its nickname, “America’s most patriotic town”.¹⁰⁸

An Overview of the Industry of Enslavement in Rhode Island and Massachusetts

The history of slavery in New England stretches back to the early 1600s. In the 17th century, the majority of enslaved people in colonial New England were Native Americans. New Englanders began to import enslaved Africans in 1638, exchanging Native Americans captured in the Pequot War for enslaved Africans from the West Indies.¹⁰⁹



Cargo of enslaved people, part of the Triangle Trade for sugar, molasses, rum, and manufactured goods around the turn of the 18th century

Four decades later, the end of King Philip’s War saw many Native Americans who fought against the English enslaved in the region or sent to the Caribbean. Enslaved people in the colonies worked on small farms and a few larger plantations, as well as in homes, shipyards, and workshops.

By the beginning of the 18th century, colonists gained access to the African slave markets and were intent on displacing Native people from their traditional homelands in order to free up agricultural land for settlement. In the early 1700s, about one-quarter of the enslaved people in Rhode Island lived in the port cities of Newport, Bristol, and Providence, where they performed the skilled and unskilled labor that enabled busy ports to operate efficiently and economically, transporting goods to and from manufactories to the wharves, loading and unloading boats. Some enslaved people also worked in Rhode Island’s 30 distilleries in 1764, of which Newport, alone, had 22.¹¹⁰

In 1652, the Rhode Island General Court passed a statute limiting the enslavement of Africans and Native people. The legislature acted again in 1659, banning the importation of African captives. Both laws went unenforced, and the enslaved population grew. By 1680, the colonial census records 175 enslaved people in Rhode Island, including both Native and Black people.¹¹¹

In 1703, the Rhode Island General Assembly reversed the anti-slavery laws by supplanting the statutes with new laws codifying the enslavement of African and Native peoples. By 1750, the Colony of Rhode Island had more enslaved people per capita than all other New England colonies. Enslaved

¹⁰⁸ “Bristol Fourth of July Parade,” Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Fourth_of_July_Parade. Accessed December 13, 2024.

¹⁰⁹ *Slavery and Justice*, 9.

¹¹⁰ *Slavery and Justice*, 10.

¹¹¹ *Slavery and Justice*, 9.

laborers constituted nearly one-third of the total population in certain Rhode Island cities and towns, and by then, the towns of Bristol, Providence, and Newport had become dominant players in the global slave trade.

During the colonial period, it became increasingly common for New England settlers who moved from the coast into smaller towns and outlying farms on the colonial frontier to bring with them one or two enslaved laborers. These enslaved people performed domestic tasks and farm work, often alongside the family members who enslaved them.



Patience Brayton was the third minister of the Swansea Friends Meeting House, the oldest extant Quaker meeting house in Massachusetts, Somerset, MA.

Credit: Colin Furze, Courtesy of South Coast Today.Pa

Although slavery was legal in Massachusetts throughout the colonial period, the institution never held the economic power it had in neighboring Rhode Island. Moreover, Massachusetts courts recognized that enslaved individuals possessed certain legal rights. They could, in some cases, own and manage property, retain wages earned outside of their enslavers' control, and initiate legal proceedings. They were also entitled to jury trials, legal representation, and limited legal protections. Although they were generally taxed as property, the legal system nonetheless acknowledged their status as persons under the law.¹¹²

Over time, Boston had the largest number of enslaved individuals in Massachusetts. In Sowams, the southeastern Massachusetts towns of Rehoboth and Swansea had enslaved populations that averaged between eight and 12 people, with Rehoboth topping 20 only one year.¹¹³ The enslaved population in these towns was significantly smaller than that in the Rhode Island communities in Sowams.

In Somerset, Massachusetts, Patience Greene Brayton used the autonomy afforded to Quaker women to become an early and outspoken critic of slavery. She was born on the west side of Narragansett Bay, and in 1758 married a farmer whose land was near Somerset and Rehoboth. Her husband held workers in bondage, but the couple freed them – a decision that sparked Brayton's lifelong commitment to abolition. She was deeply unsettled by slavery; she helped end the practice in Somerset, then traveled as far as Georgia to speak out against it. Her journey through the American South exposed her to the harsh realities of slavery. After the Revolutionary War, she represented the Society of Friends in Great Britain, where she wrote an address on slavery to King George III.¹¹⁴ Brayton's courage and persistence made her a powerful moral force in an era when slavery was widely accepted, and she helped shift public awareness at great personal cost.

In Rhode Island on the eve of the American Revolution in 1774, the enslaved population was substantial for the small colony. This was due, in part, to the many farms in Washington County, located along the western side of Narragansett Bay. Bristol, alone, counted 132 enslaved people, including

¹¹² "African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts," Massachusetts Historical Society. <https://www.masshist.org/features/endofslavery>. Accessed March 28, 2025.

¹¹³ Northeastern Slavery Records Index, City University of New York Academic Commons. <https://nesri.commonsc.gc.cuny.edu/>. Accessed March 28, 2025.

¹¹⁴ Patterson, Leslie. "The Life of Patience Greene Brayton," *Somerset Historical Society*, reprinted from *Rehoboth Now*. July 2015.

115 of African descent and 17 of Native descent. This comprised 11 percent of the town's population. Five enslaved men fought in the American Revolution – two received honorable discharges at the war's end, while three were killed in the service of a country that would not ban the enslavement of human beings for almost another century.¹¹⁵

After the American Revolution, Rhode Island became the first state to pass an anti-slavery law. In 1774, Stephen Hopkins, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, owner of enslaved people, and Rhode Island Assemblyman, introduced a bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into the colony. Massachusetts did not move to legally end slavery as early as Rhode Island, but it terminated the institution before its neighbor. The state's constitution adopted in 1780 decreed that "all men are born free and equal and have... the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties."¹¹⁶ Over the next three years, legal challenges brought by enslaved individuals brought the institution to an end in the young state.

A decade later, the Rhode Island legislature passed the Gradual Emancipation Act, noting that slavery was incompatible with the "Rights of Man." Gradual emancipation specified that enslaved people between the ages of 15 and 25 would become indentured servants after seven years, while those over that age would remain enslaved. In addition, all female children born to enslaved women after March 1, 1784, would be free at 18 years of age, and all male children at 21 years of age.

This groundbreaking bill put the institution of slavery on the road to extinction in Rhode Island, but left enslavers with significant benefits.¹¹⁷ The original bill required towns to support enslaved children until they reached the age of freedom, with the assumption that the towns would recoup the expense by binding them out to service. The towns objected strenuously, however, and the bill was amended eight months later to give the owners of enslaved mothers the responsibility for supporting children, as well as entitlement to the children's labor until they reached maturity and were eligible for manumission.¹¹⁸

Although Rhode Island's political leadership began calling Rhode Island a "free state" after March 1, 1784, little changed. Enslaved people remained enslaved, and any children born to them remained in enforced servitude for 18 to 21 years. The only immediate change introduced by the 1784 bill was to incentivize individual manumission. It relieved owners of financial responsibility for freed people, aged 21 to 40 (later amended to 30), if they became destitute.

The Revolutionary era rhetoric of natural rights moved public opinion slowly toward emancipation. In 1789, an Abolition Society was organized to secure enforcement of existing laws against the slave trade, which was ultimately abolished in 1807. By the mid-19th century, many citizens of Rhode Island and Massachusetts were active in the abolitionist movement, particularly the Quakers in Newport and Providence. The nation's first Black mutual aid society was established in Newport, followed by its sister organization, the Providence African Society.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁵ "The Triangle Trade in New England and Bristol, RI," Research BIPOC History. <https://www.researchbipochistory.org/history>. Accessed January 22, 2025.

¹¹⁶ "Massachusetts Constitution and the Abolition of Slavery," Mass.gov, an official website of the Massachusetts Commonwealth. <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-constitution-and-the-abolition-of-slavery>. Access March 28, 2025.

¹¹⁷ *Slavery and Justice*, 9.

¹¹⁸ Irving Berdine Richman, *Rhode Island: A Study in Separatism*, (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1905), 191.

¹¹⁹ *Slavery and Justice*, 18.

Following the American Revolution, the decline of slavery in Rhode Island can be attributed to a complex mix of social, economic, and semantic factors, rather than a single cause. Census data from the late 18th and early 19th centuries reflects a notable decrease in the number of enslaved individuals in the state, though interpreting this data requires caution.

The 1774 census in Rhode Island counted Black residents without distinguishing between those who were enslaved and those who were free. As a result, it is difficult to make a definitive comparison of enslaved populations across states or to determine the exact rate of decline between 1774 and the first federal census in 1790. By 1790, however, the number of enslaved individuals in Rhode Island had dropped to 948.¹²⁰ Though the 1810 census data is less readily available, estimates suggest a continued decline to around 100 enslaved individuals – an indication of a dramatic reduction over two decades, during a time when ideas of freedom and human rights were reshaping public consciousness.¹²¹

Several developments contributed to this trend. During the American Revolution, many enslaved people secured freedom by enlisting in the military on both the American and British sides. Others saw the disruption of war as an opportunity for self-emancipation, choosing to flee or otherwise escape bondage. This period also marked a shift in the importation of enslaved individuals to New England. As agricultural production in the South expanded with the rise of cotton and tobacco, the economic rationale for slavery in the North began to weaken. In Rhode Island, especially in towns like Bristol, enslaved people were most often employed in domestic roles rather than plantation labor. Consequently, the economic incentive to maintain slavery in the region diminished.

At the same time, changes in language further complicate the understanding of slavery's decline. Terminology in legal and personal records shifted during this era, with individuals who were previously labeled as "slaves" now referred to as "servants" or simply as "Negro man" or "Negro woman." This linguistic shift may have been an attempt to obscure the reality of bondage while avoiding direct acknowledgment of moral or legal responsibility. In effect, some portion of the decline in reported slave numbers may reflect changes in how individuals were described rather than actual changes in their condition.



The staircase of the Allin house (1769), recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, in the home of General Thomas Allin, his wife, 12 children, and five slaves, Barrington, RI.

Courtesy of NPS Form 10-900, National Register of Historic Places

Another indicator of changing attitudes can be seen in the way enslaved individuals were referenced in records. After the Revolution, names began to appear more frequently in documentation, replacing anonymous descriptors. This change reflects a growing recognition of the individuality and humanity of people who were enslaved. As their identities were more fully acknowledged, it may have become increasingly difficult – socially and legally – to continue treating enslaved people as property.

¹²⁰ First Census of the United States, 1790 – Rhode Island. Available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/t3ws8zq90&seq=15>. Accessed March 29, 2025.

¹²¹ Christy Clark-Pujara. *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island*, (New York, NY, 2016; online edition, NYU Press Scholarship Online, 19 Jan. 2017), <https://doi.org/10.18574/nyu/9781479870424.003.0005>. Accessed January 22, 2025, 86-109.

While Rhode Island's Gradual Emancipation laws were in place, their practical impact appears to have been limited. As argued by Joanne Pope Melish in her book *Disowning Slavery; Gradual Emancipation and Race in New England 1780–1860*, the legal and economic structures of slavery were slowly being reconstituted and replaced by societal forms of repression, such as, shifting responsibility for slavery to the South and transferring prejudice based on bondage to discrimination based on race.¹²² The broader decline in slavery was likely driven more by a combination of Revolutionary-era upheaval, shifting economic conditions, and evolving public attitudes – both in how people lived and in how they were recorded in the historical record. Whatever the cause, fifty-eight years after the inception of the gradual emancipation law that made Rhode Island a “free state,” all enslaved people in Rhode Island were officially and legally free.

Narragansett Bay Traders of Enslaved People

The slave trade that connected Europe, Africa, and the American and Caribbean colonies was begun by Europeans in the 17th century. Ships from England, Spain, France, and Portugal regularly traveled to the west coast of Africa to purchase people to work sugar and tobacco plantations in the Caribbean. A century later, as the demand for sugar exploded in Europe, Europeans opened trade to private carriers. While most of these were still European-based, merchants in Boston, New York, Charleston, and Philadelphia began to send ships to Africa. With distilleries that produced rum with a high alcohol content and with deepwater ports in the protection of Narragansett Bay, Newport, Providence, and Bristol, Rhode Island came to anchor the American slave trade by the mid-18th century. At that time, Rhode Island merchants controlled between 60 and 90 percent of the American trade of enslaved African people. By the 1770s, however, the slave trade declined to only a minor portion of the region's maritime industries. In that century, Rhode Islanders had carried out a thousand transatlantic slaving voyages, consigning over 100,000 Africans into enslavement in the Americas.¹²³

As the young United States was passing laws to make slavery and slave trading illegal, Rhode Island merchants built immense wealth and power through the triangle trade. From the late 17th



DeWolf warehouse on the historic waterfront, where the Triangle Trade drove much of the economy at the turn of the 18th century, Bristol, RI.

Courtesy of NewEngland.com, Yankee

century until 1807, when slave trading was banned in the United States, New England's economy was tied to the transatlantic triangle trade. New England, West Africa, and plantations in the Caribbean and the southern colonies and states formed three points of the trade built on manufacturing, plantation agriculture, and the enslavement of African people.

The first side of the triangle was the trip from Rhode Island and other American and European ports to the west coast of Africa. Cargoes of rum from Rhode Island distilleries, guns, textiles, and other

¹²² Joanne Pope Melish. *Disowning Slavery; Gradual Emancipation and Race in New England 1780–1860*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998).

¹²³ *Slavery and Justice*, 10.

manufactured goods were sent to the Gulf of Guinea in the country of Ghana or further west to Guinea-Bissau. After merchants traded these items for enslaved Africans, their ships would sail back across the Atlantic Ocean.

The second leg of the triangle took the ships to the hundreds of sugar plantations in South America and on the Caribbean islands in the West Indies, or to the cotton plantations in the American South. This voyage, known as the Middle Passage, is infamous for the horrific conditions in which humans were treated as cargo with little regard for their suffering or their lives. The time it would take to sail through the middle passage was dependent on the time of year and the winds. There were often storms, rough seas, and unbearable heat, and the trip could last eight to ten weeks. The average mortality rate on slave ships was 15 percent of the enslaved people being transported. Harsh labor practices and high mortality necessitated a constant flow of enslaved workers to the plantations.

Once the enslaved people were unloaded and sold, and ships were loaded with sugar cane and cotton, they sailed along the third side of the triangle, back to Rhode Island or other American and European ports. They carried sugar cane and cotton to distilleries and textile mills, where rum and cloth would be manufactured to begin the trading cycle anew. In addition to the triangle trade, Rhode Island dominated the bilateral trade with the Caribbean sugar plantations. Rhode Island operated “as the commissary of the Atlantic plantation complex,” carrying horses, lumber, iron, tobacco, and food, especially salt cod, or “Jamaica fish,” the staple protein for people enslaved in the West Indies.¹²⁴

The history of slave trading in Rhode Island is deeply entwined with the stories of two families – the DeWolf family of Bristol and the Brown family of Providence. Both families owned ships that imported slaves first to the sugar plantations in the Caribbean and later to the cotton plantations in the southern states. Both also owned distilleries that made rum from the sugar cane they purchased in the Caribbean.

Trade with the slave-based economies of the Caribbean and the American South strengthened the commercial maritime development of all of Rhode Island. Almost every commercial and agricultural enterprise was in some way connected with the slave trade. The rum distilled locally and rum distilled by other manufacturers were critical parts of the exchange for African captives and part of Rhode Island’s extensive maritime commerce. Banking and insurance, shipbuilding and ship outfitting, and the production of manufactured goods such as iron, cloth, spermaceti candles, barrels, and rope connected Rhode Island to the transatlantic slave trade. As stated in the Brown University *Report on Slavery and Justice*, “slavery was not a distinct enterprise, but rather an institution that permeated every aspect of social and economic life in Rhode Island, the Americas, and indeed the Atlantic World.”¹²⁵

While the purchase, transportation, and sale of enslaved Africans was the principal occupation of some businessmen like James DeWolf and John Brown, for others it was just one of many commercial ventures linked in some other way to the slave trade. Even for artisans, shopkeepers, and other skilled laborers and tradesmen, purchasing a few shares of a slaving voyage was a common investment. The trade even extended to agriculture, as farmers raised onions for seafaring trips because vitamin D helped treat scurvy.

¹²⁴ *Slavery and Justice*, 11.

¹²⁵ *Slavery and Justice*, 13.

The Brown Family of Providence

The first member of the Brown family to be engaged in the trade was James Brown, father to four brothers, Nicholas, Joseph, John, and Moses. James Brown was a successful ship owner who traded along the coast of North America and across the Atlantic. After James' death, his brother, Obadiah, took charge of the business, and by the mid-1700s owned more than 60 vessels, many of which sailed to Africa.

Nicholas led the establishment of the family business, Nicholas Brown and Company, and the four Brown brothers became heavily involved in the shipping industry. By 1765, when John and Moses were not yet 30, they were overseeing a fleet of 85 vessels. This included legal trade with the British, French, and Dutch, as well as illegal smuggling and privateering. The Brown brothers had grown up with enslaved servants in their homes, and as they reached adulthood, they perpetuated the practice of enslaving people.

The Brown brothers' first foray into the slave trade in 1764 was a disaster marked by disease, death, and a slave revolt. On its voyage from the Guinea Coast to St. John in the West Indies, their ship, *Sally*, lost 109 of the 196 enslaved people it carried – some to a failed insurrection, the rest to disease, suicide, and starvation. The ship was captained by Stephen Hopkins' brother Esek. This endeavor led to a split in the business dealings of the Brown family, as Nicholas, Joseph, and Moses never again trafficked humans after this event. Their decision was not wholly altruistic – they wrote of the economic risk of slaving ventures, but they continued to produce rum and supply other merchants' slave ships.¹²⁶



Splitting with his brothers, John Brown (1736 –1803) continued to invest in trading enslaved people until he stood trial in 1797 under the U.S. Slave Trade Act.

Courtesy of New York Historical Society
1948-469

John Brown continued to invest in slave voyages, causing his brothers to dissolve the business partnership. Moses Brown, who would go on to play a significant role in textile manufacturing, eventually became a Quaker and an abolitionist. He manumitted the enslaved people in his household and supported the publication of anti-slavery essays in the Providence press. John Brown vocally opposed his brother's stance, and their debate over the morality of slavery became public, reflecting a deep division in Rhode Island in the late 18th century.

On August 5, 1797, John Brown, a premier merchant and prominent citizen of Providence reluctantly appeared before the Federal District Court in his hometown and became the first American to be tried under the U.S. Slave Trade Act of 1794. After months of out-of-court wrangling with the plaintiffs and officers of a state abolition society, Brown stood trial for outfitting his ship, the *Hope*, for the African slave trade, transporting 229 enslaved people to be sold in Havana, Cuba. Prosecution was brought, in part, by his brother, Moses. John Brown emerged victorious, resulting in the decline of the abolition movement in

Providence. The next decade of the transatlantic trade was the peak for Rhode Island, with up to 50 ships a year leaving Narragansett Bay to seek captive Africans.¹²⁷ In 1807, the United States Congress finally abolished the terrible trade.

¹²⁶ *Slavery and Justice*, 17.

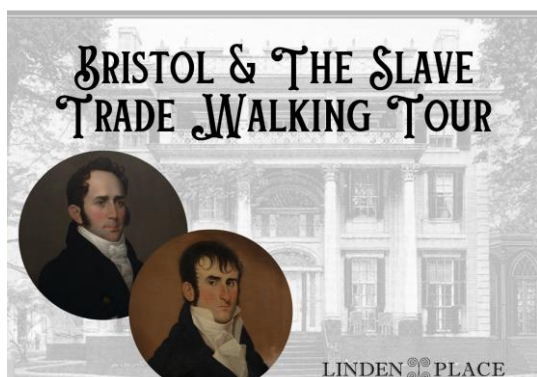
¹²⁷ *Slavery and Justice*, 22.

The history of Brown University is inextricably tied to the Brown family, who supported it financially and by serving in leadership roles at the institution. In 2006, the University created a steering committee of scholars, students, and alumni to examine and acknowledge the institution's complicity in and benefit from the transatlantic slave trade, and to highlight questions that can inform the public discussion over slavery and its legacy in society today.¹²⁸

The DeWolf Family of Bristol

Many of Bristol's elite families embarked on an intensely profitable period of human trafficking after the Revolutionary War. Ships sailing to Africa required captains and agents, as well as goods and provisions purchased from merchants, blacksmiths, coopers, carpenters, tradesmen, and farmers. Almost everyone in Bristol found ways to profit from the transatlantic trade, including through investments in financial institutions or through the purchase of slave-produced commodities. The impact of trade was so great that Bristol remained a central hub of trading activities long after the 1807 embargo outlawed the trafficking of enslaved people.¹²⁹

The town of Bristol and much of the state became economically dependent on the DeWolf family's success in the transatlantic triangle trade. Over fifty years and three generations, the DeWolf family transported about 12,000 enslaved Africans in 103 slave voyages across the Middle Passage, making the DeWolfs one of the most profitable slave-trading families in the nation.¹³⁰ In addition, they owned



The Friends of Linden Place, the 1810 mansion of General George DeWolf, offer walking tours about the trade of enslaved persons in Bristol, RI.

Courtesy of Linden Place Historic Estate Museum and Arts Center

a rum distillery, set up their own insurance company to support trading, and also established sugar and coffee plantations in Cuba. In the early 1800s, the DeWolfs began selling enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina, where the anti-slaving law had been repealed and where the need for labor on cotton plantations had accelerated.

James DeWolf leveraged his economic and political influence to circumvent laws against the slave trade, ensuring his business thrived despite increasing legal restrictions. After Rhode Island's 1787 law aimed to regulate the slave trade, DeWolf exploited Spain's lack of enforcement by registering his ships under the Spanish flag and operating out of Cuba, a Spanish colony where

his family-owned property. Elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1797, he shaped legislation to favor his interests and opposed anti-slavery measures.

When the U.S. Congress strengthened anti-slavery laws in 1800 and 1808, DeWolf continued his activities unimpeded. His political connections, including ties to President Thomas Jefferson, facilitated his appointment of a compliant customs inspector, his son-in-law, Charles Collins, who overlooked DeWolf's illegal slave-trading operations. During Collins's tenure, DeWolf's ships completed 42 voyages without interference.

¹²⁸ *Slavery and Justice*, 5–6.

¹²⁹ Catherine W. Zipf, "The Early Years of Slavery in Bristol," Rhode Island Slave History Medallions. <https://rishm.org/bristol-county-bristol-dewolfe-tavern-bristol-dewolf-warehouse-and-wharf-the-early-years-of-slavery-in-bristol>. Accessed December 13, 2024.

¹³⁰ "James Dewolf and the DeWolf Family," Tracing Center, www.tracingcenter.org/resources/background/james-dewolf/. Accessed November 26, 2024.

DeWolf's influence extended to the federal level when he became a U.S. Senator in 1820, where he supported the institution of slavery. Although he left the Senate before his term ended, he remained politically active, later serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. DeWolf's manipulation of political systems allowed him to evade accountability and sustain his role as one of America's most notorious slave traders until his death in 1837.

The Brown and DeWolf families were not the only families to actively engage in the transportation of slaves in Sowams. Merchants in Bristol and Providence played outsized roles in the triangle trade, including the Wilson, Fale, Usher, Wardwell, and Monro families, among others. Between 1705 and 1807, 167 voyages engaged in the transport of enslaved Africans originated in Bristol, and 71 left from Providence – this accounted for about 30% of the 934 voyages from Rhode Island, with the balance leaving from Newport.¹³¹

Although the United States government continued to pass laws to inhibit slavery and slave trading, including the revised Federal Slave Trade Act of 1808 and President James Madison's efforts in 1809, laws were often loosely enforced. The continuation of the slave trade into the mid-1800s is not only a reflection of the ineffectiveness of the government to enforce laws, but also an indication of how people in positions of prominence in the United States could bypass those laws and continue to build wealth illegally.¹³²

The Dynamic Interplay of Land and Water in Sowams

In Sowams, the clash of Indigenous and European worldviews at First Contact ignited a lasting struggle over control of land and water. The Pokanoket believed, and still believe, that their homeland is sacred, a gift of the Creator who entrusted them to steward it with reverence and respect. Living in balance with nature, the Tribe moved across the land with the seasons, setting up portable dwellings, rotating their crops, and following the migrations of fish and game. The English settlers viewed land as property to be owned exclusively and permanently. Fleeing economic hardship and religious persecution in Europe, the early colonists cleaved to their plot of land, a powerful symbol of their freedom in the New World.

For both the Pokanoket and the English, Narragansett Bay and the rivers, streams and estuaries in its watershed provided a network of waterways for travel, trade, and communication. Water was not only a source of sustenance, but also a resource and a conveyance. This had enormous implications as Indigenous communities lost their land and the Massachusetts and Rhode Island colonies became more established. Americans in Sowams harnessed water to power lumber, grist, and textile mills and build ships on the tidal rivers that would transport products for international trade and carry waves of immigrants seeking better lives here. The fertile nexus of land and water that has drawn people to Sowams for millennia has left a legacy of both tragedy and triumph. While the Pokanoket felt a kinship with their environment, Americans maximized its potential. Sowams' thriving maritime industries and their contribution to industrial innovation are a source of national pride, but that progress has come with a cost. Today the communities of Sowams share a deep conservation ethic and are collaborating to restore the natural balance of their living environment.

¹³¹ "The Triangle Trade in New England and Bristol, RI," Research BIPOC History. <https://www.researchbipochistory.org/history>. Accessed January 22, 2025.

¹³² Zillian, Fred. "Rhode Island Dominates North American Slave Trade in 18th Century," Small State, Big History. <https://small-statebighistory.com/rhode-island-dominates-north-american-slave-trade-in-18th-century>. Accessed December 13, 2024.



View from the East Bay Bike Path of Brickyard Pond, formed from the clay pits that supplied a thriving brickmaking industry for 300 years in Barrington, RI

Photo by George Ostertag/ Alamy

Maritime Heritage

Shipbuilding and Whaling

In the 19th century, shipbuilding and whaling were central to Warren, Rhode Island's economy. Local shipyards, such as Chace and Davis, Sylvester Child's, Captain Rufus Trink's, and James J. Cady's, constructed vessels that often sailed from larger ports like Nantucket and New Bedford. Whaling ships required both speed and durability to navigate distant Pacific and Indian Ocean hunting grounds, as Atlantic whale populations had been depleted by the late 18th century.

Whaling in Warren saw a revival in 1821 when Joseph Smith outfitted the *Rosalie* for a Pacific voyage. Despite an unsuccessful first trip, the ship's second journey, led by Captain Joseph Gardner, yielded 101 whales and sparked a whaling boom lasting about 40 years. By 1845, Warren became Narragansett Bay's leading whaling hub, with 22 vessels engaged in the trade. Among these were the *Sea-Shell*, the world's largest whaling ship, and the *Dolphin*, renowned as the fastest of Warren's "Clipper" whalers.¹³³

In Massachusetts, Barneyville, a section of northern Swansea, became a shipbuilding hub in the 1770s after Jonathan Barney opened a shipyard. His son Mason grew the business in the 19th century, garnering an international reputation. The shipyard produced 137 wooden ships before closing in 1860 due to the rise of metal-hulled, steam-powered vessels. Skilled shipwrights also constructed Mason Barney's home, once the most prominent in the area.

The legacy of shipbuilding in the region contributed to the development of contemporary industry and mass production. For more than a century, starting in 1878, the Bristol-based Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, built state-of-the-art steam ships, torpedo boats, and high-quality yachts. Herreshoff built five consecutive America's Cup Defenders between 1893 and 1920, with a total of eight over time. Another boat-building family, the Blounts, established Blount Boats, Inc. in Warren in the 1940s and is still active today. Blount Boats' most famous ship is Miss Liberty, a 600-passenger ferry that carried more than 60 million passengers to visit the Statue of Liberty on the Circle Line out of Manhattan. On the Taunton River in Somerset, the Gladding-Hearn shipyard has built more than 430 tugs and aluminum commercial vessels over the past 65 years. In 2012, Gladding-Hearn built the catamaran the Yankee Freedom III, which carries passengers to Dry

¹³³ Elizabeth S. Warren. *A History of Warren*, (Warren, RI: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, April 1975), 15.



In the 1903 America's Cup Race, 64 people crewed the "Reliance," designed by Nathanael Green Herreshoff and built by the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, the largest America's Cup Defender ever built, Bristol, RI.

Tortugas National Park off the Florida Keys, and is currently building the Yankee Freedom IV, with an expected delivery in 2026.¹³⁴ Fortier Boats, another family-owned business in Somerset, has been custom-building cabin-cruisers on the Taunton River for more than 30 years.¹³⁵

Today, there are a number of companies manufacturing composite carbon-based materials that are related to the town's historical innovations in boat building. Besides the use of these materials for ships and racing boats, these companies work with market-leading aerospace and defense contractors as well as providing solutions for architectural projects, vanes for wind turbines, and deep-water experimental vehicles.

Seafood

People of Sowams have relied upon the abundant fish and mollusk populations on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay for millennia. The rich oyster beds around the Weybosset crossing in Providence attracted Indigenous Tribes from throughout southern New England. By 1766, the oyster harvest was intense enough that the Colonial Assembly passed a law against overfishing. Thirty years later, the state of Rhode Island mandated seasonal closures of oyster beds in a continued attempt to prevent overharvesting of the beds. In the 19th century, the state was able to manage the Bay's floor sustainably, encouraging shellfish aquaculture by developing and leasing public oyster beds to private firms. Pollution in Long Island Sound resulted in the decline of beds there by the 1880s, spurring the industry in Narragansett Bay.

Initially, men in small skiffs would use oyster tongs to bring up the catch, then transfer it to a larger boat, which would carry it to one of many oyster houses in the region. Warren alone had ten on the Warren River and two on the Kickemuit River. The introduction of the mechanical dredge in the early 20th century increased production. By 1912, the peak year of oyster farming in the Bay, oysters made up sixty percent of Rhode Island's fishery income and there were more than 20,000 acres of oyster beds in cultivation.¹³⁶ After 1915, pollution in the Bay led to a decline in the industry. Cold winters in the 1930s, along with the Hurricane of 1938, damaged around 80 percent of the remaining beds, forcing a shift away from oystering.

Narragansett Bay's quahog clams provided the next seafood boom. Like oysters, clams were a common Indigenous food – clambakes and chowder both have roots in Native American food traditions. Quahog shells were also the source of wampum, used for trade. Wild clams were harvested

¹³⁴ "History," Gladding-Hearn Shipbuilding. <https://gladding-hearn.com/about/history/>. Accessed March 29, 2025.

¹³⁵ "About," Fortier Boats. <https://fortierboats.com/fortier-33/>. Accessed March 29, 2025.

¹³⁶ The Oyster Industry, Warren Historic Site. HMdb.org, The Historical Marker Database. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=222991>. Accessed December 3, 2024.

by treading or raking the muddy bottom of the estuary. In the 20th century, wild harvests gave way to shellfish farms that supplied everything from local restaurants to Campbell's Soup Corporation's clam chowder.¹³⁷



Oyster harvesting has been a part of the Sowams economy for millennia.

Courtesy of Blount Fine Foods

The Blount family epitomizes the seafood industry on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay. In 1880, Eddie Blount established an oyster packing firm in Barrington. His grandson, Nelson Blount, made the transition from oystering to clams. In 1938, Nelson persuaded Senator Theodore Green to put quahogs on the War Department's approved list, creating a huge market for quahoggers. A decade later, he established the lucrative relationship with Campbell's Soup and established Blount's Clam Shack on the Warren waterfront, a seasonal favorite. The fifth generation of the Blount family continues to operate the seafood business, now known as Blount Fine Foods. With production facilities in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Texas, the company is the largest fresh soup manufacturer in the country.¹³⁸

The Blounts are among many multigenerational seafood families and longstanding seafood restaurants and markets. Tony's Seafood, with establishments in Warren and Seekonk, traces its roots to Angelo Pirri, a Sicilian fisherman who settled in Bristol in the early 1900s.¹³⁹

Restaurants like the Lobster Pot and Quito's, established in Bristol in 1929 and 1954 respectively, and family-run seafood markets like Andrade's Catch, carry forward important, living traditions in Sowams. In addition, many communities still hold clam bakes, including Rehoboth, in which the Town Committee hosts an annual Old Tyme Clam Bake each August.

Industrial Revolution

An important development in the region's economic history was the rise of textile manufacturing, which in New England was another cog in the wheel of transatlantic trade. Moses Brown helped bring water-powered technology to manufacturing in the United States, hiring English immigrant Samuel Slater to replicate the machinery in Pawtucket, north of Providence, in 1793. The adoption of this technology, regarded as a state secret in England, sparked the American Industrial Revolution. By 1815, the tiny state of Rhode Island had more than 167 textile mills, most of them within 30 miles of Providence.¹⁴⁰

In Warren, the Warren Manufacturing Company built the town's first cotton mill along the Warren River in 1847. After a fire destroyed much of the complex in 1895, the company rebuilt a massive complex along the waterfront. At its peak, the company ran 50,000 spindles and employed up to 500 people. Company housing filled the adjacent streets.¹⁴¹

¹³⁷ "How the Quahog Became a Rhode Island Icon," New England Historical Society. <https://newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/how-the-quahog-became-a-rhode-island-icon/>. Accessed December 3, 2024.

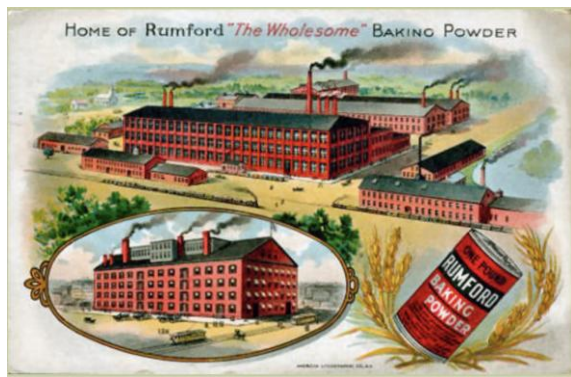
¹³⁸ From Sea to Soup: The Evolution of Blount Fine Foods, est. 1946. Blount Fine Foods. <https://blountfinefoods.com/sea-to-soup>. Accessed December 3, 2024.

¹³⁹ "Our History," Tony's Seafood. <https://tonysfreshseafood.com/wholesale/tonys-seafood-history/>. Accessed December 3, 2024.

¹⁴⁰ Hillary Brown. "Innovation or Bust! The Surprising Story of New England's Textile Heyday," *Frederic Magazine*, April 28, 2020. <https://fredericmagazine.com/2020/04/new-england-textile-industry-history/>. Accessed December 5, 2024.

¹⁴¹ "Warren Manufacturing Co. Mill/1896," Buildings of New England. <https://buildingsofnewengland.com/2020/06/05/warren-manufacturing-co-mill-1896/>. Accessed December 5, 2024.

Textile mills in other communities in the Sowams region produced lace, yarn, and imitation leather. Textiles led to the development of other manufacturing. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, manufacturing dominated Providence's economy, including cotton textiles, woolen items, jewelry, and silver. By the 1890s, Providence and its surroundings boasted more than 1,500 factories. Providence was home to the world's largest tool factory (Brown & Sharpe), file factory (Nicholson File), engine factory (Corliss Steam Engine), screw factory (American Screw), and silver factory (Gorham Silver). The city led the nation in manufacturing jewelry and producing woolen and worsted goods.¹⁴²



Founded in 1856, Rumford Chemical Works manufactured the iconic Rumford Baking Powder for more than 100 years in East Providence, RI.



Rumford Center is a thriving adaptive reuse enterprise in the original Rumford Chemical Works factory complex, East Providence, RI.

Courtesy of Rumford Center

From the late 17th century through the 19th century, water-powered mills and factories were established along the Palmer River in Rehoboth, driving economic growth in the town. Industries like textile manufacturing and ironworks shaped the local landscape and provided essential employment opportunities.

All the cities in Sowams had an industrial presence. Bristol focused primarily on marine trades and machining. Brickmaking and textiles were important in Barrington. Textiles also dominated Warren, Seekonk, and Rehoboth. Swansea had jewelry manufacturing, and Somerset's primary industry was a cannery.

Industrial innovation catalyzed educational innovation in a state that had become well-known for radical ideas. In 1877, the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) was established in Providence by the Rhode Island Women's Centennial Commission under the capable leadership of Helen Adelia Rowe Metcalf. The organization used surplus funds raised for Rhode Island's contribution to the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition to start the school – a far more impactful idea than others on the table, such as building a fountain. The school was intended to support the textile and jewelry industries. Primary courses of study included Freehand Drawing and Painting and Mechanical Drawing and Design. The coeducational institution has included a museum throughout its 150-year history.¹⁴³

¹⁴² "History," Rising Sun Mills. <https://risingsunmill.com/about/history>. Accessed December 5, 2024.

¹⁴³ "History and Tradition," Rhode Island School of Design. <https://www.risd.edu/about/history-and-tradition>. Accessed January 22, 2025.

In the 20th century, Rhode Island's industrial strength diminished as the textile industry shifted to the South. The migration of manufacturing accelerated during the 1920s and worsened during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although World War II brought a temporary resurgence, the decline resumed steadily by the mid-20th century, as other industries responded to global economic trends and moved out of state or out of the country. The exception was costume jewelry, which stayed strong through the 1990s, until global competition led to a decline in that industry.¹⁴⁴

Immigration

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants, particularly as they fueled the rise of industry from the mid-19th century into the 1920s. A second peak began in the last quarter of the 20th century and remains strong today, with immigrants originating from Latin America, Asia, and Africa.¹⁴⁵

The Sowams region of eastern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts has followed these national trends, with thousands of French Canadian, Italian, Irish, Polish, Portuguese, and Cape Verdean immigrants making their lives and livelihoods here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most immigrants came to escape poverty in their homelands and to seek opportunity in the textile mills and other emerging industries. They established ethnic enclaves in the communities in which they settled, the legacy of which is often still evident today.

Many of these immigrants were Catholic, a vastly different religious background than the Protestant Separatist and Puritan ideology that had taken root in both religion and politics more than two centuries in the past. By the turn of the 20th century, Rhode Island became the nation's first state with a Catholic majority. As the largest city and the main port, the history of immigration is most visible in Providence, although the entire Sowams region experienced the patterns described below.

The Irish were among the early immigrants, initially coming to work on public construction projects. The Dorr Rebellion of the early 1840s attempted to expand voting rights to all white men in Rhode Island, with the Irish being an important segment of that. The movement failed, and in 1842 the editor of the *Providence Journal*, also a U.S. Senator, observed it was not possible to assimilate Irish Catholics because they were foreigners and vassals of the Catholic Church. Irish immigration increased significantly when the potato blight caused the Great Famine, beginning in 1845. Growing numbers of poor and unskilled Irish led to increased prejudice, which in turn contributed to unemployment, poverty, and alcoholism. The tenements in Providence's Federal Hill neighborhood were established as an Irish enclave. Eventually, Irish immigrants and their children



Helen Adelia Rowe Metcalf, co-founder of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

Courtesy of the Rhode Island School of Design Museum

¹⁴⁴ "Manufacturing in Rhode Island," Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Rhode-Island-state/Manufacturing>. Accessed December 5, 2024.

¹⁴⁵ United States, Department of Homeland Security, 2021 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, 2022).

overcame these difficult beginnings, and in 1906, Providence elected its first and only immigrant Mayor, famine refugee Patrick J. McCarthy.¹⁴⁶

Providence and East Providence both experienced significant Italian immigrations beginning in the 1870s. Because people followed relatives and friends, many Italian communities reflected regional differences in Italy. By 1920, there were more Italian immigrants in Rhode Island than any other foreign-born ethnicity, making up 19 percent of the state's foreign-born population.¹⁴⁷ Irish and Italian immigrants were predominately Catholic, but the Irish controlled the church hierarchy, often disdaining Italian practices as a folk religion. Italians quickly established their own churches, which served as the political, social, and philanthropic heart of communities.



Golrick and Cottrell, Irish grocers in 1910 on Federal Hill, Providence, RI

At the turn of the 20th century, Federal Hill was home to large numbers of both Irish and Italian immigrants. Over the following two decades, the neighborhood became the center of the city's Italian American population. It retained this status until the 1960s, by which time housing conditions had deteriorated, and many children of immigrants had built on their parents' hard work, moving to more affluent neighborhoods.¹⁴⁸ The neighborhood still retains its Little Italy feel, with Italian restaurants and annual cultural celebrations continuing this legacy.

The largest of migration of French Canadians to Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts occurred in the 1860s. The economic boom the Civil War created drew immigrants to the textile mills. They arrived by train, unlike European immigrants, resulting in more opportunity for people to work temporarily and return to Canada. Language was central to religion and culture for French Canadians. The expression "la survivance," meaning "survival," came to refer to the way in which French Canadian mill workers held onto their francophone culture in the face of anglicization in 19th century New England.¹⁴⁹ Many French Canadians settled in Barrington to work at the Rhode Island Lace works, to which they brought a tradition of lace-making skills.¹⁵⁰

While much of the region's immigration patterns mirror other parts of New England, Portuguese and Cape Verdean immigration stands out in Sowams. Despite distinct cultural differences and the vast physical distance that separates Cape Verde and Portugal, the history of both peoples is connected because Cape Verde was a Portuguese colony until it gained independence in 1975.

¹⁴⁶ "The History of the Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial," Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial. <https://rifaminememorial.org/about/>, Accessed December 28, 2024.

¹⁴⁷ Carmela E. Santoro. *The Italians in Rhode Island: The Age of Exploration to the Present, 1524–1989*, Rhode Island Pamphlet Series, (Providence: The Rhode Island Heritage Commission and the Rhode Island Publications Society, 1990), 3.

¹⁴⁸ Santoro, *The Italians in Rhode Island*, 8.

¹⁴⁹ "The Little Canadas of New England," New England Historical Society. <https://newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-little-canadas-of-new-england/>. Accessed December 10, 2024.

¹⁵⁰ "Barrington's Industrial Past," Barrington Preservation Society, Barringtonpreservation.org. Accessed December 8, 2024.



St. Elizabeth Church in Bristol, RI celebrates the Santo Cristo dos Milagres Feast, featuring traditional Portuguese music, cuisine, and a dazzling procession through the neighborhood.

Photo by Shawn Viveiros - Digitalvivo.com

The earliest Portuguese immigrants were Sephardic Jews that settled in Newport in the 17th and 18th centuries. The next phase of Portuguese immigration, which also included the first Cape Verdean immigrants, was tied to the whaling industry that flourished from the 1860s to the 1880s. Whaling ships out of Warren, Rhode Island and New Bedford, Massachusetts frequently took on Portuguese mariners in the Azores and in Cape Verde on regular stops in these island outposts. After the decline of the whaling industry, many Portuguese chose to stay in Providence, working in the maritime and textile industries. Their settlement spurred another wave of immigration, as employment opportunities in textile mills drew their families and friends to Rhode Island through the 1920s.

Immigration in the United States slowed to a trickle with the U.S. Congress' passage of the 1924 National Origins Quota Act, which limited the number of newly arriving immigrants to 2 percent of the existing immigrant populations. Legislation was lifted briefly to allow for Portuguese refugees fleeing a volcanic eruption in the Azores in 1950. The Quota Act was lifted in 1965, and 100,000 Portuguese immigrants arrived in the country over the next decade, many settling in communities with a strong Portuguese presence in Rhode Island. In Sowams, the towns of Bristol, Warren, East Providence, and the Fox Point and Washington Park sections of Providence are notable for their Portuguese populations.¹⁵¹ The Catholic church and strong patriarchal families formed the central tenets of community. Annual parish festas, or "feast days," continue to carry the Portuguese legacy, most importantly the Feast of the Holy Ghost. In addition, many Portuguese cultural societies help maintain living traditions.

The Cape Verde archipelago is situated 350 miles off the west coast of Africa. A crossroads in the middle of the Atlantic, its isolation and its connections to both Africa and Portugal situated it in the midst of the transatlantic slave trade and the whaling industry. A creole culture was born of these ethnic influences, and by the late 19th century that culture was dominant in Cape Verde as well as the immigrant population that settled in Sowams. As with Portuguese immigrants, many Cape Verdeans worked aboard ships that had passed through the islands, and found their way to new lives in the United States. After the end of the whaling era, many found employment in the marine industries and the mills. However, societal racism in the 19th and 20th centuries limited opportunities for many Cape Verdeans with darker skin tones, despite their reputation for hard work, while immigrants from lighter-skinned ethnic groups often faced fewer barriers to advancement.

Vessels no longer needed for whaling were put into service as packet ships, transporting freight, mail, and passengers back and forth between Providence and Cape Verde. Until the packet trade ended around 1965, it was instrumental in keeping Cape Verdean immigrants connected to their homeland, providing remittances of money earned in the United States, and bringing new Cape

¹⁵¹ Rachel M. Cunha, Susan A Pacheco, and Beth Pereira Wolfson. *The Portuguese in Rhode Island: A History*. Rhode Island Pamphlet Series, (Providence: The Rhode Island Heritage Commission and the Rhode Island Publications Society, 1985), 7–10.

Verdeans to Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. By the 1980s, the population of people with Cape Verdean ancestry in the United States exceeded the population of the Republic of Cabo Verde, and the remittances that immigrants continued to send home comprised one-third of the tiny nation's annual budget of \$75 million. The largest populations were in New Bedford, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island.¹⁵²

In the early 20th century, the cultural heart of the Cape Verdean community was Providence's Fox Point neighborhood. By the 1950s, however, major transportation projects, including the construction of Interstate 95, cut the community off from the waterfront and forced residents elsewhere. East Providence, Rhode Island and Seekonk, Massachusetts saw increases in Cape Verdean residents, as did other areas of Providence.¹⁵³ Churches, strong interfamilial relationships, and mutual aid societies that provided assistance and social opportunities were the main pillars of the community. Today, all three have a role in overseeing the conservation of cultural traditions in music, arts, and foods, as well as the annual July 5th celebration of Cape Verdean independence.

Sowams Today

Regional Economy

Sowams today has a diverse economy based on health services and biomedicine, tourism, defense shipbuilding and maritime trades, and manufacturing, most of which are tied to the region's past and its location on Narragansett Bay.

Tourism is also connected to the region's cultural and natural heritage – Narragansett Bay, the historic waterfronts and neighborhoods, and the rivers and open spaces. Visitor data is tracked differently in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and the Sowams communities in Rhode Island are grouped into three different regions. As such, only broad generalizations are included here.

On both sides of the state line in 2023, visitation in Sowams communities surpassed pre-Covid numbers. In Rhode Island, dining and recreation are the leading categories for visitor spending in the regions that contain Sowams communities. In Barrington, Bristol, and Warren, arts, entertainment, and recreation comprised the leading category, accounting for 28 percent, or \$9 million, of the communities' \$31 million tourism revenue in 2023.¹⁵⁴ While those three towns have a much smaller tourism industry than industry giants like Providence and Newport, the data speaks to the importance of Narragansett Bay, Sowams' cultural



Kyle Dufur, captain of the fully restored 1938 Black Watch ocean racing yacht in Somerset Boatyard of Bristol Marine, Somerset, MA

Courtesy of Bristol Marine

¹⁵² Waltraud Berger Coli and Richard A. Lobban. *The Cape Verdeans in Rhode Island: A Brief History*. Rhode Island Pamphlet Series, (Providence: The Rhode Island Heritage Commission and the Rhode Island Publications Society, 1990), 3-8.

¹⁵³ Coli and Lobban, *The Cape Verdeans in Rhode Island*, 10.

¹⁵⁴ Tourism Economics. *The Economic Impact of Visitors in Rhode Island 2023*, October 2024. https://commercieri-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/p/donna_graham/EdMOCS6b25xEmhXzly5TyWABwaU2o3Yye3-WN0ujr_R32g?rttime=0d_7ebUc3Ug. Accessed December 14, 2024, 23.

and natural resources. In southeastern Massachusetts, the category of arts, entertainment, and recreation does not rank as highly in visitor spending as its Rhode Island counterparts, but tourism revenue is up more than 25% over pre-COVID earnings.¹⁵⁵

Land and Water Conservation

The watershed of Narragansett Bay has sustained the people of Sowams for 12,000 years. Robust conservation organizations are among the many partners documented in the feasibility study (see Appendix D – Sowams Partners). In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, conservation organizations work collaboratively to protect the land and the rivers, streams, and estuaries that flow into the Bay. In the second half of the 20th century, grassroots environmental efforts in the U.S. grew significantly, with watershed associations, land trusts, and conservation commissions working to protect scenic, recreational, and ecological resources. These efforts have evolved from single-objective conservation goals to recognizing the diverse uses and benefits of healthy environments, open spaces, and water access.

Today, the Sowams region is defined by a deep-rooted conservation ethic that brings together state agencies, regional planners, land trusts, and grassroots advocates in a shared effort to safeguard land, water, and wildlife. Partnerships between statewide conservation groups and local districts have protected thousands of acres, restored critical habitats, and advanced policies that balance recreation, farming, and ecological health. Coordinated initiatives along the Bay and its tributaries – from innovative storm-water projects in urban neighborhoods to watershed stewardship programs on rural rivers – demonstrate how science, education, and community action reinforce one another. Municipal land trusts and citizen coalitions complement these efforts by maintaining trails, monitoring water quality, and championing public access. Together, these overlapping networks of public and private actors sustain the environmental integrity and cultural character of Sowams while fostering broad public engagement with the landscape.



The Town of Barrington, the State of Rhode Island, and the Barrington Land Conservation Trust collaborated to restore the salt marsh on the Walker Farm Preserve, Barrington, RI.

Courtesy of East Bay Media Group

¹⁵⁵ DRA, The Economic Impact of Visitors: Massachusetts 2023 State, Regional, & County Impacts, October 2024. https://www.visitma.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Economic-Impact-of-Travel-Report_MA_10.30.24.pdf. Accessed December 14, 2024, 65.

Contemporary Native American Tribes

The Complexity of Identity

Tribal identity is complex, involving issues of land, religious background, and intertribal and intercultural mixing. Identity is an obstacle for many of the Tribes across New England, especially in light of the common narrative that Tribes were eradicated in the colonial era. A Tribal leader challenged this narrative, stating, “they took away our culture, took away our language, and told us to ‘prove who we are,’ but they know who we are.”

According to an article on the Pokanoket diaspora, “In the times following the [King Philip’s] war, Tribal identity became more fluid, and Tribal members would associate with whatever Tribe gave them the most protection. By the 1720s, some New England Indians and their offspring were mixed race, and this trend only increased during succeeding decades.”¹⁵⁶

An important but often divisive element of identity is the recognition of Tribal sovereignty by state governments or the United States government. The recognition process relies in large part on treaties, census records, land deeds, and other historical documentation that often forms an imperfect picture of identity. Furthermore, recognition may provide autonomy and bring access to resources to some Tribes that non-recognized Tribes lack. State and federal governments, as well as some Tribes, are often exclusionary in their approach to Tribal identity, inadvertently or intentionally preventing political and financial gains for non-recognized Tribes.

Census records are often used to identify race in the past, and while they may be helpful if they include specific information on Tribes, they can also prove adverse. Scholar Jeremy Bangs observed that census descriptions were based on the perceptions of the census workers, so despite being of Native American descent, a person could be categorized as “Black” or “White” based solely on the observation of the census-taker. In the present, these records can be used to deny Tribes their ancestry.¹⁵⁷ In the midst of this complexity, modern Indigenous groups are recreating their identity, studying history, and emphasizing their “chosen” ancestry. Dr. Bangs emphasized “chosen” as most Tribal descendants in New England today have mixed ancestry among the Tribes, possibly including European and African ancestors. He acknowledged that the Pokanoket have done this and sees the approach as valid. “They have demonstrated ancestral connections, are tied to the place, and are working to reclaim their history and traditions. Those who continue to maintain connection to the past, and are reviving it, are legitimate.”



Pokanoket Protest (2017) at Burr's Hill in Warren, RI

In the present, as in the past, land is often central to Tribal identity. For Tribes, it is important to retain a connection to place, as well as to have somewhere to gather people and catalyze their action. Land acknowledgements, which have become increasingly common for universities, his-

¹⁵⁶ Po Menuhkesu Menenok. “The History of the Pokanoket Tribal Diaspora,” Pokanoket Diaspora History, July 2022, 1–2, [Sowams Heritage Area Project - Google Drive](#). Accessed April 12, 2023.

¹⁵⁷ Jeremy D. Bangs, personal communication, January 22, 2023.

toric sites, and local government, are important tools in identity politics. However, some Indigenous scholars and leaders point out that land acknowledgements are “imperfect tools” that oversimplify complex issues, obscure history, and burden the Tribes they aim to help.¹⁵⁸

Identity can prove problematic for projects involving Tribal history when federal recognition is invoked, often to the exclusion of other Tribes. This has happened twice in the Sowams region in recent years. First, during the reburial of Ousamequin in Warren, where the Mashpee Wampanoag of Massachusetts were invited to participate, but the Pokanoket – direct descendants living in Sowams were excluded. Second, an NPS American Battlefield Protection Grant on the Sowams site of the first battle of King Philip’s War required input from three federally recognized Tribes, but the Pokanoket and other non-federally recognized Tribes were excluded despite being the closest Native American groups to the project area. Local organizations and government have tended to be more inclusive and open to the complexities of Tribal identity than state and federal entities.

What’s In a Name?

Understanding the distinction between pre-colonial identities like the Pokanoket and the post-colonial “Wampanoag” identity is crucial for honoring the true history and diversity of Indigenous peoples in New England. In the 17th century, “Wampanoag” was a local geographical description for the “dawn” in the Algonquin language. It was commonly described to mean “easterner.” “Wampanoag” was not used during the contact period; rather it came into usage during King Philip’s War, gaining popularity in the 1820s due to a play entitled “Metamora; or The Last of the Wampanoag,” a fictionalized account based very loosely on the relationship between Native American Tribes and Puritan settlers. Today, the federally recognized Mashpee Wampanoag and six other Tribes include the term in their name.

The Pokanoket Tribe was formerly known as the Pokanoket Tribe/Wampanoag Nation, but gave up the “Wampanoag” portion of their name in 2015 because they believe that name was forced upon them during the King Philip’s War by the English and their Tribal allies. Instead, the Pokanoket have chosen to exclusively use the name their ancestors used before the English arrived. According to Pokanoket Tribal Historian Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr.:

We took a long look at our history and started asking questions. We came to the conclusion that this was a word forced upon us by our conquerors, and used by our ancestors as a means of survival in a hostile environment. We interpret removing the name as a symbolic means of decolonizing our identity.¹⁵⁹

Unfortunately, much of the recent academic scholarship about the region has not caught up with the name change. Despite scholars unanimously recognizing the Massasoit Ousamequin as the leader of the confederation who established an alliance with Plymouth’s leaders, and also recognizing Sowams as his home, recent publications still refer to Ousamequin as being “Wampanoag.” This creates confusion in the wider public, and, because of the contemporary stakes associated with identity, it also gives politicians and other Tribes a tool to challenge the legitimacy of the Pokanoket. Land acknowledgements, local education, and some scholars are beginning to turn the tide on the use of the anachronistic word “Wampanoag” in Sowams.

¹⁵⁸ Harmeet Kaur. “Land Acknowledgments are Often an Empty Gesture, Some Indigenous People Say,” CNN, November 22, 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/22/us/native-americans-land-acknowledgments-cec/index.html>. Accessed April 14, 2023.

¹⁵⁹ Donald “Strong Turtle” Brown, Jr., Pokanoket Tribal Historian. Personal communication, April 7, 2025.

Potumtuk – Sowams Land Returns to Indigenous Hands

On November 15, 2024, more than 340 years after losing the property, the Pokanoket Tribe reclaimed Potumtuk, or Mount Hope, the sacred site that their ancestors had stewarded for millennia and that served as the seat of Ousamequin's and Metacom's power. Brown University transferred 255 acres of its Mount Hope property in Bristol, Rhode Island, to a preservation trust established by the Pokanoket Indian Tribe. The transfer stems from a 2017 agreement after the Pokanoket Tribe and their supporters set up an encampment to reclaim their ancestral homeland, which they argued was taken illegally centuries ago.

In preparation for the transfer, Brown University commissioned a cultural sensitivity assessment that identified Potumtuk as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), which makes it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places based on its associations with the cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, and lifeways of a living community. The study also recognized other sites on the property that hold significance for the Pokanoket Tribe. In addition, Brown sold 120 acres of the surrounding land to the Town of Bristol to serve as an open space buffer for the Pokanoket land. Bristol's land will become Mt. Hope Community Forest.¹⁶⁰

Building on this foundation, the Rhode Island Senate passed a resolution on May 7, 2025, entitled "Senate Resolution Supporting Recognition of the Pokanoket Tribe as the Ancient and Ongoing Stewards of Their Ancestral Homeland, and Acknowledging Their Central Role in Shaping the Region's Past, Present, and Future."¹⁶¹



Members of the Pokanoket Tribe return to Potumtuk (Mt. Hope) on November 15, 2024, Bristol, RI.

Courtesy of East Bay Media Group

¹⁶⁰ "Brown Transfers Bristol Land to Tribe and Town," *Bristol Phoenix* (November 21, 2024). eastbayri.com. Accessed November 21, 2024.

¹⁶¹ "Rhode Island Senate Resolution 1034," LegiScan: Bringing People to the Process. <https://legiscan.com/RI/bill/S1034/2025>. Accessed May 12, 2025.

On December 4, 2025, the Pokanoket Tribe released a statement that described their plans for the Mt. Hope Lands.

First and foremost, to state for the record, there will be no casino.

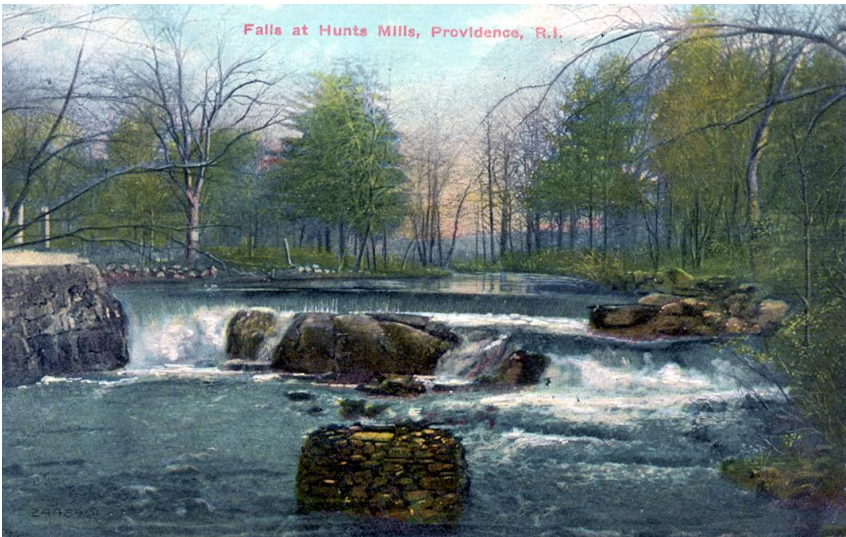
As stewards of these lands and waterways, we intend to do nothing less than to live in balance and harmony with them. Over the past year, we have been working with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services and with a forestry expert to assess the health of the forest. We are collaborating with the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District to help guide our plans on how to best restore the land and its ecosystems. We are exploring agricultural initiatives and the sustainable use of ocean resources in collaboration with support from additional agencies.

...Our intention is to share our culture, our history, and the beauty of this land with you. The reclaiming of Potumtuk by the Pokanoket Tribe and the State of Rhode Island's recognition of their homeland are seminal events that connect the past, present, and future in Sowams

CHAPTER 3 – SIGNIFICANCE, THEMES, RESOURCES, AND BOUNDARY

Significant Histories

Two of the three primary organizing elements of an NHA are a nationally significant story and the historic, cultural, and natural resources remaining on a landscape that support that story. In addition to an anchoring story and resources with national significance, an NHA also encompasses the wider experience of a living cultural landscape, past and present. Importantly, a region’s history and culture form the connective tissue of an NHA. While sharing significant histories may be one of the goals of an NHA, the ultimate purpose of designating an NHA is to use that history to build regional collaboration and opportunities in historic preservation, living traditions, natural resource conservation, recreation, education, heritage tourism, and economic development.



The 10-Mile River has been a water source for local industries, such as Hunt's Mills, built in 1645 to operate a saw mill, grist mill, and fulling mill, East Providence, RI.

In the initial phase of the feasibility study for an NHA in Sowams, the PointHDC team explored the region’s multilayered histories, identifying and articulating the stories that provide important cultural connections in the region and help determine its national significance. Subsequently, the planning team and steering committee built out those concepts into a thematic framework that supports the region’s contribution to the nation’s heritage. The themes and supporting resources were tested in review by seven subject matter experts and the public (see Appendix A – Planning Participants and Appendix B – Sowams Public Outreach Activities).

Significant Histories as a Catalyst

The nationally significant story of the Sowams region was the catalyst for area residents to organize and pursue NHA designation. Sowams is the homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin, who established a peaceful contract with European settlers in the New World, and also the place where war shattered that peace with devastating consequences and centuries-long precedence for the treatment of Indigenous peoples in North America. In the survey conducted in 2022, Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee members resoundingly confirmed that this is the region’s significance, and that they are involved because of their commitment to the region’s history and heritage.

Defining Significance

National Heritage Areas are defined by nationally distinctive landscapes. Landscapes that are unique on a national level are areas that hold significant regional and national narratives. These, along with their related natural and cultural resources, allow Americans to appreciate, safeguard, and honor essential elements of the nation's heritage. According to the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* established by NPS, these landscapes are often places that represent and contain identifiable assemblages of resources with integrity associated with one or more of the following:¹⁶²

1. important historical periods of the nation and its people
2. major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantively to the nation's history, customs, beliefs, and folklore
3. distinctive cultures and cultural mores
4. major industries and technological, business, manufacturing innovations/ practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantively to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people
5. transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce
6. social movements that substantively influenced past and present-day society
7. American art, craft literature, and music
8. distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements
9. major scientific discoveries and advancements
10. other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage



RISD students Amadi Williams and Isaiah "Prophet" Raines curated *Sonder: The Black Biennial* at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

Courtesy of Rhode Island School of Design

As described in the historic context (Chapter 2 – Shifting Currents), the history of Sowams and the resources that remain on the landscape reflect many of these attributes. The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, in collaboration with the PointHDC study team, distilled the region's history into a statement of significance and themes that flow from that significance. These are set forth below, followed by a description of the natural and cultural resources associated with Sowams and its significant histories.

¹⁶² National Park Service, *National Feasibility Study Guidelines*, 2019, pg. 16. https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/NHA-Feasibility-Study-Guidelines_FINAL-Revisions-2019_508-compliant.pdf. Accessed April 6, 2025.

The Significance of Sowams

Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe and their leader, the Massasoit Ousamequin, is nationally significant for its association with events that changed the course of history in what we now know as the United States. The Sowams region today comprises nine towns and cities along the border of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, on the northeastern watershed of Narragansett Bay.

This landscape is the setting for the critical alliance between the Pokanoket Tribe and the Mayflower settlers, and the fracturing of that alliance in King Philip's War. It is here, on the frontier of Plimoth Colony, that early theological reformers introduced the concept of religious freedom and the separation of Church and State. Here, a century later, two family dynasties propelled the regional economy with enterprises that financed the transatlantic trade of human cargo, fueling the industry of enslavement for 75 years. In Sowams, the clash of Indigenous and European worldviews at First Contact ignited a lasting struggle over the land and water, pitting a culture of spiritual reverence against resource exploitation. This pattern would repeat itself across the North American continent, setting a precedent for the colonization of Indigenous lands and molding the political, economic, and social heritage of the nation.



Fishing on Narragansett Bay

This statement of significance is grounded in a watershed time in the nation's history, beginning with the first contact period commemorated in the legend of the First Thanksgiving and ending with the systematic oppression of a civilization that had thrived on this land for millennia. These events took place where land and water meet on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay, on a landscape that continues to play a prominent role in the lives of those who call it home.

The statement highlights the differences between the Indigenous world that existed prior to the arrival of the Mayflower and the Europe colonization that occurred during the first half of the 17th century. It confronts the little-known, but devastating, King Philip's War that set the course of American history. It also drives home how the cultural divisions imprinted during the early years of European settlement continued to marginalize Indigenous people across North America for centuries. History leaves a living legacy. This statement of significance illustrates how this shared cultural landscape has continuously evolved to the present day.

Themes for a National Heritage Area

Understanding how the region contributes to the broader story of national heritage provides a foundation for developing interpretive themes – key stories that highlight the most meaningful ideas and concepts connected to that significance. These themes explain why the stories matter today and make them relevant to both residents and visitors. Once themes are identified, they help guide the recognition of natural and cultural resources that support and illustrate those stories, allowing people to connect more deeply with, appreciate, and honor the region's lasting contributions to the nation's heritage.

The Time and Place Where Two Worlds Met

In 1621 in their homeland of Sowams the Pokanoket Tribe, whose ancestors had lived in the region for 12,000 years, and the English settlers arriving on the Mayflower forged a 50-year non-aggression treaty. Each saw their mutual survival in that watershed alliance, but their divergent concepts of law, land ownership, and personal freedom were worlds apart and would change the course of history.

Ancestors of the Pokanoket people had been living in the Sowams region for 12,000 years. When European traders began arriving in North America in the 16th and 17th centuries, they brought devastating communicable diseases that wiped out more than 75% of New England's entire Indigenous population by the early 1600s. The Pilgrims, Separatist Protestants from England via Holland, were welcomed by the leader of the Pokanoket confederation, the Massasoit Ousamequin. Weakened by the pandemic and threatened by the Narragansett across the bay, Ousamequin entered into a remarkable 50-year alliance with the Plymouth Colony in March of 1621. This alliance is enshrined in national conscience through the myth of the First Thanksgiving, which was promulgated in the 19th Century. Ousamequin's watershed alliance with the Separatist Pilgrims serves as a window to understanding Tribal cultures before the arrival of English settlers, the multi-directional interaction among Tribes and the settlers in the English colonies, the wide-ranging impacts of cultural contact, the difficult history of a beloved American holiday and the commemoration of a National Day of Mourning that began in 1970, and the Tribes who still live on or are connected to the land in the region today.

Although the theme statement focuses on the moment of cultural contact, the impact of that contact created a colonial American landscape whose patterns are still visible in the town centers, historic waterfronts and farmlands, and centuries-old buildings that remain.

Causes and Consequences of King Philip's War

As the English colonists increasingly encroached on Indigenous lands, their alliance with the Pokanoket unraveled disastrously, erupting in King Philip's War, a devastating conflict that encompassed Indigenous and colonial communities throughout New England. After the war, the confiscation of Tribal lands, and the attempted cultural genocide, removal, and enslavement of the Pokanoket and other Tribes, realigned the region based on race, setting a dangerous precedent for the subjugation of all Native Americans in the westward expansion across North America.

The death of the revered Pokanoket leader Ousamequin in 1661 gave way to the catastrophic breakdown of the alliance between the Tribe and the settlers. A series of injustices and the increasing encroachment of the colonists on Tribal lands led to the outbreak of a war in which many

New England Tribes banded together to drive the colonists back to Europe. The war that began in Sowams under the leadership of Ousamequin's son Metacom, known to the English as King Philip, spread across all New England. Due to an inability of the Tribes to collectively fight the colonists, a lack of gunpowder, and diminishing food, the Tribes were gradually overtaken by the English militia. After more than a year of battles across the region, Metacom was shot and killed near the Pokanoket seat of power, Potumtuk, in what is now Bristol, RI. His body was drawn and quartered, and his severed head was displayed on a pike in Plymouth as a warning to any remaining Pokanoket and other Tribal members who had opposed the English colonists.

The conflict resulted in the highest per-capita casualty rate for any war in all of North American history. Following the close of King Philip's War in 1676, those Tribal members who were not killed in the war were either enslaved locally, sold into slavery in Barbados, escaped to Maine, interned on reservations, or joined Tribes outside of the region. Furthermore, Indigenous lands were confiscated as war reparations, and the enslavement and attempted cultural genocide and removal of the Pokanoket and other Tribes who fought against the English led to a realignment of the region based on race. This shift profoundly shaped future policies toward Native American communities across North America.

Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island

As settlers moved westward fleeing communities that were governed by strict sectarian principles, Baptist leaders like Roger Williams and John Myles, and Quaker congregations in Somerset and Providence, championed religious toleration. Williams fostered a community where diverse beliefs coexist, laying the foundation for the concepts of freedom of conscience and separation of church and state that are enshrined in Rhode Island's charter.

The region played a role in establishing one of the pillars of democracy – religious freedom, the precursor to the separation of church and state. Roger Williams was the most visible architect of this concept, believing in “a true and absolute soul-freedom to all the people of the land impartially,” not distinguishing by gender, age, or race.¹⁶³

When expelled from the Massachusetts Bay colony in the 1630s, Williams was saved from winter starvation by the Massasoit and subsequently obtained land from the Narragansett leader Canonicus. Williams championed Indigenous rights and attempted diplomacy in King Philip's War, despite his participation in enslavement after the war. He founded Providence as a “shelter for persons distressed of conscience.”¹⁶⁴

As described in the previous chapter, Williams was not the only person championing religious freedom in the New World – complex ideas were emerging in many corners of the region, and many groups benefitted from or built on the groundwork laid in Providence. The Swansea, Massachusetts, congregation has documented roots in the Baptist movement in England, and the

¹⁶³ “Roger Williams: The Verin Case,” Roger Williams National Memorial, Rhode Island. <https://www.nps.gov/rowi/learn/history-culture/verincase.htm>. Accessed April 5, 2025.

¹⁶⁴ Quote frequently attributed to Williams without specific source. Identified as coming from a Rhode Island land deed dated 1661, a reflection on his 1638 land purchase to establish Providence. Leonard, Bill J. “The Baptists: Distressed and Distressing Conscience,” presented to the Religious Liberty Council, Fort Worth, Texas, June 22, 2012. <https://bjonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Bill-Leonard-The-Baptists-Distressed-and-Distressing-Conscience.pdf>. Accessed April 5, 2025.

related Warren congregation in Rhode Island incubated Brown University and the disestablishment of the Puritan church in Massachusetts. The Society of Friends also embraced religious freedom in the neighboring communities, forming the nation's oldest Quaker House in nearby Newport, and establishing early Quaker settlements in Providence and Somerset. Freedom of Conscience is embedded in Rhode Island's charter, historically codifying the ability of people to live side by side without having to agree with each other.

The Era of Trading Enslaved People

From the forced labor of Indigenous and African peoples to the economic prosperity it brought to the region, the legacy of enslavement in Sowams reflects the complex interplay of colonialism, global commerce, and human suffering. The industries that were established to support and supply the slave trading ships, including shipwrights, food suppliers, rum distilleries, and more, buoyed the economy of the entire Sowams region for more than a hundred years and left a legacy of prosperity with deep roots in slave trading.

The history of enslavement in Sowams flows from the story of cultural contact, colonial settlement, and global trade in New England. English settlers and their American successors enslaved Indigenous and African people from 1619 through the legal abolition of slavery in 1781 in Massachusetts and 1842 in Rhode Island.

The transatlantic slave trade generated huge wealth for those who participated in it and tragedy and dislocation for those who were subjected to it. More than 100,000 enslaved Africans were forcibly removed from their homeland and brought to the New World on ships that originated in Rhode Island. The vast majority were relocated to the sugar plantations in the Caribbean, but some were brought to labor in the households, farms, and waterfront industries in Sowams. People from the Pokanoket Tribe and other Tribes that fought the English in King Philip's War were also sold into slavery, and most were shipped to the Caribbean, in particular Barbados, to work on English sugar plantations.

In Sowams, Indigenous men and African men, women, and children were sold at public auctions in Bristol and Providence. A fierce abolition movement arose in response to the immorality and inhumanity of this trade. Quakers were at the forefront during the American Revolution, anti-slavery societies developed through the mid-1800s, and the Underground Railroad ushered enslaved people to freedom until emancipation during the Civil War made owning slaves a federal crime.

The industries that were established to support and supply the slave trading ships, including shipwrights, food suppliers, rum distilleries, and more, buoyed the economy of the entire Sowams region for over a hundred years and left a legacy of prosperity with deep roots in the trade of enslaved people.

The Interplay of Land and Water

This place where land meets water on the northeastern watershed of Narragansett Bay has defined the history, cultural identities, and economic evolution of Sowams for millennia. Its network of tributaries has enriched the landscape and enabled transportation, trade, recreation, and industrial innovation for the communities who have called this place home. Over the past decades, the citizens of Sowams have developed a conservation ethic to preserve and protect open space and the watershed, which has become even more critical with climate change.

The landscape on the northeastern side of Narragansett Bay has driven the region's water-related economy over centuries, shaping Sowams' rich cultural heritage. Abundant fish in the rivers and Bay have supported people for thousands of years, first for subsistence and later as a profitable industry.

Long before a trading network stretched across the Atlantic, the region's waterways were integral to inter-tribal trade that reached deep into the North American continent. Sailing and shipbuilding have deep roots here, from 17th-century tall ships to modern racing yachts. Bristol's deepwater port was instrumental in the development of transatlantic trade that contributed to the wealth still evident in the historic architecture in several of the region's towns.

Industrialization and innovation have transformed the region, from early textile mills to today's composite industries. Narragansett Bay was a strategic waterway for the British and American navies during the Revolutionary War. As with all parts of the nation, immigration helped build strong ethnic populations; Portuguese and Cape Verdean communities stand out in Sowams.

Today, visitors and residents enjoy the historic waterfront towns and the recreation opportunities offered by the rivers and Bay. Past and present, this place where land meets water has defined the people who live here. In the future, the increasing impacts of climate change could radically alter the coastal landscape and its corresponding way of life.

Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resources

In a National Heritage Area, the collective presence of historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources forms the foundation for interpreting a region's nationally significant story. Conserving and enhancing these resources supports interpretation, education, recreation, heritage tourism, and economic development. Identifying and evaluating these resources is therefore a critical part of determining the feasibility of NHA designation. Following the development of interpretive themes, the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, in collaboration with the PointHDC planning team, assessed the type, number, and integrity of resources within the study area to determine how they contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape and illustrate the proposed themes. Many of these key resources are shown on the Sowams Featured Sites map, and described below, with a full inventory containing 191 resources provided in Appendix E. In addition, an example of the interactive map, which can be filtered by theme or resource type, is found in Appendix H.



Resources Associated with “The Time and Place Where Two Worlds Met”

Identifying and Evaluating Tribal Resources

Since NPS initially developed guidelines for NHA designation in 2004, an important measure of feasibility has been the existence of National Historic Landmarks (NHL), properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and other resources, such as national parks, where significance and integrity have already been determined. While Sowams has many of these, its national significance is rooted in a contested history 400 years in the past. This has required an innovative approach to identifying significant resources during the feasibility study and merits a different measure of evaluation of resources by the National Park Service. As one stakeholder remarked, “If you are trying to document and amplify cultures decimated by colonialism, it is not good to fault them for not having the ‘traditional’ historical resources preserved.”

Another stakeholder interviewed stated, “The traditional cultural properties and the Indigenous and colonial sites associated with King Philip’s War and its participants make a compelling argument for the region’s national significance.”

In Sowams, the majority of resources associated with Indigenous history are natural places and features. Across the landscape, Indigenous place names still map a world that existed before the English arrived. The landscape holds natural spaces that have cultural and historical significance to the Pokanoket or have histories related to cultural contact and King Philip’s War that remain despite centuries of development. Although none of the sites described below have been designated Traditional Cultural Places (TCPs), which are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, several of them likely meet designation criteria, underscoring the national significance of the Sowams region.¹⁶⁵



King Philip’s Seat, sacred meeting place of the Pokanoket Tribe, Bristol, RI

- **Potumtuk and the Seat of Metacom (Bristol, RI)**

This prominent quartz rock formation rises above Mount Hope Bay, part of an ancient chain of mountains whose heights served as lookout points for millennia. At Potumtuk’s foot is the Seat of Metacom, the cradle of power of the Pokanoket. It is where Ousamequin and his sons Wamsutta and Metacom are reported to have met with various Tribes and audiences throughout the 17th century prior to King Philip’s War.¹⁶⁶ The land, which had been confiscated by the English and sold after King Philip’s War, was donated to Brown University in 1955. The following year, the U.S. Army removed the top of the formation to install a Nike Missile site, which was removed in 1976. In 2024, Brown University returned the site to the Pokanoket, who hold it in a land trust that will ensure access

¹⁶⁵ Park Planning – National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Places, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=442&documentID=124454>. Accessed April 3, 2023.

¹⁶⁶ Potumtuk (Mount Hope), Bristol, Sowams Heritage Area, <https://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/mt-hope/>. Accessed April 8, 2023.

to the land and waters to all Native peoples of the region for whom the land has significance. As part of the transfer agreement, a study commissioned by Brown University found that Potumtuk be considered a traditional cultural place and preserved in perpetuity accordingly.¹⁶⁷

- **The Three Sisters (Mount Hope Bay, Bristol, RI)**

Located on the shores of Mount Hope Bay, this distinctive set of three rocks is instrumental in telling the story of the Pokanoket Tribe's deep spiritual connection to the Earth.¹⁶⁸ As in many Native American Tribes, the "three sisters" represent the trio of corn, beans, and squash, life-giving foods that grow in a symbiotic relationship. The site is closely tied to Pokanoket cultural beliefs and storytelling and plays an important role in teaching traditional knowledge and values.

- **Margaret's Cave and Devil's Rock (Swansea, MA)**

As notable geographic features, this site is recognized by the Pokanoket as significant. After his banishment from Salem in 1636, Roger Williams is said to have been sheltered and nursed back to health for over three months by a Pokanoket healer named Margaret at this site. Although Williams' stay with the Massasoit Ousamequin is documented during this time, documentary evidence of this occurring at Margaret's Cave is lacking. With guidance from Massasoit Ousamequin, Williams later left to establish Providence, a settlement founded on principles of religious freedom and coexistence.

- **Massasoit Spring (Warren, Rhode Island)**

Massasoit Spring, located at the west end of Baker Street in Warren, commemorates Massasoit Ousamequin, 17th-century Pokanoket leader. A granite monument, installed in 1907 by historian Virginia Baker and two of Ousamequin's descendants, marks the site of a spring near a historic Pokanoket village. Though the spring no longer flows, the site remains a place of remembrance.

- **Miery Swamp (Mount Hope, Bristol, RI)**

This wetland, sometimes called Misery Swamp, is where Metacom was killed by Captain Benjamin Church's men in 1676, effectively ending King Philip's War. The site is central to the conflict's history and the long-term impacts of colonization on the Pokanoket people.

- **Pokanoket Royal Burial Ground (Burr's Hill Park, Warren, RI)**

Burr's Hill was an ancient Pokanoket burial ground used in the 1500s and 1600s. Although graves were disturbed by railroad construction and looting in the 19th century, many artifacts and remains were recovered and later repatriated under NAGPRA to the federally recognized Tribes in the region. In 2017, the Wampanoag Repatriation Confederation reburied the remains, including those believed to belong to Ousamequin (Massasoit), restoring dignity to this sacred site.

- **Wannamoisett Marker (East Providence, RI)**

Located near Pawtucket Avenue, this granite marker denotes the historic boundary between the Pokanoket territory of Wannamoisett and the colonial settlement of Rehoboth.

¹⁶⁷ "Brown transfers land in Bristol to preservation trust established by Pokanoket Tribe," Brown University, November 15, 2024. <https://www.brown.edu/news/2024-11-15/bristol-land>. Accessed April 5, 2025.

¹⁶⁸ Three Sisters at Potumtuk, November 6, 2020, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcv7qXLSbTY>. Accessed April 8, 2023.

It commemorates a 1643 land agreement between Ousamequin and settler John Browne.

- **Weybosset (Providence, RI)**

This site, at the junction of the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck Rivers, was historically a shallow crossing point used by Indigenous peoples during low tide. It marked the convergence of three major trails – one coming from the north, another leading southeast from Mount Hope (Wampanoag Trail), and a third coming up from Connecticut in the southwest (Pequot Trail). The ford was a vital travel and trade route long before European settlement.

As a counterbalance to the story of Sowams, Plimoth-Patuxet Museums (PPM) is a particularly significant resource outside the Sowams boundary. Located approximately 40 miles east of the Sowams region, Plimoth-Patuxet is a nationally recognized living history museum interpreting the 17th-century lifeways of both the Wampanoag people and the English colonists of Plymouth Colony. Through immersive exhibits like the Historic Patuxet Homesite, 17th-Century English Village, Mayflower II, and Plimoth Grist Mill, the museum offers meaningful educational experiences grounded in rigorous scholarship. As a Sowams partner, PPM provides important research, valuable models, and collaborative opportunities for interpreting early cultural contact and colonial history.

Resources Associated with the Colonists

Many historic resources in Sowams date to the colonial era. The colonial era stretches from the period of European colonization of North America in the late 16th century until the incorporation of the thirteen colonies in the new United States following the American Revolution. A number of examples of important colonial-era resources are described in the paragraphs below, while many more may be found in the Sowams Resource Inventory located in Appendix E.

- **Carpenter Museum (Rehoboth, MA)**

The Carpenter Museum preserves the history of Old Rehoboth, established in 1643 and once encompassing parts of present-day Rehoboth, East Providence, Seekonk, Swansea, and other parts of eastern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. Its collection of over 6,000 artifacts, photographs, and documents reflects the area's rich colonial and local history. Exhibits in the main building and barn explore domestic life, agriculture, textiles, industry, and war, while the E. Otis Dyer Research Center supports genealogical and historical research.

- **John Hunt House, East Providence Historical Society (East Providence, RI)**

Built around 1750, the John Hunt House is a well-preserved Georgian home located at Hunt's Mills, a key site in East Providence's historic "Ring of the Green" district. Originally part of colonial Rehoboth, the area became an early hub of industry, with water-powered mills operating along the Ten Mile River. Later part of the Rumford Chemical Works property, the house now serves as the headquarters of the East Providence Historical Society and a museum dedicated to local history.

- **John Martin House (Barrington, RI)**

The Martin family were among Barrington's earliest settlers. John Martin built a home near Hundred Acre Cove in the 1670s that was later destroyed in King Philip's War. Charred beams in the current cellar suggest this house may incorporate materials from the original. Captain John Martin, his son, expanded the house around 1750 and served

in the American Revolution with his sons. The property, which once included barns and outbuildings, remained in the Martin family until 1864.

- **Joseph Reynolds House (Bristol, RI)**

Built between 1698 and 1700, this private residence is one of the oldest buildings in Bristol and the oldest known three-story house in Rhode Island. Notable for its well-preserved First Period architecture, the house also served as headquarters for the Marquis de Lafayette during the Revolutionary War. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1983 but is not open to the public.

- **Little Neck Cemetery (East Providence, RI)**

Among the earliest burials is John Browne Jr., who died in 1662. He is the son of the man who purchased Wampanoag from the Massasoit Ousamequin. Also buried here is Elizabeth Tilley Howland, a Mayflower passenger who died in 1687. The cemetery is the final resting place of Captain Thomas Willett, the first English mayor of New York City. His gravesite is marked by a memorial from the City Club of New York and contains the original headstones of Willett and his wife Mary.

- **Martin House Farm (Swansea, MA)**

Martin House Farm is a rare example of an 18th century farm that still retains the character of its original setting. Built in 1728 by John Martin and occupied by the Martin family for more than 200 years, the property shares a story of the transition from colony to Republic. Today visitors can experience the house through student-led tours.



The Daughters of the American Revolution steward the Martin House Farmstead (1715), Swansea, MA.

- **Mount Hope Farm (Bristol, RI)**

Mount Hope Farm sits on land that was long cultivated by the Pokanoket people at their traditional seat of Potumtuk. Beginning in the 1680s, European settlers continued farming the property, and it has remained under cultivation ever since. The earliest section of the main house was built circa 1745 by Isaac Royall Jr., a wealthy merchant and slaveholder. The property later passed through the hands of William Bradford and Samuel Church before being acquired by R. F. Haffenreffer, whose donation of artifacts and land led to Brown University's Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology. The site offers a powerful connection to both colonial history and Native heritage.

- **Osamequin Farm (Seekonk, MA)**

The Carpenter family owned this land, also called the Carpenter Homestead, from the early 1700s to the 1930s, and were among the founders of Rehoboth in 1644. The homestead, built in 1720, is one of Seekonk's oldest homes and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Today, Osamequin Farm hosts a cooperative of small-scale farmers, community gatherings, and educational events, many in partnership with the Pokanoket Tribe, honoring the area's deep Indigenous and agricultural roots.

- **Stephen Hopkins House (Providence, RI)**

Purchased by Stephen Hopkins in 1742, the house was enlarged with a section dating to 1707 and served as his home until his death in 1785. Hopkins served as colonial governor and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. George Washington was a guest at the house in 1776. It is the only surviving structure associated with Hopkins and the oldest remaining house from Providence's original Towne Street, moved to the corner of Benefit Street in 1927. The property is a National Historic Landmark.

Resources Associated with Causes and Consequences of King Philip's War

The cultural landscapes of the Sowams region offer powerful insight into King Philip's War, with battles once waged across open fields, dense woods, swamps, and early colonial settlements. Most towns from that time were burned and few physical traces of the conflict remain visible above ground. However, archaeological resources are just beginning to be explored, and the landscape still holds the memory of where lives were lost and strategies unfolded in what remains the bloodiest conflict per capita in American history. The sites below provide an opportunity to interpret the war's devastating impact on both tribal communities and colonial settlers. Some of the Indigenous sites above are associated with the history of King Philip's War.



Veterans of King Philip's War are buried in Kickemuit Cemetery, near where the war began, in Warren, RI.

- **Hugh Cole Well (Warren, RI)**

The well site is all that remains of the homestead of one of the earliest English settlers in the Sowams region. Born in England and arriving in Plymouth in 1633 as an indentured servant, Cole became a respected member of the community and developed a close relationship with his Pokanoket neighbors. In 1667, he purchased 500 acres of land from Metacom in what was then Swansea. His sons were kidnapped by Pokanoket warriors during King Philip's War, but spared by Metacom because of the friendship. Despite this, Cole's home was burned and his family displaced. He eventually returned to settle on the east bank of the Kickemuit River. His descendants placed a marker there in 1917; a new marker and interpretive panel were installed a century later.

- **Kickemuit Cemetery (Warren, RI)**

Kickemuit Cemetery contains over 400 burials, with graves dating back to the late 17th century. Some of the interred include veterans of King Philip's War and Rhode Island's last Colonial Governor, Josiah Lyndon. Located near the Kickemuit River, the cemetery stands near the site where the war began, preserving the region's early colonial and Indigenous history.

- **Myles Garrison Marker (Swansea, MA)**

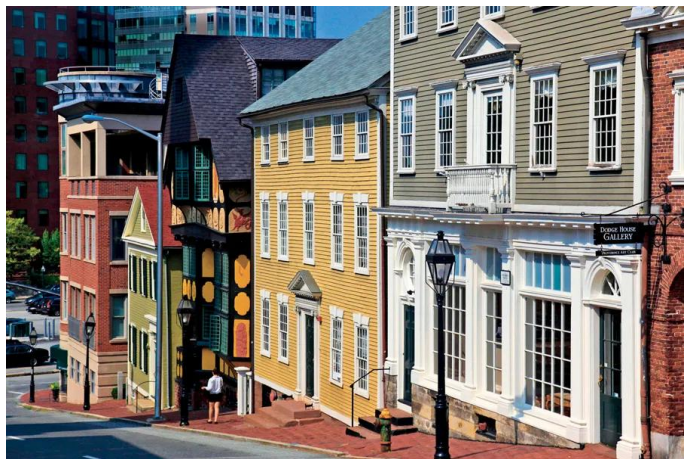
The Garrison Marker in Swansea commemorates the site of the original garrison house used in 1675 at the start of King Philip's War to house Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colony troops. The house belonged to Rev. John Myles, who had emigrated from Swansea, Wales, to lead a group of Baptists who separated from the Newman Congregational Church in Rehoboth. A large stone marker and bronze plaque, located at the intersection of Barneyville and Old Providence Roads near the west side of the Myles Bridge, honor those who lost their lives in the conflict. Across the street stands the abandoned Mason Barney Estate, built in 1802, near the site where the original garrison house stood before it was lost to fire in the early 20th century.

- **Nockum Hill (Barrington, RI)**

Nockum Hill contains the site of the first Baptist Meeting House in colonial America, as well as the site of the first shots fired in King Philip's War. These critical archaeological resources lie within the 82-acre Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge. In 2024, the Town of Barrington received a \$200,000 preservation planning grant to conduct archaeological testing on the site through the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program.

Resources Associated with Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island

The Sowams region played a foundational role in shaping the American principle of religious freedom. In the 17th century, as colonial governments in New England enforced religious conformity, dissenters and free thinkers sought refuge in places where they could worship according to their conscience. Sowams and surrounding communities became havens for Roger Williams and many others seeking religious freedom. The region attracted Baptists, Quakers, and other groups who established congregations, built meeting-houses, and practiced religious tolerance long before it became a national ideal.



Thomas Street on College Hill, Providence, RI

The following sites in the Sowams region are among those that illustrate this enduring legacy, each contributing to the story of how the struggle for religious liberty helped shape the cultural and historical identity of the United States.

- **College Hill Historic District (Providence, RI)**

The College Hill Historic District encompasses the original settlement area of Roger Williams after his banishment from Massachusetts in 1636. Located along the banks of the Providence and Mooshassuck Rivers, this area preserves early street names, including

Wickenden, Arnold, and Angell, which reflect the strips of farmland owned by the town's first settlers. The district includes numerous colonial and Victorian structures, such as the Stephen Hopkins House, which collectively offer a rich architectural and cultural portrait of Providence's early years. Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design are also among the district's contributing features. The district is a National Historic Landmark.

- **First Baptist Church in America (Providence, RI)**
Organized by Roger Williams in 1638, the First Baptist Church in America began as an informal congregation meeting in private homes. Reflecting early Baptist skepticism of religious display, the community avoided building a formal meetinghouse for decades. That changed in 1774–75, when a steepled and bell-towered church was constructed, a significant shift toward architectural respectability among Baptists in major urban centers. The structure remains a national symbol of the Baptist commitment to freedom of worship and the evolution of religious architecture in early America. The site is a National Historic Landmark.
- **First Baptist Church (Swansea, MA)**
Founded in 1663 by Reverend John Myles, the First Baptist Church of Swansea is the oldest Baptist congregation in Massachusetts. Myles, who had fled religious persecution in Wales, brought the Ilston Book, an early register of Baptist members, with him to the New World. The congregation's current meetinghouse, a Greek Revival structure built in 1848, stands as the fifth in a line of successive buildings. The adjacent cemetery, dating to 1731, offers a glimpse into the early Baptist community's history.
- **Roger Williams National Memorial, National Park Service (Providence, RI)**
Established in 1965 by Congress, the Roger Williams National Memorial honors Williams' foundational role in shaping the principle of religious freedom in America. The memorial occupies 4.5 acres of urban greenspace at the foot of College Hill in downtown Providence, where a freshwater spring marked the heart of the 1636 settlement of Providence Plantations. Here, Williams advocated for the radical idea that religion should be governed by individual conscience rather than by the state. His legacy as a champion of liberty is reflected in the memorial's interpretive exhibits and landscape that commemorate his vision of a society built on tolerance and inclusion. The national park shares a superintendent with the nearby Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.
- **Swansea Friends Meeting House and Cemetery (Somerset, MA)**
Believed to be the oldest surviving Quaker meetinghouse in Massachusetts, the Swansea Friends Meeting House was built in 1702 and enlarged in 1746. Notable for its traditional layout, with pulpit and entrance facing each other, it reflects early Quaker ideals of simplicity and equality. The adjacent cemetery likely includes many unmarked early graves, consistent with 18th-century Quaker burial practices. Together, the meetinghouse and cemetery preserve the story of a community devoted to peace, modesty, and religious liberty.

Resources Associated with Industry of Enslavement

The end of King Philip's War coincided with the rise of the transatlantic slave trade, during which thousands of enslaved Indigenous and African people were trafficked through Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The power dynamic inherent in the trade means that generally only resources associated with the enslavers survive. In Bristol and Providence, historic site managers have em-

ployed the strategy of layering interpretation of enslavement onto existing historical sites and stories. Across the region, organizations and initiatives are also sharing the history of the Middle Passage and enslavement through the development of modern markers, monuments, and exhibits.



Today John Brown House Museum is home to the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI.

- **DeWolf Tavern (Bristol, RI)**

The DeWolf Tavern occupies a restored 1818 waterfront warehouse originally built by James and William DeWolf, members of one of the most prolific slave-trading families in American history. The warehouse supported their shipping business, which was deeply tied to the “Triangle Trade” involving rum, enslaved Africans, and molasses. Today, the tavern includes interpretive features such as remnants of rum barrels and graffiti-preserved plaster from the original “counting room,” offering visitors a tangible connection to Bristol’s maritime and slavery-linked past. The site also features a Rhode Island Slave History Medallion.

- **Brown University (Providence, RI)**

Brown University, established in 1765, has undertaken significant efforts to examine and acknowledge its historical ties to the transatlantic trade of enslaved people. In 2006, the university published a landmark report detailing how its early benefactors, including the Brown family, profited from slavery. As a result, Brown has established the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, which supports scholarly research, public education, and community engagement. The university continues to explore how its legacy intersects with broader narratives of racial injustice and reconciliation in Rhode Island and beyond.

- **John Brown House (Providence, RI)**

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968, the John Brown House was the home of John Brown, one of Rhode Island’s most well-known traders of enslaved Africans and a central figure in the state’s economic development through the transatlantic trade. In-

terpretive exhibits inside, including “Transatlantic Slave Trade Connections,” use the infamous voyage of the slave ship *Sally* to explore Rhode Island’s role in the global economy. A powerful educational activity, “Web of Complicity,” helps visitors understand the interconnectedness of commerce, slavery, and everyday life in colonial Providence. A plaque installed by the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society on the grounds acknowledges Brown’s role in the trade.

- **Linden Place (Bristol, RI)**

General George DeWolf, a prominent merchant who traded enslaved people, had his Federal style Linden Place built in 1810. Today it operates as a historic house museum that acknowledges the site’s connections to the transatlantic trade of enslaved individuals. As part of the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion project (described below), a marker at the site includes a QR code linking visitors to information about the DeWolf family’s involvement in slavery and the broader history of the trade in Bristol.

- **Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Project (Statewide)**

Founded in 2019, the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion project places bronze medallions at historic sites and homes across the state that are connected to slavery. Each medallion includes a QR code linking visitors to digital content – research, historical narratives, and educational resources – that illuminate the lives of enslaved and free African American and Indigenous people. With 16 medallions installed to date, the project fosters public awareness, community dialogue, and racial healing by highlighting Rhode Island’s significant role in the transatlantic slave trade and the enduring legacy of slavery.

- **Slave Monument, Princes Hill Cemetery (Barrington, RI)**

This monument, placed during the Jim Crow era in the early 20th century, commemorates the lives of enslaved individuals who lived and labored in colonial Barrington. A white quartz boulder with an inscribed plaque is supported by four black stones, symbolizing the enslaved people whose names and stories are largely unrecorded. The memorial serves as a public acknowledgment of the enslaved community’s presence and contributions to early Barrington.

- **Warren Middle Passage Project (Warren, RI)**

The Warren Middle Passage Project is a volunteer-driven initiative, under the auspices of the Warren Preservation Society, dedicated to uncovering and documenting the history of the transatlantic trade and enslavement in Warren. The project seeks to identify enslaved individuals and their descendants, commemorate the lives lost in the Middle Passage, and recognize the essential contributions of African Americans to the development of Warren and the broader United States. To date, the organization has erected two markers. Long-term goals include the creation of a memorial and increased public awareness of this important chapter in local and national history.

Resources Associated with the Interplay of Land and Water

Long before European settlement, Narragansett Bay was central to the lifeways of Indigenous communities, including the Pokanoket and Narragansett peoples, who relied on its waters for transportation, trade, and sustenance. The bay’s estuaries and shorelines formed a natural network for intertribal exchange and seasonal gathering, fostering deep cultural and spiritual connections to the land and water.



William Henry Vanderbilt III invested in building the Mt. Hope Bridge (1929) between Bristol and Portsmouth, RI to replace ferry service to his summer mansion in Newport, RI.

With the arrival of colonists in the 17th century, the bay became a gateway for transatlantic trade, shipbuilding, and the rise of coastal towns like Bristol, Warren, and Providence. Over the next three centuries, Narragansett Bay and the rivers that feed it powered economic growth – first through maritime commerce and whaling, later through industrialization and manufacturing – and served as a point of entry for immigrants who helped shape the region’s diverse cultural landscape. The resources below are among the region’s many that reflect this long and layered history, illustrating how the bay has shaped and sustained communities for generations.

- **Bold Point and India Point (East Providence and Providence, RI)**

Bold Point was historically used by Indigenous inhabitants as a river crossing at low tide. Across the Seekonk River, India Point became Providence’s first port in the 1680s and remained a major trade center for 250 years, especially during the height of the Atlantic trade. Remnants of historic docks are still visible, connecting the site to its colonial and Indigenous past.

- **Bristol Waterfront Historic District (Bristol, RI)**

Established in 1680, this planned community encompasses the civic, residential, and commercial heart of Bristol, extending from Bristol Harbor to Wood Street. The district’s layout and architecture reflect more than 300 years of development, with notable 19th-century buildings designed by local architect Russell Warren. It remains one of Rhode Island’s most historically intact waterfront communities.

- **Governor Henry Lippitt House (Providence, RI)**

Built in 1865 by textile magnate and Rhode Island Governor Henry Lippitt, this Italianate mansion is one of the best-preserved examples of Victorian-era domestic architecture in the country. Located on Hope Street on Providence’s East Side, the home showcases the wealth and refinement generated by Rhode Island’s booming textile industry in the 19th century. Now owned and operated by Preserve Rhode Island, the house is open seasonally for public tours and interpretation of industrial-era family life. This property is a National Historic Landmark.

- **Herreshoff Marine Museum (Bristol, RI)**

Located on the original site of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, this museum celebrates over six decades of marine innovation. From 1878 to 1945, the company produced steam vessels and some of the world’s fastest racing yachts, including eight America’s Cup defenders. The museum’s collection of over sixty vessels tells the story of Bristol’s leadership in maritime design and craftsmanship. The museum also houses the America’s Cup Hall of Fame.

- **James E. Bradbury Museum, Somerset Historical Society (Somerset, MA)**
 The museum preserves and interprets the town's local heritage, offering a window into Somerset's evolving story. Housed in the former Village School, the museum features themed rooms showcasing Somerset's contributions to American history, from Indigenous artifacts and Revolutionary War service to local industries like pottery and shipbuilding. Highlights include the Indigenous Room, Veteran's Room, Pottery Room, General Store, Tool Room, and the Hathaway Room, which recreates a 1930s kitchen and parlor.
- **John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (Rhode Island & Massachusetts)**
 Encompassing 25 cities and towns across the Blackstone Valley, this National Heritage Corridor complements the nearby **Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park** in Pawtucket, RI – which lies outside the proposed boundary – by interpreting a broader regional story of industrial transformation. The corridor preserves a wide array of natural and cultural landscapes tied to America's industrial heritage, including mill towns, transportation networks, and rural settlements. The corridor and park function cooperatively to preserve and share the story of this nationally significant landscape.
- **Narragansett Bay Lighthouses**
 Three of Narragansett Bay's 21 historic lighthouses are in Sowams: Bristol Ferry Lighthouse, Nayatt Point Lighthouse, and Pomham Rocks Light Station. All three nineteenth century structures feature keeper's houses and are important features of the region's maritime history. They are all listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but only one, Pomham Rocks, is accessible to visitors.
- **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) (Providence, RI)**
 Founded in 1877 as a coeducational school by women, RISD was established to support the region's thriving manufacturing and textile industries. RISD has long been a leader in art, design, and industrial innovation. The school was established in response to the growing need for skilled designers and artists in an increasingly industrialized economy. Located near Providence's commercial center, RISD has shaped generations of creative professionals whose work bridges fine arts and applied design. Today, the school continues to draw on the region's legacy of craft, commerce, and creativity to educate future innovators.
- **Warren Waterfront Historic District (Warren, RI)**
 Centered on the Warren River, this district has been the town's core since the mid-18th century. Once a thriving whaling and shipbuilding center, Warren later flourished with manufacturing. The district reflects the maritime and industrial evolution of the town and has a number of 19th-century civic buildings and homes.
- **Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, National Historic Trail**
 This National Historic Trail follows the route taken by American and French troops during the 1781 campaign that culminated in the victory at Yorktown. French General Rochambeau and over 5,000 troops arrived in Narragansett Bay in 1780, beginning a critical military alliance with General George Washington. Though little physical evidence remains of the original campsites and taverns that dotted the route, interpretive sites across the region commemorate this key chapter in the American Revolution and the role Rhode

Island played in securing independence. One such property is the Reynolds House in Bristol, where General Washington met General Lafayette.

- Revolutionary Heritage Byway (Bristol, RI)**
Rhode Island’s only National Scenic Byway, the Revolutionary Heritage Byway spans six miles through Bristol. Designated nationally in 2021, the route follows Route 114 (Hope Street and Ferry Road), connecting colonial landmarks, waterfront parks, and downtown Bristol. The byway traces Bristol’s Revolutionary War history, including British raids, militia defenses, and the presence of French troops under Rochambeau. It also follows the route of the nation’s oldest Fourth of July parade, celebrated since 1785.
- Weybosset Bridge (Providence, RI)**
Constructed in 1764, the original drawbridge allowed West Indies cargo ships access to Providence’s inner wharves. Destroyed by the 1815 hurricane, its replacement in 1816 closed the harbor to sea-going ships, marking a shift in local trade. A plaque on the nearby Market House commemorates the storm’s floodwaters and the bridge’s historical importance.

Natural and Recreational Resources in Sowams

The Sowams region’s coastal landscapes, estuarine systems, and parklands offer both ecological richness and a deep connection to the area’s historical and cultural heritage. The region contains approximately 12 square miles of protected open space. In addition, 3.5 square miles within the proposed boundary are water, while just over 19 square miles are considered wetlands. A summary of water and open spaces within Sowams was generated during mapping for the feasibility



Riding on the East Bay Bike Path along Narragansett Bay

study conducted by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is found in Appendix F – Sowams Affected Environment. From salt marshes and meadows to bike paths and historic farms, these resources serve as places for recreation, education, and reflection, offering opportunities to explore the natural beauty and layered stories of the region. See Appendix H for maps depicting wetlands, open space, and recreational trails.

- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium (Bristol, RI)**
Located on the 28-acre Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge, this interactive natural history museum allows visitors to explore coastal ecosystems of Rhode Island. Highlights include a tidepool tank, marine life exhibits, and a life-size model of a North Atlantic Right Whale. ADA-certified walking trails begin at the Palmieri Pollinator Garden and continue through upland meadows and salt marshes to a boardwalk with sweeping views of Narragansett Bay. The center is also accessible via the East Bay Bike Path.

- Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum (Bristol, RI)**
 Blithewold is a historic 33-acre seaside estate overlooking Narragansett Bay in Bristol, Rhode Island. Originally the summer home of the Van Wickles family, the estate features a grand 45-room mansion built in the English Country Manor style, as well as extensive gardens and one of the most diverse arboreta in the Northeast. Developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Blithewold reflects the lifestyle of America's Gilded Age elite and the region's ties to maritime trade and industry. Today, it serves as a public museum and horticultural center, offering visitors an opportunity to explore the intersection of landscape design, cultural history, and environmental stewardship within the Sowams region.
- Colt State Park (Bristol, RI)**
 Spanning 464 acres on Poppasquash Neck, Colt State Park offers scenic open space once part of the estate of industrialist Samuel P. Colt. Now a public park and part of the Poppasquash Farms Historic District, the park features walking trails, picnic groves, boat ramps, an observation tower, and a Chapel-by-the-Sea. It is also a popular stop along the East Bay Bike Path.
- Coggeshall Farm Museum (Bristol, RI)**
 Situated at the southern end of Colt State Park, Coggeshall Farm Museum recreates the daily life of 18th-century salt marsh farmers. In partnership with Old Sturbridge Village, the museum offers immersive programs with live interpreters, historic buildings, heirloom gardens, and heritage livestock, providing hands-on educational opportunities in a historically significant setting.
- East Bay Bike Path (Providence to Bristol, RI)**
 Stretching just over 14 miles, the East Bay Bike Path links Providence to Bristol while passing through eight parks and scenic coastal towns. Built on an inactive railroad right-of-way and recognized in the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame, the trail offers dramatic views of Narragansett Bay, access to historic waterfronts, and opportunities to explore the region's maritime and industrial history.
- Osamequin Nature Trails and Bird Sanctuary (Barrington, RI)**
 This sanctuary along Hundred Acre Cove provides access to one of the most ecologically significant inland estuaries in New England. Managed trails lead visitors through salt marsh, woodland, and coastal habitats rich with birdlife and native plants. Two main trail systems offer walking paths and views of the Barrington River and its surroundings.

Living Traditions

The region abounds in festivals and cultural events built around history, living traditions, food, arts, and special places. Those described below are examples of the many important events that fulfill roles as culture keepers, educational experiences, visitor attractions, and economic drivers.



WaterFire Festival, Salute to Veterans, Providence, RI

Photo by Tom Backman, courtesy of WaterFire

- **Bristol Fourth of July Celebration (Bristol, RI)**

Bristol is home to the nation's oldest continuous Independence Day celebration, established in 1785 by Rev. Henry Wight, a Revolutionary War veteran and pastor of the First Congregational Church. Known for its deep patriotic roots, the celebration begins each year on Flag Day, June 14, and continues for several weeks with a wide variety of events including outdoor concerts, the Orange Crate Derby, a firefighters' muster, the Fourth of July Ball, and formal Patriotic Exercises. The festivities culminate on July 4 with the renowned Military, Civic, and Firemen's Parade, which draws more than 50,000 spectators from across the country and around the world.

- **Community Heritage Festivals**

Community festivals in Sowams celebrate the region's maritime heritage and culinary traditions, particularly those centered around seafood and the waterfront. In Bristol, the annual Harbor Festival & Blessing of the Fleet brings together residents and visitors for a day of festivities honoring local fishermen and their vessels. Highlights include a traditional fleet blessing, live music, a popular "stuffie" (stuffed quahog) competition, and a feast featuring chowder, raw bar offerings, and a littleneck clam boil. Similarly, Warren's beloved Quahog Festival highlights the town's connection to the bay through food, entertainment, and local traditions. These events not only support the local economy and fishing communities but also reinforce Sowams' identity as a place shaped by its coastal culture.

- **Pokanoket Heritage Day (Warren, RI)**

Held annually at Burr's Hill Park in Warren, Pokanoket Heritage Day is a free public event that offers visitors an opportunity to experience and honor the rich heritage of the Pokanoket people in the Sowams region. Through traditional dancing, singing, drumming, storytelling, presentations, and cultural displays, the event shares the history and enduring presence of the Pokanoket Tribe from past centuries to the present.

day. Other events, such as the Strawberry Moon Thanksgiving, are not public, but engage other Tribes from across New England.

- **Portuguese Cultural Traditions (Rhode Island and Massachusetts)**

Portuguese-American communities in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts celebrate their heritage through vibrant annual traditions. The Rhode Island Day of Portugal Festival, held each June, features music, dance, traditional folklore, a parade, and authentic Portuguese cuisine. Celebrated since 1978, it brings together families and community members to honor Portuguese culture and pride.

The Feast of the Holy Ghost, rooted in Azorean Catholic tradition, is also widely observed in the region. This multi-day event includes processions, the crowning of a symbolic queen, communal meals, and music – reflecting themes of faith, charity, and community unity. These celebrations highlight the enduring cultural contributions of Portuguese Americans to the region.

- **Preserve America Communities (Rhode Island)**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation manages the Preserve America initiative, including the designation of Preserve America Communities across the U.S. The Preserve America Communities program provides grants to protect and celebrate heritage, uses historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and promotes historic resources through interpretation and heritage tourism. Communities must apply for the designation. In Rhode Island, all five communities in the Sowams region have received the designation. None of the four Massachusetts communities have received the designation, which currently is not accepting new applications.

- **WaterFire (Providence, RI)**

WaterFire is an award-winning public art installation that transforms downtown Providence into a celebration of the city's cultural, artistic, and maritime heritage. Centered around nearly 100 bonfires set atop the surface of the three rivers that flow through the heart of the city, WaterFire combines the visual power of firelight with music, performance, and community gathering. The result is a multisensory experience that honors the city's historic relationship with its waterways while drawing thousands of visitors to its parks and riverwalks. WaterFire is presented along the Providence River Walk twice monthly from May to November.

A Strategic Assemblage of Resources

The criteria for designating a National Heritage Area include the existence of “a strategic assemblage of natural and cultural resources that relates to the identified themes.”¹⁶⁹ A strategic assemblage of resources in a National Heritage Area refers to a geographically concentrated group of natural, cultural, historic, and recreational sites that together support and illustrate a nationally distinctive landscape. These resources must be tied to the NHA's significance statement and themes, allowing for an authentic experience of the national story. To qualify as a strategic assemblage, the resources must be documented for their historical integrity and significance, located close enough to form a cohesive landscape, support unified management, and enable meaningful interpretation of the area's national significance.

¹⁶⁹ *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, 2019, pg. 9.



The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society oversees the Carpenter Museum, Blanding Library, and the Arts in the Village concert series in the historic village of Rehoboth, RI.

The resource descriptions above are key sites that demonstrate Sowams meets the threshold of having a “strategic assemblage” of resources. However, the concentration of resources that tell Sowams’ stories extends beyond these sites to many other contributing features on this special cultural landscape. The Sowams Resource Inventory, found in Appendix E, presents a fuller picture of the places that define Sowams and gives it an enduring sense of place.

The Sowams Resource Inventory – Development and Analysis

At the outset of the feasibility study process, project organizers had developed a preliminary inventory that identified 52 17th-century historic sites and natural features. In the fall of 2022, the themes and resources committee expanded the scope of the inventory to reflect the major theme topics emerging during the study. The group also considered various formats that would accommodate the range of information aligned with NPS expectations. With oversight by the committee, the PointHDC team populated the Sowams Resource Inventory, found in Appendix E, which includes the following information:

- Resource type (Educational/Interpretive, Historical, Cultural/Living Traditions, Natural, Recreational)
- Designations (National Register, National Historic Landmark, National Park, National Heritage Area, etc.)
- Ownership information (Public, Private, or Nonprofit)
- Location (Address, City, State)
- Public access

The Sowams Resource Inventory contains 191 entries that embody the history of Sowams’ five defining themes. “The Time and Place Where Two Worlds Met” theme has the most resources associated with it, 116, as the theme includes the Indigenous sites that preceded contact and the colonial sites that were a legacy of contact. The 30 sites associated with King Philip’s War are a subset of the colonial and Indigenous sites. The history of religious freedom, in “Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island” is reflected in 29 sites, all of which also date to the colonial period. “The Era of Trading Enslaved People” is marked on the landscape by 26 extant sites from the 19th century. Finally, “The Interplay of Land and Water,” includes 103 sites tied to the evolution of the landscape dominated by Narragansett Bay – from the Transatlantic trade to the industries that drew immigrants and built the region.

Sowams includes 96 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 17 historic districts. Of these, 67 are located in Rhode Island and 29 are in Massachusetts. Among the listed properties are 13 of Rhode Island's 45 National Historic Landmarks (NHL) – 11 in Providence, one in East Providence, and one in Bristol. Two NHLs date to the 17th century – the First Baptist Meetinghouse and the College Hill District. No NHLs are located in the Massachusetts portion of the Sowams region.



Luther Store (1815) was the economic center of Swansea, Massachusetts, in the mid 19th century, housing the post office and library.

The inventory also classifies entries by category. Sowams contains 164 historical resources, 67 associated with cultural groups, the arts, and living traditions, 57 resources related to the natural environment, 46 recreational resources, and 47 interpretive or educational resources. Of the region's historical, cultural, and natural assets, 134 are open or accessible to the public, although some are on a limited or seasonal basis. This inventory underscores the Sowams' region's depth and breadth of cultural and natural assets that confirm its potential for National Heritage Area designation.

Opportunities for the Future

Public outreach throughout the planning process revealed strong community interest in preserving Sowams' historic, cultural, and natural resources, sharing its layered and often difficult histories, and expanding opportunities for education, recreation, and sustainable heritage-based tourism.

Several stakeholders commented on residents' historical and cultural engagement in the region, as well as their commitment to and enjoyment of area resources. In Rhode Island alone, 465 historical and cultural organizations exist, including ten preservation groups in Bristol and seven in Warren. As one stakeholder noted, "This demonstrates there is huge value placed on the state's history curated by these small, often volunteer organizations to preserve, protect, animate, and engage."



Concert Series on Bold Point, part of the Watchemoket Square/ Waterfront Gateway revitalization project in East Providence, RI

Local government planners from both states emphasized the importance of historical and natural resources in comprehensive community planning. The Watchemoket Square project in East Providence is an example of this, as its redevelopment draws on the area's location on the Seekonk River, the East Bay Bike Path, historic architecture, and arts, history, and culture.

One person interviewed commented that "People are invested in protecting the environment and the history of the area." Another stakeholder saw potential in the preservation of the built environment. "The region was bypassed by big waves of economic development, so now industrial

spaces are being adapted and reused. These spaces can be very novel and make a great contribution to people’s lives and spaces. There are lots of capital opportunities for the future.”

Stakeholders frequently brought up climate change and its impact on historic, cultural, and natural resources in the first phase of the feasibility study project. They want to ensure that planning for and paying for resource protection as the environment changes is a consideration for any regional collaboration. Partners like Save the Bay, the Taunton River Stewardship Council, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and Massachusetts Audubon Society are conducting ongoing research and developing community engagement plans that address climate change. The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is continually monitoring the health of the watershed and posts on its website periodic Science Updates that measure rain and snow changes, ocean acidification, the health of seagrass meadows, quahog populations, and water clarity.



Cannon shot recovered from the site of the Swansea settlement on “Nockum Hill,” subject of an archeological collaboration between the Town of Barrington and the National Park Service, which is funding the survey through the American Battlefield Protection Program

Courtesy of Town of Barrington

The development of interpretive materials, exhibits, and educational programming is central to advancing Sowams as a region where the public can engage with its long and complex heritage. Two sites that illustrate this potential should the region attain NHA designation are Nockum Hill and Weypoyset Preserve. At Nockum Hill – site of the first Baptist Meeting House and the opening battle of King Philip’s War – ongoing archaeological investigations can deepen understanding of the conflict and the intertwined histories of Indigenous and colonial communities. At Weypoyset Preserve, interpretation can highlight thousands of years of Indigenous presence, early colonial trade activity, and the area’s ecological richness along the Kickemuit River and Mount Hope Bay. Through thoughtfully curated ex-

hibits, signage, and place-based storytelling, Sowams can not only share the region’s histories with visitors, but also create meaningful educational opportunities for students and residents.

In tandem, the adaptive reuse of historic properties, especially the historic fabric of 19th century mills and waterfront districts, can bring new life to these spaces while preserving their cultural significance. Furthermore, enhanced recreational infrastructure, such as pedestrian and cycling trails, can continue to expand connectivity across the region and offer additional opportunities for immersive experiences tied to the land and water. Finally, heritage-based festivals, culinary traditions, and community events deepen public engagement and fuel sustainable tourism. Together, these strategies will promote inclusive storytelling, economic revitalization, and a strong sense of place throughout the Sowams region.

Boundary

Defining a National Heritage Area Boundary

Defining the boundary of an NHA is a multi-step process that takes place over the course of developing a feasibility study. The final boundary is informed by research and public outreach including surveys, site visits, resource assessments, and stakeholder input. The designated area is ultimately refined to include a concentration of interconnected resources and stories that illustrate a nationally distinctive landscape. The process considers historical and functional relationships – such as patterns of industry, cultural activity, and transportation – that reflect the shared

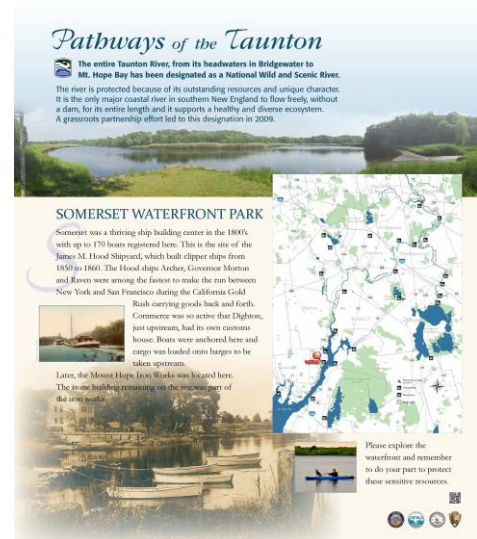
heritage of the region. These relationships are evaluated alongside geophysical features like rivers and roads, which may influence, but do not solely determine, the boundary.

Equally important is the cultural dimension, the way in which communities past and present have interacted with the landscape, preserved traditions, and defined a shared sense of place. Settlement patterns, land use, and cultural practices help reveal the human connections that bind the region together. While political boundaries may offer convenient delineation, they are considered secondary to the historical and cultural narratives that drive the designation. Ultimately, the final boundary must be both meaningful and practical: cohesive enough to support interpretation of the region's significance, inclusive of its major resources, and realistic to manage effectively by the coordinating entity and its partners.

Sowams Boundary Considerations

The proposed boundary for Sowams National Heritage Area is based on the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe, encompassing four towns in Massachusetts and two cities and three towns in Rhode Island. The area measures approximately 140 square miles. Generally, Narragansett Bay and Mount Hope Bay define the NHA's western and southern border. During the orientation visit, the PointHDC team identified two areas within the preliminary study area that required further clarification as the planning process progressed – the extent of the northern and eastern edges in Massachusetts and whether to include the entire City of Providence.

The final boundary was determined with input from the steering committee, stakeholder interviews, and public outreach. To the north, the border follows the northernmost edges of Providence, East Providence, Seekonk, Rehoboth, Swansea, and Somerset. According to a map drawn by an Assonet Wampanoag elder depicting Tribal lands in the 1600s and maps in Brooks' *Our Beloved Kin*, the land north of this area was home to the Seaconke, Assonet, and Mattapusit Tribes.¹⁷⁰ The eastern boundary was set at the Taunton River in Somerset, beyond which lies the ancestral heart of the Pocasset Tribe. Further south along the bays lay Aquidneck and Sakonnet lands. In Providence, where many Tribes historically converged and some of the territory was contested, the steering committee opted to define the boundary at the Moshassuck River, marking the transition into Narragansett and Nahaganset ancestral lands. With the exception of the City of Providence, the proposed boundary includes all land within the municipal borders of the eight participating communities.

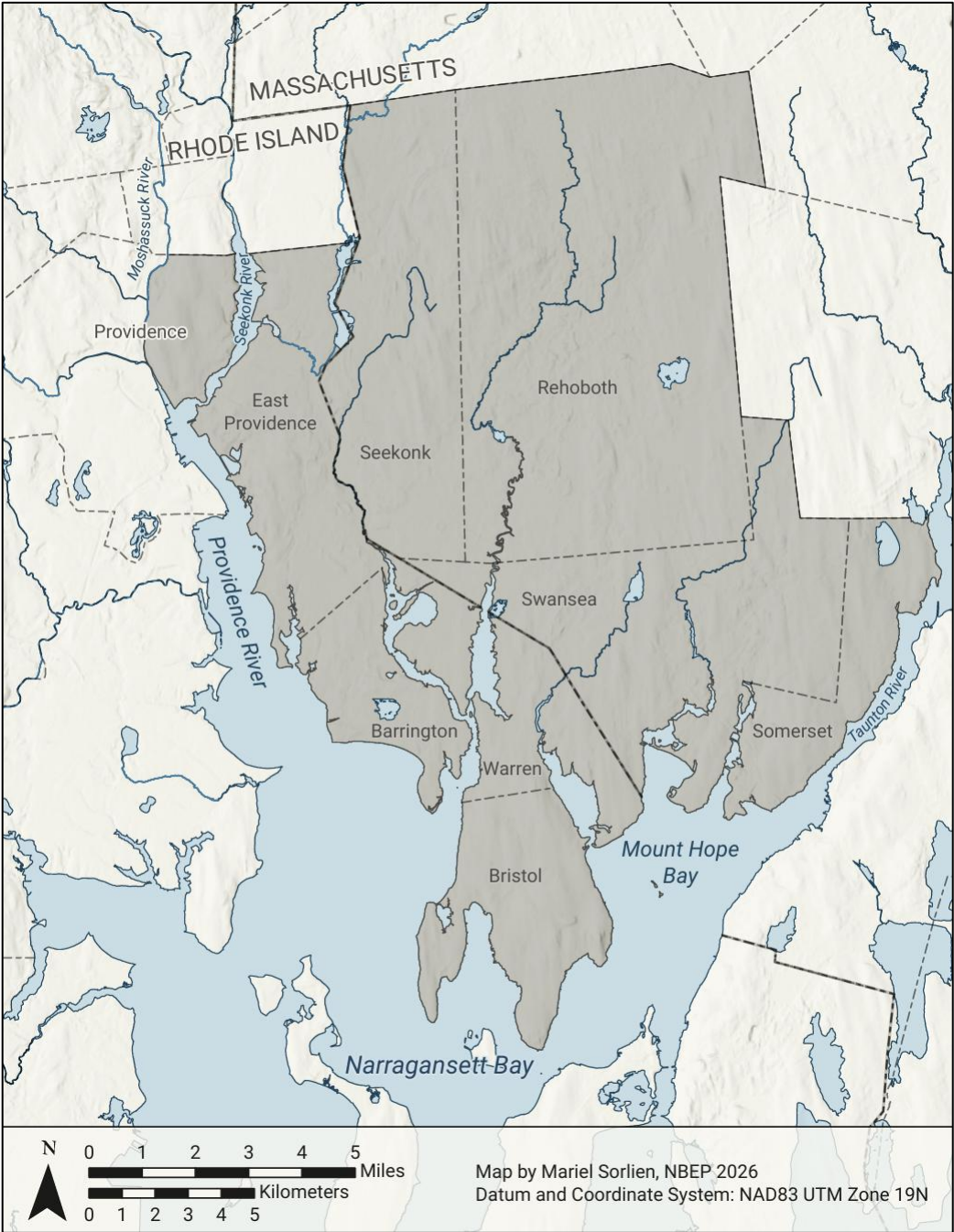


Pathways of the Taunton wayfinding kiosk for Somerset Waterfront Park, sponsored by the Taunton River Stewardship Council

This boundary provides a logical foundation from which to share the history represented in the themes and statement of significance. It incorporates the historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and

¹⁷⁰ Nanepashemet/Edward Pollard, Wampanoag Country in the 1600s. Plimoth-Patuxet Museums, Wampanoag Indigenous Program Archives, c. 1980. <https://plimoth.org/yath/unit-1/map-of-wampanoag-country-in-the-1600s>; and Brooks, Lisa, *Our Beloved Kin: Remapping a New History of King Philip's War*, <https://ourbelovedkin.com/awikhigan/concentric-circles-map-gr-1.jpg>. Both accessed April 8, 2025.

recreational resources described above, is easy for residents and visitors to comprehend, and aligns with major waterways, highways, and political boundaries.



The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee has led the way in erasing the state boundary and increasing visibility of this proposed boundary in matters where the emerging National Heritage Area is concerned. In outreach beginning in 2022, the steering committee has successfully raised awareness of the region’s identity and significance, including its historical underpinnings, current connections, and future opportunities.

CHAPTER 4 – GOVERNANCE, ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

Effective governance is critical for the success and sustainability of any National Heritage Area. Beyond establishing historical and cultural significance, governance ensures a framework for financial stewardship, operational management, strategic planning, public accountability, and community collaboration. The National Park Service requires that proposed NHAs demonstrate credible and sustainable governance models capable of achieving public benefits over the long term.

This chapter details the governance, organizational structure, staffing plan, partnership strategies, and evaluation framework for Sowams National Heritage Area. It reflects the planning and organizational development led by the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and integrates the mission, vision, core values, partnership relations, and guiding principles that will underpin all operational aspects of the proposed NHA.

Under the steering committee, a subcommittee focused on governance was comprised of town planners and nonprofit organizations with experience in operations, organizational development, and budgeting. The governance committee was responsible for evaluating the current steering committee and nonprofit organization, as well as making recommendations on the structure of a future NHA coordinating entity. Through a series of meetings, the committee developed mission, vision, core values, and guiding principles along with an operational and administrative strategy and budget for the NHA including staffing, board structure, and partnerships. The following sections describe the recommendations of the governance committee, adopted by the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee.

Mission Statement

A mission statement is a foundational element of governance for any National Heritage Area. It articulates the core purpose of the heritage area – why it exists, what it seeks to achieve, and whom it serves. Because NHAs are collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, and community-driven by design, a clear and compelling mission provides essential focus and cohesion. It unites diverse partners around a shared vision, guides strategic planning and decision-making, and reinforces the public value of the heritage area's work. For Sowams, the mission statement helps communicate the significance of its nationally significant stories, ensures that stewardship and interpretation are inclusive and respectful, and anchors governance in a long-term commitment to education, cultural conservation, and sustainable development.

In day-to-day practice, the mission serves as a guiding framework for decision-making, program development, and partner coordination. It helps ensure that activities across the heritage area – whether they involve preservation, interpretation, education, tourism, or community engagement – are aligned with the broader goals and values of the NHA. For partners, the mission provides a common language and purpose, enabling organizations with different mandates and capacities to collaborate effectively without losing sight of the heritage area's collective priorities. It also offers clarity for staff, volunteers, and funders, reinforcing how individual projects contribute to a larger vision. In this way, the mission of Sowams Heritage Area not only defines its reason for being – it actively shapes its work and identity every day.

The mission of the proposed Sowams National Heritage Area is:

Sowams National Heritage Area is dedicated to instilling a sense of stewardship and deep appreciation for the profound historical, cultural, and natural significance of the Sowams region on the northeastern watershed of Narragansett Bay. Here, the critical alliance between Pokanoket Tribe and the Mayflower settlers, and the fracturing of that alliance, changed the course of history. Through preservation, regional collaboration, community development, and experiential learning, we illuminate the pivotal events that happened on this landscape over centuries, providing a space for people to tell their own stories about the intricate interplay of people, land, and water that shaped the political, economic, and social heritage of the nation.

Importance of the Mission

The mission addresses the urgent need to preserve, interpret, and sustain a landscape that profoundly shaped early American history but remains under-recognized in the broader national story. The Pokanoket were residents and stewards of Sowams at a critical time when contact with the outside world began. Sowams represents foundational moments in the history of the United States – the divergent worldviews over the value of land and water, the forging and eventual breakdown of the partnership between the Pokanoket people and the English colonists, the genesis of religious freedom in North America, and a moral and economic debate about enslavement. These lessons resonate deeply today and pose questions about cultural exchange and identity, freedom of conscience, stewardship of resources, and the meaning of community.

The importance of this mission lies in several key areas:

- **Preserving Critical History** – Without intentional preservation efforts, important historical and cultural resources in the Sowams region risk being overlooked or lost. The mission ensures that this pivotal story rooted in both cooperation and conflict continues to be accessible, visible, and understood by future generations.
- **Centering Indigenous Perspectives** – The mission elevates the voice and history of the Pokanoket Tribe, who played a unique role in shaping the relationship between Indigenous communities and the English colonies during our nation's founding years. It provides a platform for dialogue and ensures that heritage interpretation is not one-sided but honors the complexity of the region's history and cultures.
- **Fostering Stewardship** – By instilling a sense of stewardship, the mission extends beyond historic preservation to include care for the natural environment, recognizing that land and water have always been fundamental to the life and culture of Sowams. Stewardship encourages both residents and visitors to see themselves as caretakers, not just consumers, of this extraordinary place.
- **Building Community Connections** – Through its focus on regional collaboration and community development, the mission strengthens bonds among towns, Tribes, organizations, and individuals. It helps to break down governmental and community barriers and promotes collective action to safeguard shared resources and stories, reinforcing a sense of belonging and mutual responsibility.
- **Inspiring Learning and Personal Engagement** – Sharing the region's history has been a focus of the initiative from its inception. Early efforts have included the expansion of interpretation through a new website and series of brochures (see Appendix B – Sowams Public Outreach Activities). The organization continues to build upon the

themes outlined in Chapter 3, deepening personal connections to place and history, fostering reflection and understanding for residents and visitors.

- **Highlighting National Relevance** – Sowams is not just a regional story; it is a story that shaped the political, social, and economic roots of the United States. By illuminating the complex interplay between people, land, and water, the mission helps people understand how decisions made here centuries ago continue to influence the nation’s path today.

Vision Statement

A vision statement plays an important role in the governance of a National Heritage Area by describing the long-term future the partnership seeks to create. While a mission explains purpose, a vision articulates aspiration – what the heritage area hopes to become and how it will positively shape the region over time. For a collaborative initiative like Sowams, which spans multiple communities, cultures, and states, a shared vision provides direction, inspiration, and a unifying sense of possibility. It helps partners imagine beyond current boundaries or constraints and align their efforts toward a common, future-oriented goal for a region. In practice, the vision guides strategic choices, influences investment in programs and partnerships, and ensures that near-term decisions support lasting impact. It also energizes public, private, and grassroots stakeholders by connecting their contributions to a broader legacy of stewardship, education, reconciliation, and regional pride. A well-crafted vision ensures that Sowams National Heritage Area remains forward-looking, relevant, and resilient in the face of change.



Anyone can contribute the sap from their maple trees to the annual Community Maple Boil at Osamequin Farm, Seekonk, MA.

Photo by Madeleine Young, courtesy of Edible Rhody

The vision for the proposed Sowams National Heritage Area is:

Sowams Heritage Area is a vibrant network of diverse communities sharing a deep sense of belonging and respect for the national significance of this living landscape. Those who call this place home weave the history and legacy of Sowams into the fabric of their lives by sharing resources, collaborating with partners, and telling stories about what happened here. All who experience Sowams honor this sacred place and help steward the land and water that has defined the culture of this region for millennia.

Importance of the Vision

The vision for Sowams Heritage Area centers on a living, connected landscape where history, culture, community, and environment are deeply intertwined. It reflects an aspiration that goes beyond preservation alone: it seeks to nurture a vibrant network of diverse communities who recognize Sowams not just as a place on a map, but as a shared legacy that shapes their identity, values, and future.

At its heart, this vision recognizes that the significance of Sowams is not locked in the past. The people who live here today continue to weave its stories, landscapes, and traditions into their daily lives. By sharing resources, collaborating across governmental boundaries and communities, and telling the authentic stories of the land and its peoples – including Indigenous, colonial, and contemporary narratives – residents and partners ensure that Sowams remains a dynamic and relevant part of America's ongoing story.

This vision also recognizes that stewardship is a collective act. Everyone who lives in or visits Sowams carries a responsibility to honor its sacred landscapes – its rivers, coastal waters, forests, fields, and historic sites – that have shaped cultures here for thousands of years. Stewardship is not solely about protecting resources; it is about cultivating respect, understanding, and active engagement with the land and its meaning.

Ultimately, Sowams Heritage Area envisions a place where:

- Communities thrive by embracing and celebrating their shared history and cultural diversity;
- Partnerships are built across traditional boundaries to care for resources and tell a fuller, richer story;
- Visitors and residents alike are invited into a living tradition of stewardship, understanding, and connection to the landscape; and
- Indigenous voices and legacies are honored, ensuring that the region's earliest stories remain central to its identity.

By establishing this vision, the organization sets a profound goal for itself and how other heritage landscapes might foster a deep sense of place, community pride, cultural awareness, and shared responsibility.

Core Values

Sowams National Heritage Area is dedicated to instilling a sense of stewardship and deep appreciation for the profound historical, cultural, and natural significance of the Sowams region. Many different communities and cultures have lived on this landscape. Building partnerships and collaborating make it possible to achieve something bigger than what can be done alone. The organization's work is guided by four principles:

- Respect the land, the water, all living creatures, and their histories.
- Everyone has a story to tell, and Sowams is a place where their story can be told.
- What is unfamiliar, complex, or difficult is an opportunity to learn and grow.
- While working towards reconciliation and healing, acknowledge trauma, pain, and despair, but also hope, achievement, and joy.

The core values of Sowams Heritage Area are fundamental to its mission. They ensure that all work undertaken – whether preservation, interpretation, or community engagement – is rooted in



Celebrating Pokanoket Heritage Day, Warren, RI

respect and inclusivity. The core values help to ensure that stewardship of this place is not only about protecting its resources, but also about honoring the full human and environmental story that continues to unfold here. This commitment is carried out through a collaborative relationship among diverse partners who contribute their unique knowledge, experiences, and perspectives to a shared effort. The importance and structure of this collaboration are further detailed in the Partnerships section of this chapter.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles adopted by the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee form the essential framework for governance and decision-making throughout the heritage area's development and future operations. They provide an understanding among all partners about how collaboration will function, how responsibilities will be met, and how the Sowams Heritage Area's mission and priorities will remain the central focus of collective efforts. These principles move beyond aspirational statements; they serve as a practical code of conduct, designed to promote transparency, foster inclusivity, build trust, and ensure that every decision supports the sustainable stewardship of the Sowams landscape.

The guiding principles, found in Appendix G, serve as the foundation for the partnership model that follows. They set expectations for how organizations and stakeholders will interact, contribute, and share responsibilities under the Sowams Heritage Area framework. By adhering to these principles, partners will build a governance culture rooted in trust, mutual respect, and a steadfast focus on protecting and promoting the cultural, natural, and historical treasures of the Sowams region.

The guiding principles form the essential foundation for how Sowams Heritage Area will operate, ensuring that collaboration is transparent, inclusive, and centered on the area's long-term stewardship. These principles also establish a clear framework for partnerships, recognizing that the success of Sowams Heritage Area will depend on the strength, diversity, and cohesion of its partners. Partnerships are not only operational necessities, but also strategic alliances built on aligned

purposes, mutual respect, and collective responsibility. The following section outlines how partnerships will be structured, nurtured, and sustained to advance the Sowams Heritage Area's mission and ensure the effectiveness and resilience of its governance over time.

Organizational History and Current Structure

The Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. was established in 2020 as a nonprofit organization with the goal of securing NHA designation for the Sowams region. A volunteer steering committee was later formed through local advocacy and early collaboration with Tribal representatives, historians, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. The steering committee has served as the catalyst for building on the region's identity as the homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, and has guided initial planning, outreach, and resource documentation efforts. However, to successfully transition from planning to operational management as a designated NHA, Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. must evolve into a more formalized coordinating entity with professional governance and staff capacity.

Recommended Coordinating Entity Model

The recommended model for Sowams National Heritage Area is to transition Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. into a formal coordinating entity. This structure will maintain nonprofit status under 501(c)(3) regulations, amending its bylaws to provide for a larger board. An independent nonprofit coordinating entity allows for equitable service across all municipalities in both states, the ability to leverage diverse funding sources, and the establishment of transparent governance and financial accountability systems required by NPS standards.

Board Governance and Development

The coordinating entity will be governed by a board of directors consisting of 3 to 15 members. The board will include representation from across the heritage area's geographic scope, as well as from Tribal entities, cultural organizations, educational institutions, businesses, local governments, and nonprofit sectors. Members will be recruited based on their commitment to the heritage area's mission and their professional expertise. The board will establish standing committees focused on governance, finance, partnerships and programs, and fundraising. Term limits, officer roles, and committee structures will be codified in revised bylaws, ensuring continuity, the inclusion of fresh perspectives and new membership, and strong fiduciary oversight.

Staffing and Operational Needs

A phased staffing plan will guide the growth of the coordinating entity's operational capacity. Initially, a part-time executive director will be hired to lead daily management, partner coordination, board support, and early program implementation. Financial services will be outsourced to ensure professional standards while controlling administrative costs. As funding expands, the executive director will transition to full-time. Subsequently, a program/project manager will be hired to coordinate interpretive programming, educational initiatives, marketing, communications, and community engagement. Future staffing needs, such as administrative or development positions, will be assessed as organizational growth continues.

Evaluation and Performance Measurement

Structured evaluation will guide continuous improvement and public accountability. Annual internal evaluations should include board assessments, staff reviews, financial audits, and partner feedback surveys. An external independent evaluation should occur every five to seven years, measuring organizational effectiveness, program impact, financial compliance, and alignment

with mission goals. Evaluation metrics should track short-term outputs, medium-term program and funding growth, and long-term impacts on resource preservation, public engagement, and institutional sustainability.

Partnerships

A defining characteristic of successful National Heritage Areas is their foundation in strong, multi-faceted, and collaborative partnerships. In NHAs, governance is not solely the function of a central coordinating entity, but rather the result of sustained engagement among organizations, governments, Tribes, businesses, and individuals who are stewards of the region's identity, resources, and stories. The proposed Sowams NHA is developing such a network and is already demonstrating a commitment to a unified vision and regional collaboration.

The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee anchors the emerging partnership network. Its members represent key sectors vital to National Heritage Area governance, including historic preservation and cultural organizations, local governments, tourism organizations, land conservation, schools and educational institutions, Tribal leadership, and other nonprofit sectors (see Appendix A – Planning Participants). This committee has been integral in guiding the feasibility study process, and it is laying the groundwork for a collaborative structure that can carry the NHA forward.



Citizens from the nine towns and cities in Sowams joined the Community Conversations to discuss opportunities for collaboration and how the Sowams Heritage Area can benefit their communities.

During the planning process, the steering committee and consultant team engaged dozens of prospective partners to assess alignment, capacity, and readiness (see Appendix A – Planning Participants, Appendix B – Sowams Public Outreach Activities, Appendix D – Sowams Partners). These conversations confirmed that while Sowams' partners are diverse in mission and geography, they share common interests in interpreting the region's history, preserving its historic sites

and cultural and natural landscapes, promoting sustainable tourism, advancing education, and fostering community pride.

Role of the Partnership Network in Governance

Within the proposed governance framework, the partnership network will:

- **Contribute to shared decision-making** through an advisory council and committee structures aligned with thematic and programmatic areas (e.g., interpretation, resource stewardship) as described later in this chapter.
- **Implement projects and initiatives** in collaboration with or under the leadership of the coordinating entity, leveraging respective missions, capacities, and funding sources.
- **Amplify outreach and visibility**, helping to ensure regional messaging is accurate, inclusive, and representative of all communities and voices.
- **Strengthen local ownership and sustainability**, cultivating collective ownership of Sowams Heritage Area through this integrated partnership model, which empowers local institutions, communities, and stakeholders to actively shape and sustain the heritage area. By aligning with existing civic and cultural priorities, the network ensures that responsibility for Sowams is broadly shared and rooted in place.

Types of Partners

The Sowams Partners table (Appendix D) lists over 120 different partners that represent existing and potential partners in the region, and their interrelationship to the Sowams Heritage Area. Several are represented on the steering committee, and almost all have been included in outreach to date. This network of partners includes the following sectors:

- **Academic Institutions and Libraries** – Colleges and universities (e.g., Roger Williams University, Brown University) and public libraries are important collaborators in research, interpretation, and student engagement, while local schools provide essential pathways for youth education.
- **Arts and Culture Organizations** – Museums and cultural institutions are essential for interpreting Sowams' nationally significant story, including Indigenous cultures, along with European and Latino populations. Their stories are essential for interpreting Sowams' nationally significant heritage.
- **Business and Industry** – Local businesses, farms, service providers, heritage industries, and developers are essential allies in developing visitor infrastructure, undertaking large redevelopment projects of heritage resources, and delivering the kinds of experiences that make Sowams both economically viable and culturally compelling.
- **Economic Development and Tourism** – Regional and state tourism offices can help position Sowams as a destination with a distinct identity and authentic experiences tied to history and place.
- **Environment, Agriculture, and Gardens** – These partners preserve the landscape's integrity and help mitigate climate change threats, which are critical to long-term resource stewardship.
- **Funders and Grant Makers** – Funders like the Barr Foundation, corporations and small businesses, and other entities could play an important role in supporting Sowams with grants for projects and programs, operational support, and sponsorship.

- **History and Humanities** – Sowams is home to a large concentration of these organizations, many of which are small, volunteer-led, and eager to collaborate across community boundaries.
- **Municipalities** – Elected officials and planners are instrumental in aligning the NHA with municipal planning, infrastructure development, and economic revitalization. Several have already expressed interest in supporting NHA implementation through staffing support, inclusion in comprehensive plans, or promotional efforts.
- **National and Statewide Organizations** – Agencies such as the National Park Service (Blackstone River Valley NHP and Roger Williams National Memorial), the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the humanities councils and historic preservation offices in both states have the potential to provide technical assistance, financial support, and policy alignment.
- **Religious Communities** – Central to the national significance of Sowams is the history of religious freedom whose legacy is still present in the historic churches, congregations, and places of worship across the Sowams landscape.
- **Tribal Partners** – Providing a platform for Indigenous voices to be heard is critical for interpreting Sowams' nationally significant story. The Pokanoket Tribe continues to be represented on the leadership team of Sowams Heritage Area, and the perspectives of its tribal neighbors will remain important to the story of Sowams.

Governance Through Collaboration

As the proposed National Heritage Area advances from planning toward implementation, its partnership network will evolve into a collaborative governance structure – one that is participatory, transparent, and reflective of the region's wide-ranging voices. In this model, the coordinating entity does not dominate but instead facilitates, enabling partners to take active roles in advancing common goals. Governance will depend on clearly defined roles, accountability, and intentional mechanisms that foster collaborative leadership. Several key elements will support this structure:

- **A partnership framework to define commitments:**
A foundational step in establishing collaborative governance is creating an agreement that outlines the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating entity and its partners. This agreement could be informal or could take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), resolution, or charter and would articulate the shared vision of the Sowams NHA, commitments to mission and values, and the mechanisms for decision-making and conflict resolution. The agreement provides transparency and clarity, particularly for organizations contributing staff time, funding, or programmatic resources.
- **Annual gathering of partners for planning, reporting, and shared learning:**
An annual partner gathering will offer a vital forum for collective planning, transparency, and celebration of shared progress. The gathering will serve multiple purposes: reviewing accomplishments, evaluating the effectiveness of programs, setting new goals, reporting on financial and organizational performance, and fostering networking among stakeholders that can build a stronger coalition for advocacy. This event will reinforce transparency, align strategies across sectors, and renew momentum for the year ahead, ensuring that all partners have a voice in shaping the NHA's future.
- **Communication strategies for consistent messaging and transparency:**
Strong communication is integral to collaborative governance. Building on the efforts established during the feasibility study process, the coordinating entity will lead efforts to

establish internal and external communication protocols, including regular partner updates, newsletters, shared branding and messaging guidelines, and inclusive public engagement practices. These strategies will promote consistent messaging across partner organizations, maintain public trust, and ensure that all participants, especially underrepresented voices, are informed and empowered to contribute.

- **Committees organized by operations, expertise, themes:**

To ensure inclusive and informed governance, the Sowams NHA will benefit from the establishment of committees composed of subject matter experts and community representatives. These committees should be organized around core activities such as interpretation and education, Tribal engagement, tourism and marketing, resource stewardship, and economic development. They will provide strategic input, identify emerging needs and opportunities, and guide program development.

Financial Projections

The financial projections developed for Sowams National Heritage Area are designed to meet NPS requirements for feasibility studies. These projections reflect broad assumptions regarding funding and operations, based on the expectation that Sowams will receive federal designation. In accordance with NPS guidelines, the projections assume authorization to receive up to \$1 million annually under NHA legislation. However, current congressional appropriations have limited new NHAs to \$150,000 per year for the first three years while the organization conducts its required management plan, and \$300,000 annually thereafter.

The five-year budget for Sowams National Heritage Area reflects these funding assumptions. Revenues during the first three years are built around the \$150,000 NHA annual allocation, with a transition to \$300,000 per year beginning in Year 4. In addition to federal funding, the projections incorporate diversified revenue sources including earned income, contributions and donations, memberships, special events, corporate sponsorships, state and local government grants, foundation grants, and limited other income such as sales and miscellaneous revenue. Over the five-year period, total projected revenues amount to \$2,357,000.

Earned income projections remain modest, ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 annually, reflecting revenue from program activities, sales, or events. Contributions, memberships, sponsorships, and special events revenues are projected to grow incrementally, recognizing that fundraising capacity will expand as the organization develops its professional staff and a broader base of supporters. Foundation and state grants represent a significant source of additional funding. The projections reflect a conservative assumption regarding the availability of non-NHA federal grants, recognizing that other federal funds cannot be used as a match for the NHA federal allocation.

On the expense side, the largest operational cost category is staffing. In Year 1 and Year 2, staffing costs are based on a part-time executive director, transitioning to full-time employment in Year 3. Year 4 anticipates additional part-time administrative support to meet growing operational demands. Staffing costs are projected based on average nonprofit salary data for comparable roles in Warren, Rhode Island, adjusted for fringe benefits, legally required employer taxes, and a standard benefits package. Across the five years, staffing and administration costs total \$620,841.

Consulting costs are also significant in the early years, primarily to support development of the required management plan. The management plan is a federally mandated deliverable that must be completed within the first three years following NHA designation. Consultant expenses, projected at \$75,000 annually in Year 1 and Year 2 and declining in Years 3 through 5, also allow for additional planning activities such as interpretive planning and strategic assessments. Total consultant costs over five years are projected at \$240,000.

Grantmaking to partners is another core element of the budget. Beginning at \$25,000 in Year 1, grants to partners are projected to increase each year, reaching \$150,000 annually by Year 5. These grants are intended to support collaborative projects across the region, aligned with the heritage area's mission, and to incentivize local investment in stewardship and public engagement. Cumulatively, partner grants are projected at \$360,000 over the five-year period.

The financial projections also account for required match obligations. Under federal law, every dollar of NHA federal funding must be matched by at least one dollar from non-federal sources. The budget meets both the overall match ratio and the legislative match requirement, excluding other federal grants to ensure compliance. Matching funds will be secured through a combination of state grants, foundation support, local government contributions, earned income, private donations, and in-kind services. While specific partner match contributions are not yet detailed, it is reasonable to assume that partners will match or exceed the NHA grant amounts through direct project investments and leveraged resources.

The budget does not include amounts for in-kind or non-cash contributions of goods, services, or volunteer time so as to project actual cash needs to sustain operations. This conservative approach ensures that the coordinating entity maintains realistic and responsible expectations for its fundraising and financial management responsibilities.

The financial plan anticipates modest but steady growth over the five-year period, allowing the organization to expand its staffing, programming, grant making, and partnership initiatives in a sustainable manner. The structure of the budget demonstrates a deliberate effort to diversify revenues, build organizational capacity, and meet federal match requirements, providing a clear and credible path toward the financial sustainability of Sowams National Heritage Area.

Five-Year Projection - Annual Operating Revenues & Expenses						
REVENUES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	5-Year Totals
Earned Income	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	10,500
Contributions/Dona- tions	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,450	6,750
Membership	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,750	2,000	8,250
Special Events	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500	5,000
Sales	500	750	750	1,000	1,000	4,000
NHA Funds	150,000	150,000	150,000	300,000	300,000	1,050,000
Other Federal Grants	10,000	10,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	170,000
State Grants	100,000	100,000	100,000	120,000	120,000	540,000
Local Government Grants	10,000	20,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	155,000
Corporations/Sponsor- ships	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Foundations	35,000	35,000	50,000	125,000	150,000	395,000
Other Revenue	500	500	500	500	500	2,500
Total Revenue	312,750	323,300	384,100	655,400	681,450	2,357,000
EXPENSES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	5-Year Totals
Admin. & Operations	65,716	67,750	95,000	193,200	199,175	620,841
Consultants	75,000	75,000	50,000	25,000	15,000	240,000
Grants	25,000	35,000	50,000	100,000	150,000	360,000
Equipment & Mainte- nance	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	7,000	25,000
Insurance	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	5,000	14,000
Marketing & PR	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	25,000	75,000
Office & Facility/ Utilities	1,000	5,000	7,000	10,000	12,500	35,500
Printing, Copying, Post- age	2,500	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	16,000
Professional Expenses	1,500	1,750	2,000	2,000	2,000	9,250
Program Expenses	1,500	2,500	3,000	3,500	5,000	15,500
Org. & Membership Fees	1,500	2,000	3,500	5,000	5,000	17,000
Supplies & Furnishings	1,000	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,500
Travel & Related	4,000	4,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	31,000
Misc. & Other	1,000	2,500	3,000	5,000	5,000	16,500
Total Expenses	189,216	218,500	250,000	385,700	444,675	1,488,091
Profit/Loss	123,534	104,800	134,100	269,700	236,775	868,909
In-Kind Support	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	123,534	104,800	134,100	269,700	236,775	868,909

Organizational Retreat, Outcomes, and Recommendations

An organizational retreat for the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee was held on May 28, 2025, at the Bristol Art Museum. The retreat served as a pivotal moment for transitioning the initiative from a planning phase into formalized governance and operational development. The retreat opened with a grounding in place and purpose, including a welcome by the host institution and partner, the Bristol Art Museum, and a brief historical context of the region. Participants reviewed and endorsed a set of group agreements emphasizing respectful communication, active listening, bold thinking, and mutual care. After personal reflections on the significance of Sowams, the group reaffirmed its strategic priorities for 2025–2026, which include transitioning to a formal governance structure, increasing public and political support, and leveraging existing programming to serve communities across the region.



Outreach workshop at the Sowams Steering Committee retreat in the Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI

A significant portion of the retreat focused on mapping the path toward formal governance. Steering committee members explored in-depth considerations around establishing a board of directors, sunsetting the existing steering committee, and creating an advisory council and board committees. Also discussed were board recruitment strategies that prioritize representation, expertise, and commitment, and emphasized the importance of early staff hiring to implement board strategies effectively. The retreat included a discussion to reflect on challenges, such as funding, community engagement, Tribal relationships, timing of next steps, and a collaborative workshop to identify ideal board, advisory, and committee members. The retreat concluded with a detailed set of action steps, responsibilities, and deadlines to ensure steady momentum toward building a durable and inclusive organizational framework for Sowams Heritage Area.

The steering committee promptly started implementing the recommendations of the governance committee. In January 2026, eight months after their planning retreat, the steering committee dissolved and the original 501(c)(3) entity reconstituted its board of directors to include some

founding members of the steering committee and new directors. That board grew from three members to 11 members with a potential for 15 members. On advice of counsel, the by-laws were revised to align with the governance practices of National Heritage Areas. The original subcommittees, which had worked with the consultants on the feasibility study, were expanded to include non-board members, and new committees were formed to respond to the evolving needs of the emerging heritage area. The board felt strongly that including heritage partners on board committees was critical to strengthening Sowams Heritage Area's regional impact and building a pipeline of future leaders. One of the new committees was the Tribal Engagement Committee whose mandate is to engage the Pokanoket's Tribal neighbors, both federally recognized and self-identified, in sharing their own perspectives on the story of Sowams.

Early Implementation Projects and Programs

The organizational retreat prioritized several early implementation projects and programs as opportunities to raise visibility, build partnerships, and align with the mission of Sowams Heritage Area. These efforts reflect a strategy to leverage existing programs, celebrate regional history, and support community engagement while building the organizational infrastructure required for future National Heritage Area designation. The programming and projects reflect broad regional interests, including education, interpretation, cultural celebration, and public outreach.

Six years ago, Sowams Heritage Area Project Historian, David Weed, started conducting tours of the Pokanoket sites in Sowams and giving talks about the pivotal events that happened here in the 17th century. Such programming events continue today in collaboration with Sowams partners like the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, East Providence Preservation Society, the Somerset Historical Society, and the Carpenter Museum in Rehoboth. Sowams has been a co-sponsor of the 14-month commemoration of King Philip's War in 2025–2026, convening experts from Plimoth-Patuxet Museums, the Pokanoket Tribe, and Roger Williams University. The 250th celebration of American Independence has been an opportunity to highlight both the history of Sowams and the benefits of a Sowams Heritage Area. These events and the programming of our regional partners are often featured in our monthly newsletter, "Sowams News," which began distribution in January 2025.



Don "Strong Turtle" Brown and Eric Schultz discuss the 350th anniversary of King Philip's War at Joseph Case Junior High School, Swansea, MA

The steering committee's outreach to the community has produced opportunities to build programming around the other Interpretive Themes. After an introductory meeting in 2024, leaders of land trusts and conservation commissions in Sowams are eager to collaborate on mitigating climate change. Historic churches like the First Congregational Churches in Barrington and Bristol, the Baptist Church in Swansea, and the Newman Church in East Providence want to participate in interpreting their roles in the founding of their towns and the legacy of religious tolerance today. O'Brien and Brough, which recently started to distill rum in Bristol after 200 years, has offered to host events for Sowams Heritage Area and the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project in their distillery in the historic Bristol Industrial Park. Sowams Heritage Area will present a panel on engaging heritage partners at the joint conference of The Association of State and Local History and the National Council on Public History in Providence, RI in September 2026.

Going forward, key opportunities for Sowams Heritage Area will be to leverage the programming activity of institutional partners, such as, schools, colleges, universities, and libraries; community groups like Boys and Girls Clubs, the Cape Verdean Progressive Center, and the Providence Cultural Equity Initiative; and tourism and community development entities like the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, RI Commerce, and the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. This approach allows the heritage area to build momentum and form durable partnerships without needing to initiate and manage every program.

Projects and programs include:

- **Tourism and Economic Development Initiatives**
Collaborate with the region's local chambers and tourism groups to promote heritage tourism, adaptive re-use, and Sowams Heritage Area's Interpretive Themes.
- **Youth Programming**
Develop place-based educational activities – emphasizing nature, history, and stewardship – with Oasis International, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, The Y, and summer camps, which provide generational continuity with the heritage area's mission.
- **Arts and Culture**
Showcase arts, crafts, and culture – WaterFire, Portuguese Heritage Festival, Pokanoket Heritage Day, and the Meshanticut Cultural Placemaking ConFestival – to reinforce local historical narratives and support cross-community storytelling.
- **Historical Societies, Land Trusts, and Preservation Groups**
Provide a platform for heritage and environmental groups to share resources and collaborate on projects.

These early actions serve as both a soft launch for Sowams as a National Heritage Area and a test bed for future organizational capacity. They also signal a commitment to collaboration, equity, and locally rooted implementation while the organization transitions toward formal governance.

CHAPTER 5 – ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA CRITERIA

Introduction

Beginning in 2022, local stakeholders launched a formal effort to explore creating Sowams National Heritage Area on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The effort was led by the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and facilitated by Point Heritage Development Consulting, building on grassroots that stretched back at least a decade. Local governments, Tribal leaders, museum and nonprofit representatives, educators, business owners, and residents from Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Providence, and Warren in Rhode Island, along with Seekonk, Rehoboth, Swansea, and Somerset in Massachusetts, have participated in the effort. Through extensive public outreach that ranged from individual interviews to community-wide conversations, stakeholders across the region considered the opportunities that an NHA designation might bring.

Throughout this dialogue the steering committee and planning team focused on three core questions:

- 1. What nationally significant stories link the region’s communities and help define the American experience?
- 2. Do the region’s historic, cultural, and natural resources possess the integrity and concentration needed to convey those stories?
- 3. Does Sowams have the organizational capacity and partnerships to steward these resources, enrich quality of life, share important history, and foster sustainable economic development?

The National Heritage Area Act of 2023 sets out seven criteria for evaluating emerging National Heritage Areas.¹⁷¹ The remainder of this chapter lists those criteria and explains how the Sowams feasibility study satisfies each one, demonstrating the region’s readiness for federal designation and unified stewardship.



Samuel Pomeroy Colt, founder of the largest rubber company in America 1901, built the bridge at the Mill Gut on his farm, now Colt State Park, Bristol, RI.

¹⁷¹ The National Heritage Act of 2023, Public Law 117-339. <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ339/PLAW-117publ339.pdf>. Accessed June 23, 2026.

Evaluating the Sowams Region

(A) Has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that

- (i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;**
- (ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and**
- (iii) would be best managed**

(I) through partnership and among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.

The Sowams study area – nine closely linked communities framed by Narragansett, Mount Hope, and Kickemuit Bays and the rivers that feed them – contains a tightly clustered network of the Pokanoket ancestral homeland, early colonial settlements, King Philip’s War sites, places that nurtured religious liberty, maritime and enslaved-labor landmarks, and ecologically rich shoreline habitats. Together these natural, historic, and cultural resources chronicle formative moments in American history: sustained Pokanoket land-use; the diplomacy enshrined in the First Thanksgiving; the clash of cultures that reshaped colonial-Native relations; early experiments in freedom of conscience; and the rise of Atlantic trade that tied New England to a global economy.



East Providence Historical Society stewards the John Hunt House at Hunt’s Mills, East Providence, RI.

A narrative of Sowams’ historical trajectory and significance is found in Chapter 2, while a thematic framework and discussion of the assemblage of resources are documented in Chapter 3 and listed in Appendix E – Sowams Resource Inventory. Because the resources remain geographically contiguous, retain documented integrity, and are interpreted by active Tribes, museums, local governments, and nonprofits, they function as a single heritage landscape rather than isolated points of interest. The inventory developed during planning confirms that this concentration meets National Park Service expectations for a “strategic assemblage.” The region offers visitors an authentic, place-based experience of nationally significant stories and can be stewarded through the cooperative framework envisioned for a National Heritage Area.

(B) Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.

National Heritage Areas are living landscapes, and Sowams contains a continuum of traditions that reflect important currents in the American experience. The history and living traditions found in the region are documented in the historic context found in Chapter 2.

Long before European contact, the Pokanoket shaped the region through fishing, shellfish harvesting, controlled burns, and the cultivation of corn, beans, and squash. Pokanoket stewardship expressed through ancestral placenames, annual heritage gatherings, and the successful campaign to reclaim their most sacred site overlooking Mount Hope Bay anchors the region in Indigenous worldviews centered on reciprocity with the land and water.

Seventeenth-century dissenters add another layer of significance whose impact is still lived today. Roger Williams' insistence on freedom of conscience was an idea that later shaped the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Williams, John Myles, the Antinomians, the Quakers, and others made space in Sowams to freely express their religious beliefs. The region's active religious congregations have deep roots, including the First Baptist Church in America in Providence, the Newman Congregational Church in East Providence, and the Swansea Baptist Church and Swansea Friends Meeting House across the border in Massachusetts.



The original meeting house of the Newman Church, founded in 1643 by the Reverend Samuel Newman, was burnt down in the King Philip's War, East Providence, RI.

Economy and folklife tied to water are also important in Sowams. The region's shipyards advanced from wooden whalers to the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company's America's Cup defenders and, today, to high-tech composite-fabrication firms, demonstrating how boatbuilding ingenuity continues to flow from the bays into national industry. From prehistory to the present, food from the rivers and bays has defined the region's foodways. The seafood industry thrives in restaurants and businesses across Sowams, including institutions like Blount Fine Foods. Festivals like Warren's Quahog Festival and Bristol's Harbor Festival & Blessing of the Fleet commemorate these seafood and shipbuilding roots, while WaterFire celebrates arts and heritage along the Providence River.

A long-standing civic tradition captures the region's commitment to patriotic expression and community pride. Bristol's Fourth of July Celebration, the oldest continuously held Independence Day celebration in the nation, culminates in a parade that dates back to 1785.

Successive waves of immigrants brought traditions that enrich the region. Of particular note are the Portuguese and Cape Verdean communities. Whaling and trade from these water-oriented cultures laid a foundation for a significant population in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. Cultural organizations and annual religious and independence festivals are important expressions of Portuguese and Cape Verdean culture and history.

(C) Provides outstanding opportunities
(i) to conserve natural, historic, cultural or scenic features

Sowams is as historically significant as it is biologically diverse. The region presents an interwoven landscape where traditional Indigenous sites, colonial-era farms and meetinghouses, and later historic properties lie amid the bays and rivers, estuaries, salt marshes, meadows, and forestlands. Within the proposed National Heritage Area boundary, nine communities contain more than 190 natural, cultural, and historic features. This includes over 100 historic properties, described in more detail in Chapter 3 and in Criterion D (below), as well as approximately 12 square miles of protected open space, 3.5 square miles of open water, and over 19 square miles of wetlands. This mosaic of cultural landmarks and natural habitats demonstrates great historical and ecological value.

Many of the region’s oldest resources are among those that could benefit from the opportunities afforded by National Heritage Area designation. Potumtuk, the quartz outcropping above Mount Hope Bay, stands at the center of Pokanoket culture and history. Brown University recently transferred ownership of the land to a preservation trust of the Pokanoket Tribe for preservation in perpetuity and access for Tribes with historical connections to the property. The land is buffered by open space purchased by the City of Bristol. Currently, it bears no designation, although the study accomplished prior to the transfer confirmed its significance as a traditional cultural property. Furthermore, many of the region’s historic structures are owned privately or by small nonprofit organizations. Support and guidance to preserve these structures is needed. There are many adaptive reuse opportunities for buildings associated with historic industry in the region. Finally, in the most populous area of the nation – coastline along the northeast corridor – natural spaces are increasingly rare; safeguarding these resources is critical for environmental health, climate resilience, and quality of life for the region’s residents.



Stewarded by the Barrington Land Trust, Osaqmequin Nature Preserve is a popular spot for birdwatching, Barrington, RI.

Courtesy of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust

As described in Chapter 4 and Criterion E (below), there exists a well-established network of local organizations and agencies ready to collaborate on conserving and celebrating these resources, an essential foundation for National Heritage Area designation (see Appendix C – Concurrent Plans and Appendix D – Sowams Partners). The combination of resources and partners provide opportunities for coordination in the documentation, planning, and preservation of historic resources; participation in projects and programs that address climate resilience and natural resource and land conservation; and the leveraging of funding for stewardship projects.

(ii) for recreation and education.

During the planning process, partner organizations and residents alike named sharing the region’s nationally significant stories as one of the top priorities for National Heritage Area designation. The Pokanoket alliance with the Separatist Pilgrims, King Philip’s War and the realignment of colonial/Indigenous relationships, the foundations of religious freedom in North America, and the region’s role in the Triangle Trade of enslaved people are histories whose legacy resonates far beyond Sowams. National Heritage Area designation will increase visibility and understanding of these histories, as well as support for projects and programs that can elevate them in national conscience.

Educational opportunities exist on many levels. First, the interpretive opportunities mentioned above have many applications, including but not limited to museum exhibitions, interpretive signage, digital media, and formal classroom curricula. Another important aspect of education could include public education on the benefits and best practices concerning historic preservation, as many of the region’s historic properties are under private and nonprofit ownership. Similarly, a National Heritage Area could help amplify messaging on natural resource conservation, water quality, and the work of the region’s numerous land trusts, potentially assisting with coordinating efforts of local organizations with those addressing conservation at the regional level.



Boating and sailing on the Warren River, Warren, RI

The region's natural spaces provide an important foundation for recreational opportunities. The 14-mile East Bay Bike Path begins at India Point Park in Providence and ends at Independence Park in Bristol, linking all five Rhode Island towns within the proposed National Heritage Area boundary. The path is an important artery that highlights cultural and natural resources, connecting waterfront parks, working wharves, historic downtowns, and major attractions such as Watchemoket Square and Colt State Park. The Revolutionary Heritage National Scenic Byway and the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, a National Historic Trail, are also important resources that connect recreational experiences and history. In addition, the Taunton and Kickemuit Rivers, as well as the Hundred Acre Cove, are among the many resources that enable paddlers to explore, giving them important glimpses of the natural world that the Pokanoket inhabitants and the English settlers knew four centuries ago. Narragansett and Mount Hope Bays offer a variety of recreational boating and excursions.

National Heritage Areas link a region's natural beauty with its historic and cultural stories. By uniting these resources under one banner, a Sowams National Heritage Area would better coordinate sites and programs, giving visitors richer experiences while strengthening local pride, heritage tourism, and the area's economy.

(D) Contains resources that

- (i) are important to any identified theme of the National Heritage Area; and**
- (ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.**

The Sowams study area contains a critical mass of historic, cultural, and natural resources whose documented integrity can sustain high-quality interpretation of the region's national significance and



Local children come costumed on their class visits to the one-room Hornbine School, built in 1847 in Rehoboth, MA.

supporting themes. The region's historic context is described in Chapter 2, while a thematic framework and descriptions of key resources are set forth in Chapter 3. An inventory of 191 resources is found in Appendix E – Sowams Resource Inventory.

Within the nine communities that comprise the proposed National Heritage Area boundary, there are many significant sites associated with the region's history and cultures. Together, these resources convey the complex history of Indigenous settlement and early colonial contact (116 resources), King Philip's War (30 resources), religious freedom (29 resources), enslavement and the trade of enslaved peoples (26 resources), and the industries and innovation tied to the cultural landscape on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay (103 resources).

Several resources are notable for their significance, integrity, and relation to the region's themes. Potumtuk, the heart of Pokanoket culture described above, is central to the stories of the contact era and

King Philip's War, along with being an important site for living traditions. In addition, the Roger Williams National Memorial, the core of Williams' Providence Plantation, and the first Baptist church in the nation anchor the story of religious freedom. The region includes 13 National Historic Landmarks, all of which are tied to Sowams' themes. Among the sites are colonial houses, Brown University and RISD as well as the homes of men who built their wealth on maritime trade – including the trade of enslaved people. In all, the region contains 96 individual listings in the National Register of Historic Places, including 17 historic districts.

The Sowams inventory also identifies a wide array of historic churches and cemeteries, historic waterfronts and downtowns, traditional Indigenous cultural sites, and natural areas. Although twenty-first-century growth has taken place around them, the core resources retain location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, natural environment, and associative values sufficient for NPS-level interpretation. Their close geographic grouping strengthens thematic cohesion, facilitates visitor circulation, and supports coordinated stewardship by municipal, Tribal, nonprofit, and private partners.

Taken together, the resources in Sowams provide a compelling and interpretable framework for public education and heritage tourism. The proposed boundary of the National Heritage Area is fairly compact, situating these resources in close proximity to one another and allowing them to be managed and interpreted as a single, coherent heritage landscape.

(E) includes a diverse group of residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local government that

(i) are involved in the planning of the proposed National Heritage Area

Sowams National Heritage Area meets this criterion through an extensive and inclusive planning process led by a representative steering committee that includes local governments, nonprofit organizations, heritage and cultural institutions, Tribal representatives, educational institutions, and business and tourism stakeholders. More than 120 partners have been identified, many of whom have directly contributed to the planning process, strategy development, and outreach initiatives (see Appendix A – Planning Participants, Appendix B – Sowams Public Outreach Activities, and Appendix D – Sowams Partners). This wide-ranging coalition has affirmed strong and growing regional support for designation and implementation.



The East Providence Arts Council presents the Loeff Arts Festival, named for the historic Loeff Carousel in Crescent Park, East Providence, RI

Courtesy of East Bay Media Group

Although the legislative criteria do not mandate Tribal engagement, the Sowams initiative recognizes and respects the complex role of Indigenous history and the Pokanoket Tribe in shaping the region's nationally significant story. The project does not rely on the resolution of historic or political issues related to Tribal recognition or land claims. Such resolution could not be expected or achieved within the scope of an NHA. Nor should it. Instead, Sowams provides a platform for truth-telling, layered narratives, and continued dialogue. The door remains open for Tribal engagement, but the success and justification of the NHA should not be dependent on full consensus or formal endorsement from the representatives of the neighboring Tribes. To condition the legitimacy of the broader coalition on that singular factor would not only be unrealistic – it would unjustly discount the contributions of over 100 other stakeholders of the Sowams' region who have come together in good faith to preserve and interpret a richly complex American story.

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the proposed National Heritage Area, including the Federal Government

A governance committee composed of planners and nonprofit professionals developed a financial strategy and administrative framework for the coordinating entity, ensuring that the roles of federal, state, local, and private sector partners were considered, are understood, and are integrated into the planning effort. The five-year conceptual financial plan reflects realistic funding assumptions based on the established tiered formula of the federal appropriations allocated through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Heritage Partnership Program and outlines the shared responsibility for meeting match requirements through state and local grants, philanthropic support, in-kind contributions, and partner contributions. In-kind contributions may be accounted for, but they are not included in the financial projections in order to provide a more accurate figure of the total dollars necessary to manage the NHA. This diversified approach ensures the financial sustainability of the heritage area while fulfilling federal requirements.

(iii) have demonstrated significant support for the designation of the proposed National Heritage Area

The proposed coordinating entity for the Sowams NHA has demonstrated sustained leadership, vision, and organizational capacity. It has grown from a grassroots initiative into a formal nonprofit with a clear governance strategy, bylaws, and a defined pathway to becoming a federally recognized coordinating body. The board structure includes representation from across the region's towns, Tribal communities, cultural organizations, and nonprofit sectors, reflecting a genuine commitment to inclusive, multi-jurisdictional governance.

Municipal leaders and planners have actively participated in the planning process and have expressed support for designation and partnership. The feasibility study outlines a collaborative governance model that includes an annual gathering, an advisory committee, working committees organized by topic, and transparent mechanisms for shared decision-making. Through these structures, local governments and partner organizations are not merely consulted; they are empowered to shape the heritage area's priorities and programs.

The willingness to collaborate is further underscored by the inclusion of staffing and grantmaking strategies designed to support joint projects and promote local ownership. The phased staffing plan and the integration of local and state funding support demonstrate that the coordinating entity is well-positioned to manage federal funds responsibly while continuing to serve as a regional convener and leader.

(F) Has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the proposed National Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity.

The *Sowams National Heritage Area Feasibility Study* fully demonstrates Criterion F by clearly identifying a capable and evolving management entity, rooted in an existing nonprofit organization that has been active in the region. The nonprofit organization Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. – though modest in its original scope – has grown in capacity and mission through its leadership role in convening and supporting the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee throughout the multi-year feasibility process. Rather than creating an entirely new entity, the feasibility study assumes building on this existing nonprofit’s infrastructure, strengthening it with broader representation, deeper expertise, and greater community engagement.

The governance model has been intentionally designed to reflect this evolution. Most members of the steering committee have already transitioned into formal leadership and advisory roles within the expanded nonprofit framework. To avoid conflicts of interest, some, like the town planners, chose not to join the reconstituted board, leaving opportunities for new members to revitalize the board with energy and new ideas. This ensures institutional continuity while expanding the entity’s operational and strategic capacity. The feasibility study describes in detail the organizational structure of the proposed coordinating entity, including a governing board, working committees, an advisory committee, and planned staff positions aligned with its responsibilities for programming, partner coordination, communications, fundraising, and stewardship. The proposed staffing model begins with a part-time executive director and adjusts as needed over time to include additional positions to support implementation of the National Heritage Area’s mission and goals.

Importantly, the feasibility study provides a conceptual financial plan tied to this structure, outlining potential revenue streams and matching requirements, including federal appropriations, state and local support, philanthropic contributions, and earned income. The entity is fully described – not only in name and form, but in its practical ability to serve as an effective and inclusive manager of Sowams National Heritage Area.

The proposed Sowams National Heritage Area lies within a diversified, water-oriented economy built on shipbuilding, advanced composites, seafood processing, healthcare, and fast-growing heritage tourism. As detailed in the historic context in Chapter 2, in 2023, the Rhode Island side of the region attracted \$31 million in visitor spending – nearly a third in arts, entertainment, and recreation – while the Massachusetts side exceeded pre-COVID visitor revenues by 25 percent. These sectors prosper alongside a resurgent working-waterfront culture and a cluster of small craft breweries, restaurants, and creative-arts firms.



Boatyards and marinas, like the Somerset Boatyard, carry on the legacy of marine trades in Sowams, Somerset, MA

Courtesy of Bristol Marine

National Heritage Area designation would reinforce this momentum:

- **Stronger tourism brand** – A nationally recognized brand would knit together Tribal and colonial resources, historic downtowns, working waterfronts, and natural spaces, giving visitors a reason to extend stays and spend more in local businesses.
- **New investment leverage** – Partnership-based NHAs commonly unlock federal, state, and philanthropic grants beyond the reach of individual towns, funding planning and implementation for adaptive re-use of historic properties, trail development, wayfinding and interpretive initiatives, and workforce programs related to heritage industries.
- **Business-friendly model** – Because NHAs are purely voluntary and non-regulatory, critical industries continue without added permitting or land-use constraints.
- **Year-round benefits** – Off-season interpretation, festivals, and trails spread visitor demand throughout the year, supporting restaurants, lodging, and retail outside the summer peak.

The proposed Sowams National Heritage Area will add value to an already vibrant regional economy, described in Appendix F – Sowams Affected Environment. By expanding heritage tourism markets while respecting the working landscape, the proposed Sowams National Heritage Area is fully compatible with – and will amplify – existing economic activity.

(G) Has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

The proposed Sowams National Heritage Area boundary was shaped through historical and topographical research; discussions with the Pokanoket, members of other Tribal communities, and stakeholders; steering committee deliberations; and open public meetings. The proposed boundary traces the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe, embracing nine municipalities – four in Massachusetts and five in Rhode Island – within a compact 140-square-mile corridor framed by Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay, the tidal Taunton River, and the Moshassuck River in Providence.



Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe, is prominently displayed beside the incorporation of Warren, RI on a plaque above the portico of the Warren Town Hall.

The footprint of the Pokanoket Tribe is evidenced on streets and in public places. The names of Sowams and the Pokanoket leaders who lived here – the Massasoit Ousamequin, Wamsutta (Alexander), Metacomet (Philip), and Anawan – are found throughout the towns and cities that comprise the Pokanoket homeland. Among them are King Philip, Metacom, or Metacomet streets in Barrington, Bristol, East Providence and Warren, RI and Rehoboth, Seekonk, Swansea and Somerset, MA; Wamsutta roads in Barrington, Bristol and Providence, RI and Swansea, MA; Sowams Nurseries in Swansea, Sowams Cider Works and Sowams Drive in Warren, and Sowams Elementary School, Sowams Road, and Sowams Woods in Barrington; Ousamequin Farm in Seekonk, MA and Ousamequin Nature Preserve in Barrington, RI.; the Massasoit's war chief Anawan, is recognized in Rehoboth with a street, school, club, grange hall, and farm.

Although the region is sometimes associated with Newport or Providence, RI or Fall River, MA, residents and stakeholders support this border because it mirrors a landscape they already experience as a single cultural place, the home of the great Pokanoket Massasoit and his royal family.

- **Cohesive story-scape** – The boundary encompasses the Pokanoket seat at Potumtuk, early colonial town centers, King Philip’s War sites, the core of Roger Williams’ “lively experiment,” and working waterfronts into one easily understood geography. This helps make interpretation and wayfinding intuitive for visitors and residents alike.
- **Community-driven fit** – During the feasibility study, the steering committee considered alternative edges. Public comment favored following existing municipal lines to the north and the Taunton River to the east, ensuring every town that identifies with “Sowams” is included while respecting neighboring Tribal territories.
- **Visible, bipartisan backing** – Town planning divisions, heritage organizations, and representatives of the Pokanoket Tribe have endorsed the map. Moreover, cross-border collaborations already exist and have grown more numerous as the feasibility study has progressed.

The proposed Sowams National Heritage Area boundary enjoys broad support. It emerged from a transparent public process, resonates with cultural identity, and follows recognizable natural and municipal features.

Study Findings

Along the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay, the Sowams landscape still conveys some of the nation’s earliest and most pivotal encounters: Pokanoket lifeways, the 1621 alliance that underpins the Thanksgiving story, the upheaval of King Philip’s War, the first sustained experiments in freedom of conscience, and the maritime commerce that drew New England into the Atlantic world. Because these themes are illustrated by a compact concentration of Tribal sites, colonial town centers, battlefields, early meeting-houses, working waterfronts, and coastal and estuarine habitats, the region meets the National Park Service’s tests for an assemblage of nationally significant resources with sufficient integrity for interpretation.

Since 2022, community conversations, subject matter expert interviews, and partner and governmental briefings at the local, state, and federal have broadened the understanding of the region’s historical, cultural, and ecological value, and support for



Executives Marcia and Julie Blount are carrying on the legacy of their late father, Luther H. Blunt, whose shipbuilding company now designs and builds state-of-the-art crew transfer vessels for the offshore wind sector.

its designation as a National Heritage Area. While long-term funding and detailed governance will continue to evolve and require constant attention, a strong network of partners coalesced to provide a solid foundation to take on the coordinating duties of the proposed Sowams National Heritage Area.

Taken together, the nationally significant history, documented resource base, demonstrated local interest, and emerging stewardship network suggest that Sowams is well positioned for designation as a National Heritage Area.

Recommendations on Next Steps

Given the conclusion that residents of the region, under the leadership of Sowams Heritage Area Project, Inc. and the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, should pursue NHA designation by Congress, the organization has considered the next steps that must occur. A set of recommendations came out of discussions with stakeholders, community members, regional leaders, and the steering committee over the course of the feasibility study, summarized here:

1. Pursue designation by the U.S. Congress of Sowams National Heritage Area.
2. Identify and carry out early implementation projects discussed during the planning process and developed through the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee retreat.
3. Continue to build the NHA partnership network through continued outreach and early implementation projects and programs.
4. Continue to inform Tribes from the surrounding areas of the effort, leaving the door open for their future participation.
5. Implement the recommendations of the governance section to build a board and staff that can meet the evolving needs of the organization.
6. Grow fundraising to ensure a sustainable organization and NHA.



The Meadows is a recovered natural setting for "Yoga and Storytime" sponsored by the Seekonk Public Library.

Final Thoughts

The Sowams region spanning Massachusetts and Rhode Island boasts significant historical, cultural, and natural resources, each important in its own right. However, the true power of these resources lies in the stories of the people who shaped the region – from the original inhabitants to generations of newcomers – their relationships, past and present, and the lasting impact of their presence on a changing landscape. Sowams bears witness to the existence and flourishing of Indigenous culture over millennia, and also to the establishment of one of the iconic early European settlements in North America. Its story sheds light on the convergence and clash of cultures that unfolded over time, as well as the conflict inherent in our nation's founding ideals. Given its national significance, Sowams and its history, cultures, and present-day environment deserve recognition as a National Heritage Area.



APPENDIX A – PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Board of Directors

- Paul Cogley, Treasurer – Chair of Economic Development Committee, Town of Somerset, MA
- Tracey Dancing Star – Sachem of the Pokanoket Tribe
- Dr. Charles Hartman – Retired Baptist Pastor, Swansea, MA
- Chelsea Johnson – Assistant Director, Carpenter Museum, Rehoboth, MA, Program Coordinator, Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, Bristol, RI
- Steven H. Kitchin – former Chair, Select Board, Town of Swansea, MA
- Laura McNamara, Vice Chair – Director of Events and Community Engagement, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Barrington, RI
- James Moran – Former Chief Economic Planner, City of East Providence, RI
- Dr. Silas Otniel Rodrigues Pinto – Deputy Chief of People and Culture, City of Providence, RI
- Richard Pierce – Chair, Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation, Somerset, MA
- Andrea Rounds, Chair – Institutional Advancement Consultant, Bristol, RI
- Dr. David Weed, Project Historian – Founder of Sowams Early History, Warren, RI

Steering Committee Members

- John J. Aubin, III – Town Planner, Town of Seekonk, MA
- Tracey Dancing Star – Sachem of the Pokanoket Tribe
- William Guy, Winds of Thunder – Sagamore of the Pokanoket Tribe
- John P. Hansen, Jr. – Assistant Town Administrator/Community Development Director, Town of Swansea, MA
- Dr. Charles Hartman – Retired Baptist Pastor
- Chelsea Johnson – Assistant Director, Carpenter Museum, Rehoboth, MA, Program Coordinator, Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, Bristol, RI
- John Larsen – Director, Somerset Historical Society, Somerset, MA
- Laura McNamara – Director of Events and Community Engagement, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
- James Moran – Former Chief Economic Planner, City of East Providence, RI
- Bill Napolitano – Taunton River Watershed Alliance
- Dr. Silas Otniel Rodrigues Pinto – Deputy Chief of People and Culture, City of Providence, RI
- Andrea Rounds – Sowams Project Advisor
- Rock Singewald – Warren Land Trust, Warren, RI
- Dr. David Weed – Sowams Project Historian
- Diane Williamson – Director of Community Development, Bristol, RI

Planning Team

POINT Heritage Development Consulting

- Dr. Nancy I. M. Morgan, Principal
- August R. Carlino
- Peter Samuel

Stakeholder Interviews

- Dr. Jeremy Bangs – Founder, Leiden American Pilgrim Museum
- Tracey Dancing Star – Sachem of the Pokanoket Tribe
- Dr. Charlotte Carrington-Farmer – Associate Professor of History, Roger Williams University
- Eric Chiasson – Regional Tribal Liaison, Region 1, National Park Service
- Elizabeth Francis – Executive Director, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
- C. Morgan Grefe – Executive Director, Rhode Island Historical Society
- William Guy, Winds of Thunder – Sagamore of the Pokanoket Tribe
- John P. Hansen, Jr. – Assistant Town Administrator/Community Development Director, Town of Swansea, MA
- James Moran – Chief Economic Planner, City of East Providence, RI
- Julia Renaud – Associate Director of Grants and Strategic Initiatives, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
- Stephen Venuti – Former officer of the Barrington Preservation Society; former member of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee
- Raymond “Two Hawks” Watson, Esq – Chief of the Mashapaug Nahaganset Tribe, Director of the Center for Indigenous People’s Rights
- Dr. Catherine Zipf – Executive Director, Bristol Historic and Preservation Society

Subject Matter Experts

- Don Brown, Jr., Strong Turtle – Tribal Historian of the Pokanoket Tribe
- Dr. Jeremy Campbell – Professor of Anthropology, George Mason University (formerly of Roger Williams University)
- Jeffrey Emidy – Executive Director, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
- Dr. J. Stanley Lemons – Professor Emeritus, Rhode Island College
- Richard Pickering – Deputy Executive Director, Plimoth-Patuxet Museums
- James Warren – Historian and author of *God, War, and Providence*
- Dr. Catherine Zipf – Executive Director, Bristol Historical & Preservation Society

APPENDIX B – SOWAMS PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Steering Committee Outreach Plan

The Sowams Heritage Area Project Outreach Plan was launched at the meeting of the Steering Committee on June 20, 2023. The purpose of the plan was to engage the Steering Committee in building a robust network of stakeholders, partners and influencers to support and advocate for the Sowams Project. Each Steering Committee member received an Outreach Toolkit, which included FAQs, Talking Points, a sample Meeting Briefing and sample Contact Report. At that time, 12 people served on the Steering Committee.

Each Steering Committee member was assigned a portfolio of individuals and/or groups to meet and cultivate. Combined, the Committee engaged more than 70 individuals, including 13 Tribal leaders. In addition, Steering Committee members, alone or in sub-committees, were responsible for reaching out to the district teams of four US senators and three US congressmen; numerous state senators and representatives; managers, councilors, and select persons from nine municipalities; and religious communities, historic societies, environmental groups, business organizations, and the arts community.

Many of these meetings were the beginnings of ongoing relationships. For instance, a meeting with the founder of *Hope and Main* food incubator led to *Hope and Main* hosting one of the public input sessions. Outreach to the *Friends of the Palmer River* resulted in an introductory meeting of land trusts and environmental groups in Sowams. A Steering Committee member who is a retired pastor mobilized the churches in Sowams, encouraging them to invite their congregants to the Community Conversations.

Contact names and new leads were added to the Sowams database, so that Sowams Project Updates could be sent monthly.

Summary of Informational Meetings

Project leadership conducted extensive outreach, participating in and providing information about the emerging National Heritage Area at 464 meetings over years. *Monthly meetings with the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, Board of Directors, subcommittees, the consultant team, and Friends of the Pokanoket Tribe are not included in this list.*

2018 – 30 Meetings

January 10 to December 6 – Chambers of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Heritage Foundations, Historic Commissions, Land Conservation Organizations, Town Councils, Rotary Clubs, Tribal Representatives.

2019 – 14 Meetings

January 8 to December 12 – Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Historical Societies, Rotary Clubs, Town Councils, and Tribal Councils.

2020 – 5 Meetings

January 7 to October 27– Mayor of East Providence and Town Councils of Barrington and Warren.

2021 – 5 Meetings

April 27 to December 6 – American Indian Study Committee and Town Councils.

2022 – 94 Meetings

January 13 to December 14 – Arts Centers and Festivals, Chambers of Commerce, Estuary Commission, Historic Sites, Historical Societies, Indian Affairs Commission, Museums, National Park Service, Preservation Societies, State Parks, Town Councils, Town Planners, Tourism and Economic Development Groups, and the Staffs of U.S. Senator Jack Reed (RI) and U.S. Senator Edward Markey (MA). The year also included participation in several academic conferences and the initial meeting of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee.

2023 – 154 Meetings

January 7 to December 21 – American Indian Study Committee and Indian Affairs Commission, Antiquarian Society, Chambers of Commerce, Community Development Directors, DAR, Genocide Education Commission, Historical Societies, Inter-Tribal Powwow, Land Trusts, Libraries, Local Businesses, Local Government Planners, Museums, RI Council on the Humanities, RI Foundation, Religious Leaders, Senior Centers, Spring Fest Event, Tourism Professionals, Tribal Members, Universities, and the Staffs of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA) and U.S. Congressman Jake Auchincloss (MA).

2024 – 93 Meetings

January 4 to December 28 – Arts Organizations, Community Development Groups, Genocide Education Commission, Land and Water Conservation Organizations, Libraries, Local Businesses, Historic Sites, Historical Societies, Middle Passage Project, Museums, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Religious Leaders, RI Historical and Preservation Society, Town Councils, Tribal Councils, and Universities. Project representatives also participated in the Meshanicut Cultural Place-making Festival and met with the Staffs of U.S. Senator Jack Reed (RI), U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA), U.S. Senator Edward Markey (MA), U.S. Congressman Jake Auchincloss (MA), and U.S. Congressman Gabe Amo (RI).

2025-2026 (to date) – 65 Meetings

April 24, 2025, to March 31, 2026 – Tourism Agencies, Libraries, Historic Sites, Historical Societies, Arts Organizations, Religious Leaders, Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project, University Professors, RI and MA State Legislators and Governors' Staff. and the RI Historic Preservation Officer. Project representatives presented in commemorations of the 250th Anniversary of King Philip's War and local America250 events, as well as at Select Board Meetings in Massachusetts and Town/City Council Meetings in Rhode Island. Representatives of the Steering Committee/Board of Directors met with U.S. Congressman Gabe Amo (1-RI) and Seth Magaziner (2-RI), as well as the Staffs of U.S. Senator Jack Reed (RI), U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA), U.S. Senator Edward Markey (MA), and U.S. Congressman Jake Auchincloss (MA).

Public Meetings

The Steering Committee hosted four "Community Conversations" to introduce the public to the Sowams Heritage Area Project and invite their feedback:

1) October 17, 2023 First Christian Congregational Church Swansea, MA Total attendance: 35	2) October 18, 2023 Hope and Main Food Incubator Warren, RI Total attendance: 29
3) March 26, 2024 Seekonk Public Library Seekonk, MA Total attendance: 67	4) March 27, 2024 Mt. Hope Farm Bristol, RI Total attendance: 55
5) March 19, 2026 Newman Congregational Church, East Providence, RI Total Attendance: 76	

Branding, Brochures, Website, and Newsletter

Outreach during the National Heritage Area feasibility study also included the development of a logo and digital and print materials that provide information about the initiative. They are described briefly below, and examples of each are found on the following pages.

Logo Development

The Sowams Heritage Area logo was developed by artist Mary Dondero in 2023 to be used on all materials associated with the emerging National Heritage Area.

Brochures

Two brochures have been created and are currently in circulation. One is a tri-fold brochure with general information and QR codes for the user to obtain additional information. The other highlights the history of the Sowams region and the interpretive themes of the emerging National Heritage Area. The history brochure includes a map with key sites identified on it.

Websites

A revamped interactive website (www.sowams.org) went live in January 2025. This features maps, explains the interpretive themes and stories in the emerging National Heritage Area, and highlights the various sites that can be visited throughout the region. A partner website, Sowams Early History (sowamsearlyhistory.org), created by David S. Weed in 2017 the precursor to Sowams Heritage Area. This is a digital archive containing in-depth information on 17th century history and resources associated with that time period.

Newsletter

The Sowams Steering Committee began electronic distribution of a monthly newsletter called the “Sowams Project Update” in 2023, which was rebranded in January 2025 as “Sowams News.” The Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and the board that has succeeded it has been consistently sharing this with a mailing list that currently has 586 subscribers to report on meetings and news in the region that has an impact on the development of the future National Heritage Area. An archive of the “Sowams Project Update” is available at <https://www.sowams.org/sowams-heritage-area-news>. All editions of “Sowams News” are posted on the “News” page of the sowams.org website.

Sowams Heritage Area

Brand and Creatives

Logo

Representing Sowams Heritage Area, the logo implies a sense of place, history, and cultural importance, while appealing to a wide, contemporary audience. Simple iconic shapes are reinterpreted to reflect the Pokanoket people who lived in Sowams for more than 12,000 years and the interplay of land and water that defines the Sowams landscape.

Sky: The sun is positioned to the right, signifying the sun rising in the east. The Pokanoket and other Tribes on the New England coast believed they lived where the day begins.

Water: The color scheme of the water specifically represents the grey/blue of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New England.

Earth: Embedded in the logo is the word “Sowams” whose letterform is in the negative, suggesting a representation of earth. Its distinctive geometric shapes give it a strong identity.



Typography



Color Palette

RGB: (14, 78, 95) CMYK: (93, 60, 46, 28)	
RGB: (113, 145, 161) CMYK: (59, 34, 29, 1)	
RGB: (249, 224, 169) CMYK: (2, 10, 38, 0)	
RGB: (232, 127, 36) CMYK: (6, 60, 100, 0)	
RGB: (35, 66, 14) CMYK: (64, 23, 100, 71)	
RGB: (158, 66, 41) CMYK: (26, 83, 93, 20)	
RGB: (218, 183, 112) CMYK: (15, 26, 65, 0)	

Digital Media

Website: sowams.org
Facebook: sowams heritage area
Newsletter: Sowams News

Includes interactive maps and timelines
376 followers
586 subscribers

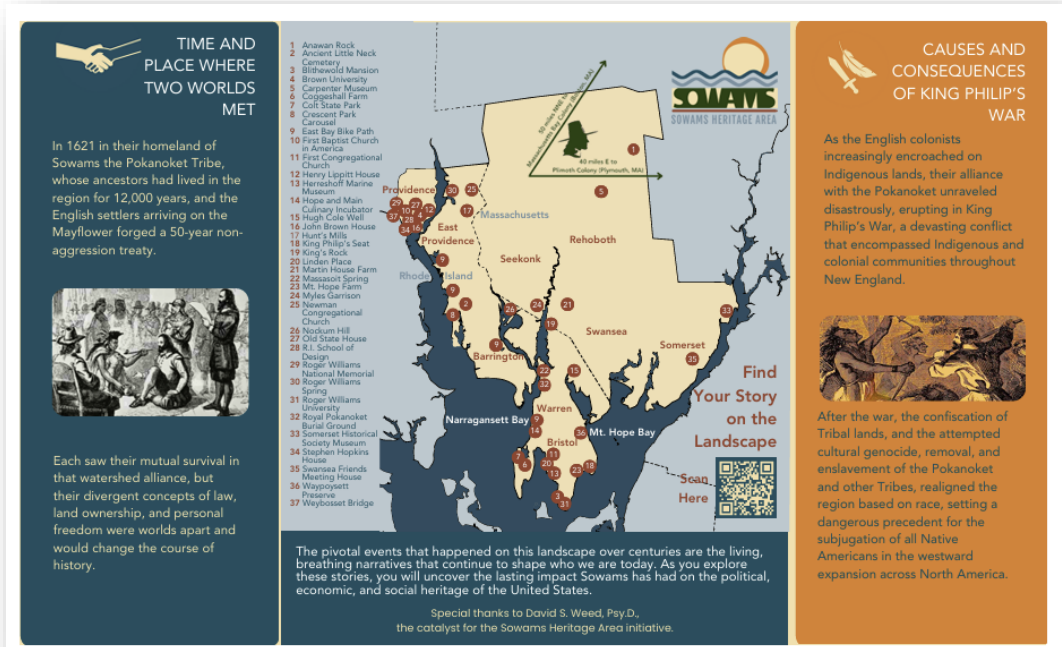
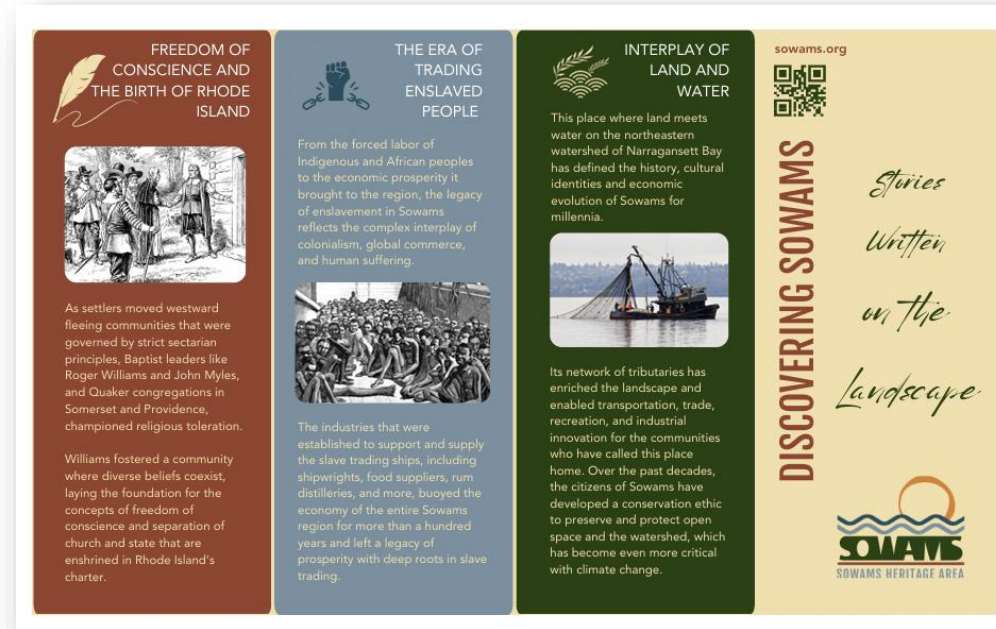
Sowams Brochures

8.5" x 11" Trifold

8.5" x 14" Accordion

Sowams Heritage Area, includes QR codes to website pages and maps

Sowams Stories, includes Interpretive Themes and a map with featured sites



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-  To preserve the historic, cultural and natural landscape.
-  To empower communities to steward their own heritage resources.
-  To foster collaborations among local organizations to help them fulfill their missions.
-  To raise awareness about the complex history and diverse cultures that define this landscape.
-  To provide a platform where stories can be shared and heard.
-  To support community development through heritage tourism.









Plan Your Next Adventure

Filter by:
Historic Sites
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Museums & Galleries
Places of Worship
Public Lands
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MAP




Welcome to SOWAMS HERITAGE AREA



Where the land & water tell stories still unfolding.

scan to visit
SOWAMS.ORG



EXPERIENCE SOWAMS

Whether you are seeking knowledge, a lover of adventure, or looking to connect with the diverse threads that have woven together to form our society, Sowams offers a journey that is as enlightening as it is transformative.

Enjoy



Experience the vibrant communities of Sowams. Visit local shops, museums and hidden gems, and meet the artists, artisans, and culinary makers who steward their cultural legacy.

Connect



Immerse yourself in nature—sail the bays, hike scenic trails, or stroll through gardens and parks that showcase the beauty of Sowams' waters and landscapes.

Wonder



Explore the living landscape that was a setting for America's origin story—ancient natural landmarks, towns with 350 years of history, and a thriving cultural scene.

Learn



Delve into the pivotal events and diverse cultures that shaped this land. From colonization to innovation, Sowams offers a deep dive into history that is still alive today.

Print Media

Sowams Heritage Area talks generate significant interest | EastBayRI.com - News, Opinion, Things to Do in the East Bay

4/16/24, 9:54 AM

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Sowams Heritage Area talks generate significant interest



(https://epsilon.creativecircledn.com/eastbayri/original/20240411-124321-Sowams%20Talks.jpg)

Consultant Nancy Morgan begins a Community Conversation with more than 60 people who gathered at Mount Hope Farm on March 27 to discuss the future of a proposed Sowams National Heritage Area.

Posted Friday, April 12, 2024 6:00 am

More than 130 people attended the Community Conversations presented by the Sowams Heritage Area Project at the Seekonk Public Library, in Seekonk, Mass. on March 26, 2024, and Mt. Hope Farm in Bristol, RI on March 27, 2024.

Both events were packed with people from the region known as Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621.

They came to discuss the future of the proposed Sowams National Heritage Area (NHA) and its impact on the nine towns/cities in the NHA study area: Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, a portion of Providence, and Warren, RI, as well as Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea, Mass.

"The ideas were flying," said Laura McNamara, Director of Events and Community Engagement for the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, who was one of the Sowams Project Steering Committee members tasked with recording one of the break-out sessions. "There was an impressive and diverse range of people that included environmentalists, historians, Tribal members, business owners, preservationists, religious leaders, artists and writers, civil servants, and two toddlers!"

This was the second of three rounds of public conversations that are integral to the development of an NHA feasibility study, which the National Park Service recommends when seeking designation by Congress as a National Heritage Area. The discussions

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TRENDING

<https://eastbayri.com/stories/sowams-heritage-area-talks-generate-significant-interest,121286?newsletter=121311>

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

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(1)

Barrington Town Council endorses Sowams National Heritage Area

U.S. Congress will make final determination on designation



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The Barrington Town Council recently approved a resolution supporting the creation of the Sowams National Heritage Area, which recognizes the region's important role in the country's development. Shown is Lot 3A at Nockum Hill.

Posted Monday, December 22, 2025 4:00 pm

SOWAMS NHA: 140 SQUARE MILES

A presentation shared with members of the Barrington Town Council during the Dec. 1 meeting offered information about the program and about the Sowams area. Following are some National Heritage Area facts:

- Each National Heritage Area is created through individual federal law
- Through annual Congressional appropriations, the National Park Service distributes funds to National Heritage Area entities. Although most

By Josh Bickford

The effort to create the Sowams National Heritage Area received a lot of support and a little bit of push-back during the Barrington Town Council meeting earlier this month.

The majority of people who spoke about the issue shared their appreciation for the effort to create a new land designation for nine area towns, including Barrington, that would recognize the region's important role in the country's development and "celebrate its contributions to American history and culture."

The Sowams National Heritage Area request coincided with a presentation about a recent archeological survey of the land at Nockum Hill on George Street in Barrington. Preservation officials said the survey revealed dozens of musket balls and other evidence that shows the property played a crucial role in American history, serving as the location for the start of King Philip's War.

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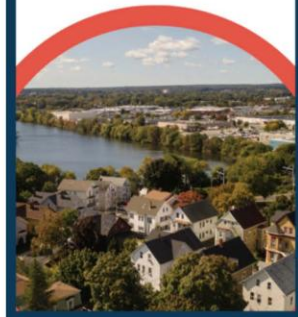
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<https://www.eastbayri.com//////////stories/barrington-town-council-endorses-sowams-national-heritage-area,136501>

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Adams said she had visited the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and noticed the helpful information signs throughout. She said she was excited to support the effort. Robinson said he had been involved with the Blackstone River Valley effort and said the program allows communities the opportunity to tell their own local or regional story. He said that bringing the towns together in the Sowams National Heritage Area would allow them to amplify the effort.

Councilors shared their support for the effort also. Jordan Jancosek said she reached out to the groups who were involved in establishing a different National Heritage Area to learn more. She said the effort could benefit Barrington and the other towns. O'Neill referenced a letter of support from Rhode Island Commerce Corporation President and CEO Jim Bennett.

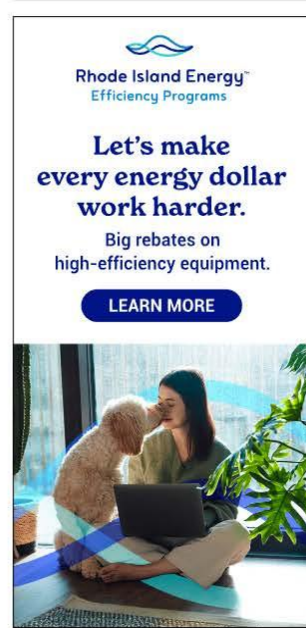
OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

Hark, the herald students sing
(/stories/hark-the-herald-students-sing,136575)

Christmas comes early in Westport
(/stories/christmas-comes-early-in-westport,136572)

Bringing the bling to Bristol for seven decades
(/stories/bringing-the-bling-to-bristol-for-seven-decades,136521)

New film about Christmas features scenes shot in and ...
(/stories/new-film-about-christmas-scenes-shot-in-and-around-town,136523)



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(https://p.constantcontactpages.com/su/5dUmq8A)

Sowams Newsletter



Sowams News: December 2025

The pivotal events that happened in Sowams over centuries are the living, breathing narratives that continue to shape who we are today.

Tour the digital landscape of Sowams Heritage Area at

sowams.org

Passing the Torch

After four years, the Sowams Steering Committee wraps up Phase I: the planning stage



In January 2022, the Sowams Steering Committee was established to lead the first stage of a regional initiative to designate as a National Heritage Area (NHA) Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621.

Composed of partners from the nine towns of Sowams, the volunteer coalition represented a wide range of interests in the area, including leaders of local government, the Pokanoket Tribe, tourism entities, historical societies, museums, land trusts, and the arts and education sector.

Setting the Stage



With the help of hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout the region, the Steering Committee assessed the feasibility of creating a National Heritage Area in Sowams.

The planning team identified the nationally significant resources on the landscape; explored interpretive themes that tell the stories of Sowams; told those stories; and engaged a broad swath of the community.

Telling the Story



Rachel Averitt



Mary Dondero

Sowams has many stories to tell, and the planning team wants to provide a platform for all voices to be heard.

Our Storytellers

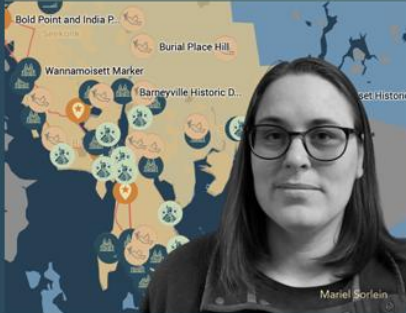
Mary Dondero—artist, professor, and curator of the Bristol Art Museum —designed the Sowams logo to convey a sense of place and cultural importance with iconic representations of sky, earth and water.

Mary Dondero

Rachel Averitt, founder of Rely on Rach, designed the sowams.org website to enhance Sowams digital presence, support and amplify community voices, and honor historical storytelling.

Rachel Averitt

Mapping the Landscape



A big shoutout to Mariel Sorlien from the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program for analyzing the Geographic Information System data in Sowams and making various maps of the region.

Sowams is situated on the northeastern watershed of Narragansett Bay, which is fed by 12 rivers that flow through the landscape. For millennia, this nexus of land and water has defined the history, culture, and economy of the region.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Identifying the Resources



Sowams Project Historian David S. Weed led the Resources Committee, identifying 187 nationally significant sites, from ancient Indigenous landmarks to cultural destinations that welcome visitors today.

Ever since he witnessed the reburial of the Massasoit Ousamequin in 2017 in Warren, RI, Dr. Weed has been interested in 17th century Sowams. For a deeper dive into the region's early history, explore his trove of research and archives on his website.

Sowams Early History

Engaging the Community

The "Places of the Heart" promotion encouraged the public to share what they love about Sowams.



Participants in the public workshops discussed the benefits of the National Heritage Area program and brainstormed about how NHA designation could help showcase their own communities.

These Community Conversations were hosted by early supporters of the Sowams Heritage Area Project:

Mt. Hope Farm

Seekonk Public Library

The Old White Church

Hope and Main Culinary Incubator

In May 2025, the Steering Committee held a retreat at the Bristol Art Museum to review their progress and identify the final tasks for Phase I of the planning process.



Planning Next Steps

The Steering Committee agreed that Sowams Heritage Area was no longer just a project, but a real, functioning regional heritage area.

High on the committee's list of priorities was preparing to pass the torch to a reconstituted formal Board of Directors in January 2026. The new team would oversee Phase II, the process of seeking Congressional designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.



In successful NHAs, the central governing entity does not dominate but instead facilitates, enabling the partners to take active roles in advancing common goals.

Join us!

The Sowams team wants to expand its volunteer network in 2026. If you are interested in helping with research, programming, marketing, community engagement, or operations, please click on this link:

[How to Get Involved](#)

To the members of the Sowams Steering Committee and to all our friends and partners,
Thank you for leading the way!



As the torch is passed, we will all continue to support the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area in 2026.

Happy New Year!



Stories on the Landscape



Sowams Heritage Area explores five interlocking interpretive themes. These stories are woven through our collective legacy.

Stories on the Landscape

- ~ The Time and Place Where Two Worlds Met
- ~ The Causes and Consequences of King Philip's War
- ~ Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island
- ~ The Era of Trading Enslaved People
- ~ The Interplay of Land and Water

Where Land and Water Meet



The ancestral homeland of the Massasoit today is comprised of Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Warren, and portions of Providence, RI; as well as Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea, MA

We are deeply grateful for your support, whether by contributing, volunteering your time, or collaborating with our heritage partners.

[Support Sowams](#)

Sowams Heritage Area is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization sustained by the generosity of our supporters.

Please share our newsletter and stay connected!

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Sowams News: March 2026

Thanks for your feedback!

The Sowams planning team is grateful to the community for its feedback on the draft Sowams National Heritage Area feasibility study. If you missed the Community Conversation, here's the video

[Community Conversation Video](#)




The Sowams partnership network turned out in force for the final Community Conversation at the Newman Congregational Church on March 19.

Reflecting the mosaic of communities in Sowams, the 74 participants represented historic societies, environmental groups, Tribes, municipalities, and places of worship.

"We are absolutely 100% behind it. We'll do what we can on our part to lobby our congressional delegation to get support for this designation."
--- Mayor Roberto DaSilva



Mayor DaSilva brought a contingent of leaders from the City of East Providence, representing the planning department, the East Providence Conservation Commission, and the Mayor's Advisory Council on Indigenous Affairs.

Stewarding Sowams

The citizens of Sowams share a conservation ethic to preserve and protect open space and the watershed.



Roger (Gray Fox) Desrosiers, Taunton River Stewardship Council, and Patrick Hanner, Principal Planner, City of East Providence

Participants from the environmental sector included the Barrington Conservation Land Trust --- Blithewold Manor, Gardens, and Arboretum --- Friends of the 10-Mile River Watershed --- Osamequin Farm -- - Rehoboth Land Trust --- Save the Bay --- Taunton River Watershed --- and the Warren Land Trust.

"One of the things that's been wonderful about our group is that we've had everyone around the table talking, getting together, making things happen."
---Jim Moran, Board member



John Aubin and Jim Moran

John Aubin, Seekonk Town Planner, and Jim Moran, former Chief Economic Planner, City of East Providence, led a discussion about the benefits of designation as a National Heritage Area

- With professional management, NHA designation lifts the organization to a new level, raising awareness and engaging more people in the process.
- Leveraging the NHA brand helps organizations become more competitive in securing grants for placemaking projects and environmental protection initiatives, such as those for water quality and wildlife habitat.



Added Value

"I've had a lot of involvement with the five heritage areas that already exist in Massachusetts. They're all great organizations, and they add a lot of value to their communities. So, I think the same would hold true here."
--- Russ Cohen, Independent Naturalist

Other organizations represented were the Bristol 250 Commission --- the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society --- the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project --- the Center for Indigenous People's Rights --- the City of Providence Department of People and Culture --- the East Providence Historical Society --- the Providence Cultural Equity Initiative --- Sowams Early History --- the Somerset Economic Development Commission --- the Somerset Historical Society --- the Town of Swansea Select Board

"This Church has existed in three counties, two states, and three towns without ever having moved---
The towns of Rehoboth, Seekonk, and East Providence; the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; and the countries of the U.S, England, and Sowams."
--- Reverend Sam Lovett, Newman Church



Other participants in the event share the Newman Church's legacy of religious tolerance in Sowams:

- Reverend Nancy Soukup is the minister of the First Congregational Church in Bristol
- Rick Peirson is leading the effort to restore the Swansea Friends Meeting House in Somerset
- Retired pastor, Charlie Hartman, is the 43rd pastor of the Swansea Baptist Church in Swansea, founded in 1667

We've invested our heart and soul into this over the years, and we intend to bring even more people and more organizations into the process. We're ready to go!"



--- Laura McNamara, Board member

The pivotal events that happened in Sowams over centuries are the living, breathing narratives that continue to shape who we are today.

Tour the digital landscape of Sowams Heritage Area at

sowams.org



Stories on the Landscape



Photo by Rachel Abbott

Stories on the Landscape

- ~ The Time and Place Where Two Worlds Met
- ~ The Causes and Consequences of King Philip's War
- ~ Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island
- ~ The Era of Trading Enslaved People
- ~ The Interplay of Land and Water

Where Land and Water Meet



The ancestral homeland of the Massasoit today is comprised of Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Warren, and portions of Providence, RI; as well as Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea, MA

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APPENDIX C – CONCURRENT PLANS

PLAN	ORGANIZATION	AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Title (Year)	Name of Organization	Link to Web Address/Location	Brief Explanation of Contents and/or Relevance
Barrington, RI, 2050 Comprehensive Community Plan Update (currently being written)	Town of Barrington, RI	https://ri-barrington.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/171/Comprehensive-Plan---2015-Update-PDF?bidId=	Town Comprehensive Plan designates as a critical environmental and cultural asset Nockum Hill. The archeological projects on this site are central to interpreting the causes and consequences of King Philip's War in Sowams
Barrington-Palmer-Warren Rivers Watershed Plan (2012)	RI Dept of Environmental Management	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkg-bur861/files/programs/benviron/water/quality/pdf/bpwatplan.pdf	Foundational plan for intra-state management of the watershed in the Sowams towns of Barrington, Bristol, East Providence and Warren, RI and Rehoboth, Seekonk and Swansea, MA
Bristol-Kickemuit Rivers Watershed Plan (2012)	RI Dept of Environmental Management	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkg-bur861/files/programs/benviron/water/quality/pdf/bkwatplan.pdf	Foundational plan for intra-state management of the watershed in the Sowams towns of Bristol and Warren, RI and Rehoboth and Swansea, MA, which are towns closely associated with the start and end of King Philip's War
Brown University Facilities Master Plan (2023)	Brown University, Providence, RI	https://facilities.brown.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2023_0818-2023-Brown-IMP-FINAL-Digital.pdf	Impacts the development of the College Hill Historic District in Sowams, which includes the First Baptist Church in America and several landmark buildings associated with the Brown family and other prominent figures in Rhode Island history
City of East Providence, RI Comprehensive Plan (2024-2034)	Planning Department, City of East Providence, RI	https://eastprovidenceri.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/250220_epcp_updateddraft_1-compressed_1.pdf	City Comprehensive Plan to identify resources to protect and development potential, including the redevelopment of Watchemoket Square, whose history goes back to when it was a major crossing point over the Seekonk River for the Pokanoket
Light the Way: Strategic Vision for 2024	Moses Brown School	https://www.mosesbrown.org/about/lighttheway	Strategic vision in celebration of 250 years of Quaker education at a school founded by the abolitionist Moses Brown, brother of John Brown whose wealth came from trading enslaved peoples

Massachusetts Cultural Council Strategic Plan (2024-2026)	Massachusetts Cultural Council	https://massculturalcouncil.org/about/who-we-are/strategic-plan/	Objectives include building partnerships and storytelling, both inside and outside of the sector. Provides a roadmap for the cultural councils in each of the four Massachusetts towns in Sowams
Mass Humanities Strategic Operational Plan (2021-2024)	Mass Humanities	https://masshumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Mass-Humanities-2021-24-Strategic-and-Operating-Plan-1.pdf	Goals include catalyze civic engagement and expand stories of Massachusetts, which mirrors the outreach strategy for Sowams Heritage Area
Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan (2023-2031)	Massachusetts Historical Commission	https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/mhc/download/2023-2031-state%20hist-pres-plan-comment.pdf	Preservation plan to identify, document, and conserve historic resources in Massachusetts
Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2023)	Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs	https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf	Massachusetts statewide plan to consider acquisition of open space, development and renovation of parks, and trail construction
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update (2025)	Narragansett Bay Estuary Program	https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ee1d6edb22c0191731076981544/Draft%2B2025%2BNBEP%2BCCMP%2BUdpate%2BPublic+V3.pdf	A regional call to action for “shared efforts that can measurably improve the region’s water quality, wildlife, and quality of life over the next decade.” This aligns with the priorities of Sowams Heritage Area and its environmental partners
Ocean State Accelerates: Rhode Island’s 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Rhode Island Commerce	https://commerceri.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/00_OceanStateAccelerates_Strategy_FINAL.APPROVED_optimized.pdf	Includes “asset-based community development” that impacts quality of life and place-making in the Rhode Island towns of Sowams
Ocean State Outdoors – Rhode Island’s Comprehensive Recreation Plan (2019)	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkg-bur861/files/2024-05/scorp19.pdf	Establishes long-term goals and policies and a five-year “Plan for Action” for outdoor recreation in Rhode Island; impacts Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Providence and Warren, RI
Only Together: Five Year Action Plan (2024)	Rhode Island Foundation	https://rifoundation.org/news/only-together-our-five-year-action-plan	As the premier community foundation in Rhode Island, RIF’s strategic priorities can enhance opportunities to bring the RI communities of Sowams together
Palmer River Land Use & Regulatory Analysis Report (2019)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/documents/palmer-snep-lurar.pdf	Assessment of land use change and development patterns in the Palmer River Watershed in portions of Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Swansea, MA, and Warren and Barrington, RI

Protecting Our Legacy of Buildings, Places and Culture: An Historic Preservation Plan for Rhode Island (2021-2028)	Rhode Island Preservation & Heritage Commission	https://preservation.ri.gov/preserve-protect/preservation-planning	Preservation Plan to identify, document, and conserve historic resources in Rhode Island
Providence, RI, Comprehensive Plan (2024)	Planning Department, City of Providence, RI	www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Comprehensive-Plan_Ordinance-2024-66-No465_11.22.24.pdf	City Comprehensive Plan to identify resources to protect and development potential, including the Moshassuck region of Sowams between the Moshassuck River and the Seekonk River
Rehoboth, MA Reconnaissance Report – Heritage Landscape Inventory Program (2001)	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation	https://www.mass.gov/doc/rehoboth/download	Analysis of Rehoboth's cultural landscapes with focus on landscape character, reflects the integration of historic interpretation, place-making, and environmental conservation, a defining strategy of Sowams Heritage Area
Rhode Island Civic Health Index (2022)	Rhode Island Council for the Humanities	https://rihumanities.org/program/ri-civic-health-index/	Provides a baseline to help communities, leaders, and policy makers understand what challenges and opportunities Rhode Islanders share. This will support the work of heritage partners in the Rhode Island town of Sowams
RI 2030 Charting a Course for the Future of the Ocean State (2025)	Working document of Governor Dan McKee	https://rhodeisland2030.ri.gov	Invites Rhode Islanders to incorporate their initiatives into long-term strategic planning; including driving economic development and growth and addressing climate change
Roger Williams University Strategic Action Plan (2021)	Roger Williams University	https://www.rwu.edu/who-we-are/strategic-action-plan	Priorities include engaged learning and sustainable futures; RWU's admired community engagement programs can play a critical role in research and outreach for Sowams Heritage Area
Rt. 6/118 Corridor Study (2024)	Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District	https://srpedd.org/economic-development/swansea-route-6-118-corridor-study/	Study to explore redevelopment potential along Route 6 and the Route 118 intersection in Swansea, MA
Save the Bay: 2027 Strategic Plan	Save the Bay	https://savebay.org/strategic-plan-2027/?srsltid=AfmBOooeLKHxyc3H9gPFNIT3PouZ8XG4BKKggj0NyEbJ3MGntQOqFpyg	Outlines the strategic priorities of the primary organization dedicated to engaging the communities along the shore of Narragansett Bay, whose northeastern watershed comprises the Sowams landscape

Somerset Development Guide, Town of Somerset, MA (2021)	Town of Somerset, MA	Somerset-Development-Guide-PDF	Town Comprehensive Plan to identify resources to protect and development potential of Somerset, MA, which is the southeastern border of Sowams
Taunton River Stewardship Plan – Taunton River Wild and Scenic River Study (2005)	Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee/ Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District and the National Park Service Northeast Regional Office	https://wpwildrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Taunton-River-Stewardship-Plan.pdf	Resource protection plan for the Taunton River, which is the southeastern border of Sowams; this National Wild and Scenic River was a major waterway for both Indigenous people and colonists in the 17 th century and a shipbuilding center in Somerset, MA in the 19 th century
Ten-Year Master Plan for the Farm Campus (2024)	The Wheeler School Farm campus, Seekonk, MA	https://www.wheelerschool.org/the-future-of-the-farm/	Plan for expanding capacity to incorporate nature- and place-based learning in the 120-acre Farm campus of the Wheeler School; this will have a significant impact on the open space plan for the Sowams town of Seekonk, MA
Town of Bristol, RI Comprehensive Community Plan (2016)	Town of Bristol, RI	https://planning.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkg-bur826/files/documents/comp/2017/BRI-10YP-16_StateApproved_20170202.pdf	Town Comprehensive Plan to identify resources to protect and development potential in Bristol, where the Pokanoket recently reclaimed a portion of its sacred Mt. Hope lands
Town of Seekonk, MA Master Plan Update (2022)	Town of Seekonk, MA	Master Plan Update (Working Draft) Seekonk, MA	Town Comprehensive Plan to identify resources and development potential, such as Osamequin Farm and the Gamino Pond Preserve
Town of Swansea, MA, Comprehensive Plan (2024)	Town of Swansea, MA	Swansea-Comprehensive-Plan-03-30-2024-1.pdf	Town Comprehensive Plan to identify resources and development potential in Swansea, MA, which was one of two towns in Sowams established by Plymouth Colony
Town of Warren, RI, Comprehensive Plan (2024)	Town of Warren, RI	https://www.townofwarren-ri.gov/WARREN_COMPPLAN_FINALDRAFT_06122024.pdf	Town Comprehensive Plan to identify resources to protect and development potential of Warren, RI, where skirmishes ignited the King Philip's War; today Warren's economy reflects its legacy of shipbuilding and shell-fishing

APPENDIX D – SOWAMS PARTNERS

SOWAMS HERITAGE AREA – CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS		
(p=current partner; los = letter of support; city/town resolution)		
ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES
Academic Institutions and Libraries		
Barrington Public Library (p, los)	Founded in 1880, the library also houses the Barrington Preservation Society's Museum	The collection currently holds Indigenous and colonial objects, and will eventually include the artifacts unearthed from the archaeological digs on Nockum Hill, where King Philip's War began.
Blanding Free Public Library (p, los)	Located in Rehoboth, MA; operated by the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society	The Library preserves, promotes and enhances the significant historical, educational and cultural assets of Rehoboth, MA
Brown University	Founded in 1764, Brown was one of nine colleges chartered before the American Revolution and the first to codify tolerance of "sectarian differences of opinions"	Prime resource for slave trade research for Sowams feasibility study; other academic resources include John Nicholas Brown Center for Advance Study of Public Humanities
George Hail Library and Charles Whipple Greene Museum (los, p)	Historic public library and museum in Warren, RI	Promotes and hosts Sowams events and programming
Moses Brown School	Quaker private secondary school founded in 1784 by abolitionist member of the prominent merchant family in Providence	Collaborating with faculty member on Quaker 17 th Century history and their role in the King Philip's War
Providence Public Library	Privately governed and supported public library in Providence, RI	The catalogue includes historic books, manuscripts, photographs, ephemera, maps, and other artifacts

Public schools in Sowams	The K-12 schools in the nine towns/cities in MA and RI	Opportunities for engaging students in Sowams Interpretive Themes
Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)	One of the first art and design schools in the U.S., founded as a co-educational school for industrial design	Illustration department expressed interest in documenting Sowams sites; opportunities to collaborate with specific programs, such as Landscape Design, and others
Rogers Free Library	Public library in Bristol, RI	Promotes and hosts Sowams events and programming
Roger Williams University (p)	Private university named after the founder of Rhode Island; situated on the ancestral Pokanoket Mt. Hope lands in Bristol, RI	Faculty member is a frequent speaker at Sowams affiliated events; Director of Co-Lab is on the Sowams Programming Committee
Seekonk Public Library (p, los)	Public library in Seekonk, MA	Hosted Sowams Community Conversation; opportunity to promote and host other Sowams events and programming
Somerset Public Library (p, los)	Free public library in Somerset, MA	Founded in the 1880s, the library is the town's primary community center; its collection includes a room dedicated to Somerset history
Swansea Free Public Library	Free public library in Swansea, MA	The original 1800 Gothic Revival building is being renovated and expanded to include a major space, special collections, and a room dedicated to local history
Weaver Library (p)	Public library in East Providence, MA	Hosted organizational meeting of Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee; opportunity to promote and host other Sowams events and programming

Wheeler School Farm Campus	Located in Seekonk, MA, “Country Campus” of a private secondary school founded in 1889 in Providence, RI	Potential partnership with environmental studies on the farm, as well as with general curriculum on Providence campus
Arts and Culture		
Arts in Common and PorchFest	Consortium of artists on the Bristol Town Common and host of the annual PorchFest music festival on High Street in Bristol, RI	Opportunity for collaboration with the creative community
Bristol Art Museum (BAM) (p, los)	Regional arts museum in Bristol, RI founded in 1963	The museum’s curator designed Sowams logo and is creating a fine art photographic study of Sowams Indigenous sites; hosted the Steering Committee retreat
Cape Verdean American Community Development of Rhode Island	Advances and strengthens the Cape Verdean community to honor the past, embrace the present and empower the future	Reflects heritage of Cape Verdean culture in the story of Sowams
Cape Verdean Progressive Center	Preserves Cape Verdean culture and promotes good will and fellowship through integrated social, educational, and charitable programs	The Cape Verdean community can play an important role in preserving the heritage of Sowams
Center for Indigenous People's Rights (p, los)	Provides policy research and development, legal services, and nation-building technical assistance to meet the needs of Indigenous peoples and Indigenous nations exercising their inherent rights to self-governance and cultural, social, and economic development	CIPR directors are members of the Sowams Heritage Area Tribal Engagement Committee
Friends of the Pokanoket (p, los)	Tribal members and friends supporting the acquisition and stewardship of 244 acres of Mt. Hope Land by the Pokanoket Tribe	Sowams Heritage Area is represented on this committee

Imago Gallery	Artists collaborative in Warren, RI	Opportunity for partnering with the creative community in the East Bay of RI
Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) in Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea, MA	Funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, LLCs foster a rich cultural life in their communities with programs and activities	Each will contribute to interpreting the five themes of Sowams Heritage Area
Mashapaug Nahaganset Tribe (p, los)	The Nahaganset draw their lineage to and from the Narragansett Sâchemaog of the North leading up to and during the time of the King Phillip's War	Participates in Sowams events; the chief was interviewed as a Sowams stakeholder and currently serves on the Sowams Tribal Engagement Committee
Meshanticut Cultural Placemaking ConFestival (p)	Advances the cultural placemaking sector and stimulates interest and investment in cultural placemaking as a strategy for promoting tourism and equitable economic development	Sowams Heritage Area has been represented on conference panels
Middle Passage Port Marker Projects in Bristol and Warren, RI (p, los)	Research commemorates and documents the legacy of trading enslaved people	Partner in raising awareness about Bristol and Warren's role in the economic expansion driven by the Triangle Trade industry
Nipmuc Tribe	Preserves and promotes the culture, language, and values of the Nipmuc People, while striving to improve the quality of life for all their citizens, now and in the future	Tribe members attended Sowams Community Conversations
Pokanoket Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation (p, los)	Descendants of a first contact tribe, members preserve their beliefs, culture, and lands for all to learn and appreciate	The Pokanoket Sachem and Sagamore served on the Steering Committee from the start; Sachem is now on the board of directors; Tribal Historic Preservation Officer was a Subject Matter Expert and is a frequent speaker at Sowams events
Providence Cultural Equity Initiative (p, los)	Advocates for and promotes services and opportunities that engage Rhode Island's cultural sector, economy, and communities	Founder/CEO Ray "Two Hawks" Watson has been an advisor and supporter of Sowams Heritage Area from the start

Research BIPOC History	Researches, documents, and publicizes the often overlooked history of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals	Resource for programming of Sowams Interpretive Theme "The Era of Enslavement and Slave Trading"
Rhode Island Cape Verdean Heritage	Commemorates and preserves Cape Verdean culture; improves the well-being of Cape Verdean children and adults in the US; fosters brotherhood and understanding among Cape Verdeans	Sponsors annual Independent Cape Verdean Day Festival
Rhode Island Slave History Medallions	Research, public programs and interactive bronze medallions commemorate Rhode Island's role in the American slave industry	Resource for community partners to raise awareness about the Sowams Interpretive Theme "The Era of Enslavement and Slave Trading"
RISD Museum	Founded in 1877 as part of the RISD arts community, collection includes masterpieces of decorative, utilitarian, and fine art	Potential for collaboration with curators of historic art and design collection
Teofilo Braga Club	Preserves and celebrates the heritage of the Portuguese community	The Portuguese community is part of the living heritage of Sowams
Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe	Families descended from the Tribe of the Seaconke Plain in Pokanoket territory; Tribal chief is Executive Director of the RI Indian Council	Cultural resource; attended Sowams Community Conversation
WaterFire	Iconic fire-on-water cultural festival on the intersection of the Providence and Moshassuck rivers in downtown Providence; presented periodically in season	Opportunity for showcasing Sowams communities, programs, and partners by the rivers that mark the NW boundary of Sowams
Business and Industry		
Blount Boats (Ios)	Family-owned commercial ship building business since 1949; now designing and building crew transfer vessels for wind farms	Carrying on the legacy of ship-building and innovative design in Sowams Heritage Area

Blount Fine Foods (p)	Blount Fine Foods is a five-generation family-owned and operated manufacturer, marketer and developer of fresh prepared foods	Has been underwriting the cost of Sowams Heritage Area interpretive signs for several years
Bristol Marine	Thriving marina business in Bristol, RI and Somerset, MA, as well as Jacksonville, FL	Business leader in the maritime trades and boating industry in two towns that today are part of Sowams Heritage Area
C.B. Brito Utility and Construction and Unity Park	Family-owned utility and construction business since 1954; now developing for adaptive reuse the 19th Century Bristol Industrial Park; oldest structure was built in 1833	Opportunity to leverage leadership in historic preservation of industrial buildings and to raise awareness of Sowams manufacturing heritage
Hope and Main Culinary Incubator (p, los)	Provides food and beverage businesses a low-risk opportunity to test, scale, and develop their products without the cost of maintaining their own commercial culinary facility	Hosted the second Sowams Community Conversation; a valuable community leader in the Sowams Heritage Area business community
Johnson's Roadside Market (p)	Family-owned market since 1982, offering baked goods, provisions, and seasonal fruits and vegetables grown on their farm in Swansea, MA	Maintains the King's Rock Indigenous site and funded the way-faring marker there; opportunity to showcase Sowams agricultural tradition
Sowams Cider Works (p)	Orchard with 80 varieties of apples; cider house, tasting bar, and fruit stand in Warren, RI	Provides refreshment for Sowams events; opportunity to showcase Sowams agricultural tradition
WaterRower, Inc.	Designs and manufacturers dry-land rowers with unique flywheels that simulate the instant, smooth, and quiet resistance of water rowing	Typical of the innovative manufacturers in Sowams who are carrying its legacy of marine trades into the 21st Century
Economic Development and Tourism		
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (p, los)	Consulting and educational organization that assists communities, government agencies, and private sector companies in shaping tourism development programs	Director of Events and Community Engagement served on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and is currently the Vice Chair of the Sowams Board of Directors

Discover Newport (los)	Destination management organization that promotes the City of Newport and its eight surrounding townships as a premiere destination for business and leisure travel	Conduit for tourism funding from the Rhode Island Commerce department for five communities in Sowams
East Bay Chamber of Commerce (los)	The voice of the business community in Barrington, Bristol, and Warren, RI, and Swansea, MA	Chamber includes business leaders in maritime trades and composite innovation
East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce	Voice of the business community in Barrington and East Providence, RI and Rehoboth and Seekonk, MA	Early supporter of Sowams Heritage Area; former Executive Director serves on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee
Explore Bristol (los)	Supports Bristol merchants and promotes Bristol, RI as a quintessential New England destination for families and visitors	Deeply embedded in the community of Bristol, where the ancestral seat of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin is located
One SouthCoast Chamber	The second largest chamber in Massachusetts; supports business with economic development, trade shows, and legislative initiatives	Serves the business community in four towns of the Sowams region
Rhode Island Commerce (los)	Quasi-public agency promotes RI's economic health and prosperity and offers business assistance and tourism marketing strategies	Associate Vice President of Tourism Marketing is a founding member of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee
Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (los)	Plans for the future of southeastern MA, including expanding economic opportunity, protecting natural and historic resources and developing cultural amenities	Former Environmental Director of SRPEDD is a member of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee; four towns in Sowams fall under its jurisdiction
Somerset Economic Development Committee (los)	Advises the Select Committee on economic development and supports the business community	Committee Chair has been an early proponent of Sowams Heritage Area and now serves on the Sowams Board of Directors

Southeastern Massachusetts Convention and Visitor's Bureau (Bristol County RTC) (los)	Bristol County Tourism Council is the liaison between Bristol County, MA and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism	Promotes tourism in four towns in Sowams Heritage Area
Environment, Agriculture, and Gardens		
Barrington Land Conservation Trust (p, los)	Owens 285 acres of protected open space in Barrington, RI; collaborates with Audubon and the Nature Conservancy	Stewards land that once was the winter home of the Pokanoket Tribe; attended the community conversation
Blithewold Mansion and Arboretum (los)	Flagship tourist attraction in Bristol, RI, this Country Place Era estate is located on the waterfront and framed by a landscape of rare plants and specimen trees	Working with Sowams Heritage Area to develop programming around Indigenous plants
Brigham Farm Conservation Area (BFCA)	Formerly the East Providence Land Conservation Trust, promotes preservation of natural resources in the City of East Providence and protects access to BFCA	Stewards open spaces in the East Providence area of Sowams
Bristol Land Conservation Trust	All volunteer organization working to preserve land in its natural state and to retain the beauty of the landscape in Bristol, RI	Supported the Pokanoket acquisition of Mt. Hope land; collaborates with Sowams Heritage Area
Friends of the Moshassuck	Dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of the Moshassuck River	The Moshassuck forms the NW border of Sowams Heritage Area and is where Roger Williams settled and founded Providence
Friends of the Palmer River	Alliance of residents, businesses, and organizations committed to preserving and protecting the Palmer River	Collaborating with Sowams Heritage Area and other organizations to steward the Palmer River watershed in Sowams
Mt. Hope Farm (p, los)	Historic farm, inn, arboretum, and farmer's market located at the foot of Mt. Hope, a sacred landmark of the Pokanoket people	A featured attraction in Sowams, the Farm hosted the fourth Sowams Community Conversation and has been an enthusiastic supporter of Sowams Heritage Area from the beginning

Osamequin Farm (p, los)	Historic working farm and educational space that preserves and shares the land with farmers and neighbors in the Seekonk, MA area	Participated in Sowams Community Conversations; collaborates with the Pokanoket Tribe on annual maple boil
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (p, los)	Provides independent scientific data analysis and support to catalyze scientific inquiry and collective action to restore and protect the Narragansett Bay Watershed	Provided critical geospatial data for determining the boundaries of Sowams and designing the interactive maps on the Sowams website
Rehoboth Land Trust (p, los)	Protects, conserves, and promotes the land and natural resources significant to the quality of the environment, wildlife, and rural character in and around the town of Rehoboth, MA	Attended Sowams Community Conversations and was an early participant in discussions about a Sowams land trust coalition
Save the Bay (p, los)	Member-supported organization founded in 1970 to protect and improve Narragansett Bay through advocacy, education, and habitat restoration and adaptation	Provides research, programming and advocacy to the communities in the Narragansett Bay watershed in Sowams
Seekonk Land Conservation Trust	Founded in 1967, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the distinctive landscapes and natural resources in the Town of Seekonk, MA	Participated in Sowams Community Conversations; opportunity to collaborate with the other land trusts in Sowams
Taunton River Watershed Alliance (p)	Alliance of concerned residents, businesses, and organizations that restores and manages the water and natural resources within the Taunton River Watershed	Board member served on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and is currently an advisor to SowamsHA
Ten Mile River Watershed Council	Works to protect the Ten Mile River and its watershed by monitoring water quality, educating the public, and improving recreational opportunities	Board member is chair of the Providence Conservation Commission of East Providence, whose chief planner serves on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee
Warren Land Conservation Trust (p, los)	Protects, preserves, and restores open space in Warren, conserving Warren's natural resources and stewarding ancestral Pokanoket land	Board member served on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee

Wildlands Trust (formerly Swansea Land Trust)	Protects and stewards six conservation parcels formerly held by the Swansea Land Trust, including Jarabeck Preserve, Tierney Preserve, and Barney-Bell Preserve	A mix of upland and wetland habitats, these properties are an important part of the Barrington-Palmer-Warren River watershed, which sustains the Sowams landscape
Funders and Grant Makers		
Barr Foundation	Invests in human, natural, and creative potential in the area of arts and creativity, climate, and education in New England	Prospective funder
Massachusetts Cultural Council	Dispenses funds from appropriations of the Massachusetts state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts to local arts councils in the state	Source of funding for arts and cultural institutions in Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset and Swansea, MA
Mass Humanities	Affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), partners with local non-profit organizations to integrate humanities into Massachusetts communities	Source of funding for humanities institutions in Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset and Swansea, MA
National Parks Conservation Association (p)	The only independent, nonpartisan membership organization exclusively dedicated to advocating for the National Park System	Awarded three grants to help underwrite the Sowams feasibility study and programming
National Trust for Historic Preservation (p, los)	Privately funded nonprofit organization working to save America's historic sites, tell the full American story, and build stronger communities	Contributed \$25,000 to help underwrite the Sowams Heritage Area feasibility study through the "Telling the Full Story" program; is advising Sowams leadership on the NHA designation process
Papitto Opportunity Connection (p)	Foundation dedicated to empowering underserved RI communities by investing in education, job skills training, housing, healthcare, and entrepreneurial ventures	Awarded Sowams Heritage Area two grants totaling \$25,000 to help underwrite the feasibility study
Rhode Island Foundation	Community foundation established in 1916 to help improve the lives of all Rhode Islanders	Prospective funder

Rhode Island Council on the Humanities (p)	A RI state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), RICH supports and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement	Sowams stakeholder and advisor; awarded Sowams Heritage Area several grants to underwrite cultural programming and has
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts	Charged by the RI state legislature in 1967 to stimulate public interest and participation in the arts, and to serve as the liaison to the state's arts community	Prospective funder
Taunton River Stewardship Council (p, los)	Serves as the central coordinating body for stewarding the Taunton River and promoting its long-term protection	Awarded two grants to Sowams Heritage Area to help underwrite the feasibility study, create GIS maps, and redesign the Sowams website
History and Humanities		
Barrington Preservation Society	Dedicated to exploring, preserving, and interpreting Barrington history; operated Town Museum and holds artifact and archival collections	Sponsoring the archeological research of the site of the first battle of the King Philip's War on Nockum Hill in Barrington, RI
Bristol Historical and Preservation Society (p, los)	Stimulates interest in Bristol, RI history through education, research, and preservation of historic objects; produced the award-winning banner, a 56-foot-long timeline of Enslavement in Bristol	Executive Director is Sowams Subject Matter Expert; lead partner in the commemoration of the 350th anniversary of King Philip's War
Cape Verdean Museum	Dedicated to celebrating the history and culture of Cape Verde and Cape Verdean Americans	Resource for culture and history related to Sowams Interpretive Themes of "The Era of Enslavement and Slave Trading" and "The Interplay of Land and Water"
Carpenter Museum and the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society (RAS) (p, los)	The Carpenter Center is the flagship exhibit space for the RAS, which preserves, promotes, and enhances the historical, educational, and cultural assets of Rehoboth, MA	The leadership of the Carpenter is a founding member of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and now serves on the Board

Coggeshall Farm and Old Sturbridge Village (p, los)	Working farm museum (1800) in Bristol, RI; managed by the Old Sturbridge Village town museum in Sturbridge, MA	Coggeshall Farm frequently presents Sowams-related programming
East Providence Historical Society (p, los)	Founded in 1967 to preserve and promote the heritage of East Providence; now based in the historic John Hunt House on the Ten-Mile River	Hosted the organizational meeting of historic organizations in the Sowams region; partners with SowamsHA on the 350th anniversary of King Philip's War
Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation (p, los)	Overseeing the restoration of the Swansea Friends Meeting House in Somerset, MA, the oldest Quaker meeting house in MA	Chair of the Friend board is on the Sowams Programming Committee
Herreshoff Marine Museum and America's Cup Hall of Fame (los)	Maritime museum that celebrates the history of the Herreshoff Company, innovative designer and manufacturer of steam ships, torpedo boats and seven America's Cup defenders	Contributes to the preservation of the shipbuilding legacy of Sowams Heritage Area
Historic New England	The oldest and largest regional heritage organization in the nation, preserving and sharing New England's historic buildings, landscapes, and objects for generations	Potential resource and advisor in the preservation of Sowams heritage
Historic Warren	Preserves, protects, and promotes the cultural and architectural heritage of Warren, RI - such as the Fireman's Museum, Historic Warren Armory, and the Masonic Temple	Provides a portal to the historical sites, museums and collections along Warren's waterfront, including organizations preserving the heritage of Sowams
John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor	National Heritage Area dedicated to the history of the American Industrial Revolution in 25 cities and towns in MA and RI	Leadership met with the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee during planning; opportunity to partner on projects and programs
Linden Place (los)	Historic estate museum, originally the home of the DeWolf slave trading family; offers cultural programming on "Bristol's Front Porch" in downtown Bristol, RI	Participant in Sowams Community Conversations; contributes to interpreting the Sowams theme of "The Era of Enslavement and Slave Trading"

Martin House	Managed by the Colonial Dames of America, a rare example of an 18th and early 19th century farm, with cultivated fields surrounded by dry stone walls and woodlands	One of the featured sites in Sowams Heritage Area
Massachusetts Historical Commission	Established by the Massachusetts state legislature in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth	Primary state historic and archaeological resource for four of the nine towns in Sowams Heritage Area (Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset and Swansea)
Massasoit Historical Association (p, los)	Manages the historic Maxwell House and other properties; collects and preserves objects relating to this history of Warren, RI	The association is restoring the Massasoit Spring, one of the featured Indigenous sites in Sowams Heritage Area
Municipal Historical District Commissions in the nine towns/cities in Sowams	Quasi-municipal commissions charged with identifying, protecting, and preserving the historical heritage of their communities	Many of the heritage assets in Sowams are championed by local historic commissions
Old Colony Historical Society and History Museum	Founded in 1853, Old Colony stewards an extensive collection of artifacts from southeastern, Massachusetts, prior to its merger with Massachusetts Colony in 1691	Old Colony Historic Museum has hosted Sowams-related events, most recently a discussion commemorating the 350th anniversary of King Philip's War
Pilgrim John Howland Society	A family society perpetuating the memory of their ancestors, John Howland and his wife, Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland, Mayflower Pilgrims	Elizabeth Tilley Howland is buried in Little Neck Cemetery, a Sowams Heritage Area site in East Providence, RI
Plimoth Patuxet Museums (p, los)	Museums, historic structures, and experiential learning spaces that recreate the iconic Plimoth colony and Wampanoag homesite in Plymouth, MA	Leadership has been an early proponent of Sowams Heritage Area; participated in several Sowams programs with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; and has been a trusted advisor
Preserve Rhode Island	Protects historic places in Rhode Island through advocacy, stewardship, and preservation programs	Stewards historically significant properties in Sowams, including the Lippett House Museum in Providence, the Philip Walker House in East Providence, and Blithewold in Bristol, RI; Former E.D. has advised the planning team

Providence Preservation Society	Support and advocate for historic preservation, thoughtful design, and people-centered planning in Providence, RI	Responsible for creating the College Hill Historic District in Providence, RI, a featured site in Sowams Heritage Area
Rhode Island Historical Society	Founded in 1822, one of the oldest state historical societies in the US; holds the largest and most important historical collections relating to Rhode Island	Subject Matter Expert for Sowams feasibility study; resource for Rhode Island history in Sowams Heritage Area
Roger Williams Family Association	Association of the descendants of Roger Williams preserving the history and legacy of the founder of Rhode Island	Roger Williams plays a major role in the Sowams Interpretive Theme "Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island"
Roger Williams National Memorial	Commemorates the life of the founder of Rhode Island and a champion of the ideal of religious freedom; Williams, banished from Massachusetts for his beliefs, founded Providence in 1636	This National Park Service national landmark is the flagship site for Sowams Interpretive Theme "Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island"
Somerset Historical Society (p, los)	Established in 1955 to preserve the history of the Somerset, MA region; manages the James E. Bradbury museum in the Village School	Director served on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and currently serves on the Finance Committee of the Sowams Board of Directors
Swansea Historical Society (SHS)	Headquartered in the historic Luther Store, a Sowams Heritage Area featured site; founded in 1941, SHS preserves, collects and researches the history of Swansea, MA	Chartered by Plimoth Colony 1667, Swansea is a historically significant region in Sowams Heritage Area
Warren Heritage Foundation	Protects, restores and maintains structures, buildings, and open spaces of historic and architectural significance in Warren, RI	Supports the preservation of Warren Baptist Church, a Sowams Heritage Area site, among others
Warren Preservation Society	Promotes the preservation of historic buildings in Warren, RI through historic house marker program, public exhibits, guest speaker programs, renovation projects and education	Stewards some sites in Sowams Heritage Area, including the historic Warren Baptist Church

Rhode Island Preservation and Heritage Commission	RI state agency that operates a statewide historical preservation program, which identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, structures, and archaeological sites	Subject Matter Expert for Sowams feasibility study; resource for the preservation of Rhode Island's historic structures and sites in Sowams Heritage Area
Roger Williams National Memorial	Managed by the National Park Service, site of the original settlement of the Colony of Rhode Island, commemorating its founder, Roger Williams	One of the most important sites in Sowams Heritage Area, associated with three Sowams Interpretive Themes: "Where Two Worlds Met," "King Philip's War," and "Freedom of Conscience and the Birth of Rhode Island"
Rochambeau Washington Revolutionary Route	Managed by the National Park Service; route of the largest troop movement in the American Revolution, which led to victory at Yorktown and secured American independence	The historic trail passes through five towns/cities in Sowams Heritage Area
Revolutionary Heritage Byway	Designated as a National Scenic Byway by the National Scenic Byway Foundation; connects key historical sites, towns, and landmarks central to the events of the American Revolution in Bristol, RI	One of the historic pathways in Sowams Heritage Area
Municipalities		
City of East Providence, RI (p, los, City Council resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	The city was represented on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee by their Chief Planner, who has since retired and now services on the Sowams Board of Directors
City of Providence, RI (p, los)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	The city was represented on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and now Board of Directors by the Deputy Director of People and Belonging for the City of Providence

Town of Barrington, RI (Town Council Resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	The Barrington Town Council voted unanimously to support the designation of Sowams NHA; Sowams has participated in Barrington 250 commemoration
Town of Bristol, RI (Town Council Resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	Bristol was represented on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee by the Director of Community Development; Town Council voted unanimously and enthusiastically to support the designation of Sowams NHA
Town of Rehoboth, MA (Select Board Letter/Vote of Support)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	The Rehoboth Select Board voted unanimously to support the designation of Sowams NHA
Town of Seekonk, MA (Select Board Resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	Seekonk was represented on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee by their Town Planner, who now serves on the Sowams Tribal Engagement Committee; the Seekonk Select Board voted unanimously to support the designation of Sowams NHA
Town of Somerset, MA (Select Board Resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	The Somerset Board of Selectman voted unanimously to support the designation of Sowams NHA
Town of Swansea, MA (Select Board Resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	Swansea was represented on the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee by the Assistant Town Administrator/Community Development Director; former Select Board Chair is an advisor to Sowams

Town of Warren, RI (Town Council Resolution)	One of nine towns/cities that today comprise the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who greeted the Pilgrims in 1621	The Town of Warren, which has been an early supporter of Sowams Heritage Area, voted unanimously to support its federal designation
Religious Communities		
Barrington UCC Church (p, los)	"The White Church" has been a landmark in Barrington for almost two centuries, and its congregation dates back to the site of the first Baptist meeting house in the US	Participated in Sowams Community Conversations, contributed to Sowams outreach in the religious community, and hosted the first meeting of the reconstituted Sowams Board of Directors
Bristol First Congregational Church (p, los)	The founding of the church in 1680 enabled the incorporation of the town of Bristol, RI	Participated in Sowams Community Conversation; is a featured site in Sowams Heritage Area as "Bristol's Founding Church"
New England Quakers (Friends)	Provides programs and services to Quaker Monthly Meetings	Resource for the Quaker communities in Sowams; historically on the vanguard of religious tolerance, one of the five Sowams Interpretive Themes
Newman Church (p, los)	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places; the congregation of the Newman Church first gathered in 1641 in Rehoboth, now Seekonk, MA	Hosted the final Community Conversation; church leaders previous Sowams Community Conversations and Sowams events
First Baptist Church in Swansea (p, los)	Founded by John Myles in 1662, is the third oldest surviving Baptist congregation in the Americas	The Church's retired pastor was a member of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee and is currently a member of the board; the church hosted the first community conversation

APPENDIX E – SOWAMS RESOURCE INVENTORY

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Aaron Wheeler House	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	371 Fairview Avenue	Built c. 1745, the house is one of the town's best-preserved examples of the gambrel-roof style.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Abiah Bliss House	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	154 Agricultural Avenue	Built as early as 1666, making it one of the oldest houses in the region and one of the few to survive King Philip's War, which ravaged the area in the 1670s.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Abram's Rock	C, H, N	Town of Swansea	Swansea, MA	Swansea	The largest of several rock formations in the immediate area, located in a park behind Swansea Town Hall. Accessible during daylight hours. Good walking and off-road bike paths surrounding it.		Y	Two Worlds

*Type Key: C=Cultural | E=Educational | H=Historical | N=Natural | R=Recreational

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Alfred Drowne Road Historic District	H	Private	Barrington, RI	Alfred Drowne Road, Annawamscutt Road, Washington Road	Suburban area developed between about 1860 and 1910, during significant growth in Barrington spurred by the connection of the town by rail to Providence in 1855.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Allen-West House	H	Private	Barrington, RI	153 George Street	Part of the Nockum Hill site close to the Baptist Church marker. While the house is from c. 1763, the land around it was farmed in the 17th century.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Anawan Clubhouse and Caretaker's House	H, R	Private	Rehoboth, MA	13 Goreham Street	Private clubhouse built as a hunting and fishing lodge in late 19th century. The caretaker's house dates to the mid-18th century.	NRHP	N	Land and Water
Anawan Rock Historic Site	C, E, H, N, R	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	Rehoboth	Site of capture of the Pokanoket war leader Anawan by Captain Benjamin Church on August 28, 1676, thus ending King Philip's war.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Ancient Little Neck Cemetery	H	City of East Providence	Riverside, RI	South end of Read Street below Allen Avenue in Riverside	Contains the graves of Mayflower passenger John Brown, Jr., who purchased Wannamoisett from Osamequin in 1643, and Captain Thomas Willett, Mayor of New York City in 1665 and 1667.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds
Ancient Oak Trees	H, N	Joetta Chace Brigham Farm	Warren and East Providence, RI	Warren and East Providence	Purported to be over 350 years old, trees are located on the edge of Brigham Farm along Birch Swamp Road on the northwest border of the farm.		Y	Two Worlds
Arcade Woods Conservation Area	N	Private	Seekonk, MA	100 Peck Street	348 acres of land with conservation restrictions, which remain privately owned but are protected from development.		N	Land and Water
Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge	E, N, R	Audubon Society of Rhode Island	Bristol, RI	1401 Hope Street	The natural history museum offers interactive exhibits that explore local habitats and wildlife. It is situated in a 28-acre preserve that features trails, a boardwalk to Narragansett Bay, and a variety of natural habitats.		Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Audubon Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge	N, R	Audubon Society of Rhode Island	Warren, RI	99 Touisset Road	Offers views of the Kickemuit River amid forests and fields. Activities include hiking, bird watching, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.		Y	Land and Water
Baptist Church Marker	C, E, H	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	George Street	John Myles' church in Swansea, MA in 1663, now in Barrington, is the oldest Baptist congregation in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the U.S. Undergoing research through an American Battlefield Protection Grant.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience
Barneyville Historic District	C, H	Private	Swansea, MA	Old Providence and Barneyville Roads	Site of a successful shipbuilding operation during the early 19th century, the area then became a local center for jewelry making.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Barrington Civic Center Historic District	H	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	283 County Road	Includes an 18th century cemetery, a late 19th century town hall and library, an early 20th century school, and a pond and park along the crest of Prince's Hill. The town hall originally housed Barrington's high school and library as well as the town meeting hall and clerk's office.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Barrington Congregational Church	C, H	Private	Barrington, RI	461 County Road	The current church building, built in 1806 is often referred to as the "White Church." It was established in 1711, when it separated from the Baptist Church.		Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
Barrington Town Museum	C, E, H	Town of Barrington, managed by the Barrington Preservation Society	Barrington, RI	On the lower floor of the Barrington Public Library, 281 County Road	The Barrington Preservation Society's museum traces the town back to early settlement.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Benjamin Church House	H	Bristol Housing Authority	Bristol, RI	1014 Hope Street	A Colonial Revival house that opened in 1909 as the "Benjamin Church Home for Aged Men."	NRHP	N	Land and Water
Blackstone Canal	C, E, H, N, R	Private	Various Towns, RI	From Steeple and Promenade Streets to the Ashton Dam, north to the MA state line	Early 19th century waterway linking Worcester, MA, to Providence, RI (and Narragansett Bay) through the Blackstone Valley via a series of locks and canals.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Blackstone Park Historic District	C, H, N, R	City of Providence	Seekonk River, Laurell Ave., Blackstone Boulevard, and S, RI	Seekonk River, Laurell Avenue, Blackstone Boulevard, and S. Angell Street	Constructed in 1894 to provide better access to nearby Swan Point Cemetery, the park in the center was planned and suggested by the Olmsted Brothers.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum	C, E, H, N	Heritage Foundation of Rhode Island	Bristol, RI	101 Ferry Road	Established in the 1890s by Augustus and Bessie Van Wickle as their summer retreat. The grounds include species from North America, Europe, China and Japan.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Bold Point	C, H	City of Providence	Providence, RI	Providence	Location of 17th century wharves from which John Brown began shipping tea and spices from the East and West Indies. Today park is used for a variety of activities and events.		Y	Two Worlds, Enslavement, Land and Water
Boston and Providence Railroad Bridge	H	East Providence	East Providence, RI	Spans the Ten Mile River and Roger Williams Avenue in East Providence	Built is 1884 and listed in the National Register in 1980. The bridge continues to be used for freight trains connecting East Providence, RI and Seekonk, MA.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Brayton Home- stead	H	Private	Somerset, MA	159 Brayton Avenue	Built about 1796, it is one of Somerset's oldest surviving houses, and a rare local example of Georgian, Federal residential architecture.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Bridgham Farm	H, N, R	City of East Providence	East Provi- dence, RI	East Providence	Bridgham Farm is the last sizable tract of undeveloped farmland, once part of the ancient Rehoboth "Ring of the Green."	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds/ King Philip's War
Briggs Tavern	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	2 Anawan Street	Built about 1780 and now used as a private residence, it is the town's only surviving 18th-century commercial building.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Bristol County Courthouse	H	State of Rhode Island	Bristol, RI	High Street	Originally one of five locations in Rhode Island which hosted the state legislature on a rotating basis, and served as the county courthouse through the 1980s.	NRHP	Y	Land and Wa- ter

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Bristol County Jail	E, H	Town of Bristol	Bristol, RI	48 Court Street	The jail was built on the site of a previous jail dating to 1792, and salvaged materials were used extensively in the new construction.	NRHP	Y	Enslavement, Land and Water
Bristol Customshouse and Post Office	H	Town of Bristol	Bristol, RI	420-448 Hope Street	A historic Italian palazzo style building that was used as a post office and customshouse.	NHRP	N	Land and Water
Bristol Ferry Lighthouse	H	Private	Bristol, RI	Ferry Road	The two-story square brick lighthouse was built in 1855, along with an attached 1 story brick keeper's house	NHRP	N	Land and Water
Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker	C, H	Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project	Bristol, RI	Independence Park, Bristol, RI	A UNESCO Routes of Enslave Peoples Project "Site of Memory," the memorial features Spencer Evans sculpture, "Our Ancestors Come With Us."	UNESCO Site of Memory	Y	Era of Enslavement and the Slave Trade

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Bristol Water-front Historic District	H	Private	Bristol, RI	Bristol Harbor to Wood Street, north to Washington Street, and south to Walker Cove	A historic district encompassing the original heart of Bristol, Rhode Island, which was laid out in 1680 by the town's original proprietors.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds, Enslavement, Land and Water
Brown University	E, C, H	Brown University	Providence, RI	East Side	Founded in 1764, Brown is a leading nonprofit research university.		Y	Soul Liberty, Enslavement, Land and Water
Burial Place Hill	H	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	Rehoboth	Presumed to be the oldest cemetery among the 53 in Rehoboth. The oldest known burial is of Richard Bowen, who died just before King Philip's War began in 1675.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Burr's Hill Park	C, H, R	Town of Warren	Warren, RI	540 Water Street	Maintained by the town of Warren, RI, the park spans seven acres situated alongside the Warren Town Beach.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Cahoon Brick-works	H	Swansea Historical Society	Swansea, MA	160 Old Warren Road	William Colquhoun came from Dunbartonshire, Scotland, and opened a brick-works in Swansea, MA, on the Palmer River in 1673. He was killed in the opening conflicts of King Philip's War.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Land and Water
Caleb Cushing House and Farm	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	186 Pine Street	Established about 1750, includes a pre-Revolutionary Georgian farmhouse and an 1836 Federal-Greek Revival Cape house.	NHRP	N	Two Worlds
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge	N, R	Audubon Society of Rhode Island	Seekonk, MA	301 Brown Avenue	With nearly 200 acres of fields, forests, streams, and ponds, Caratunk offers miles of well-marked trails.		Y	Land and Water
Carpenter Bridge	H	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	Carpenter Street	Built in 1873, it is the only surviving 19th-century stone bridge in the town.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Carpenter Homestead and Osamequin Farm	C, E, H	Private	Seekonk, MA	80 Walnut Street	This colonial house and farm in Seekonk, MA, includes a farmhouse and outbuildings whose construction history begins c. 1720.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds
Carpenter House	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	89 Carpenter Street	Probably built in 1789 by Thomas Carpenter III, reusing elements of an older (c. 1750) structure that is known to have stood at the site	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Carpenter Museum	C, E, H	Rehoboth Antiquarian Society	Rehoboth, MA	4 Locust Avenue	The museum preserves over 6,000 artifacts, photographs, and archival materials related to historic Rehoboth—encompassing parts of present-day southeastern MA and RI—and offers exhibits and a genealogical research center.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Enslavement, Land and Water
Church of Christ	C, H	Swansea Church of Christ	Swansea, MA	Route 6 at Maple Avenue	In 1693, the Church of Christ in Swansea was organized with seventeen members. Thomas Barnes of Plymouth was ordained as pastor.	NHRP	Y	Soul Liberty

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Coggeshall Farm Museum	C, E, H	Coggeshall Farm Museum	Bristol, RI	1 Colt Drive	Located on 48 acres of land in Bristol, the museum features interpreters and authentic reenactments of farm life in the year 1799.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
College Hill Historic District	C, E, H	Private	Providence, RI	Roughly bounded by the Providence and Seekonk Rivers, Olney, Hope, and Governor Streets, Carrington and Whittier	Original 120 acres of the city of Providence, laid out by Roger Williams. Contains many well-preserved 18th and 19th-century buildings and homes, as well as Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design.	NHL	Y	Soul Liberty
Colt State Park	E, N, R	State of Rhode Island	Bristol, RI	Route 114	A public recreation area that occupies 464 acres on Poppasquash Neck in the town of Bristol		Y	Land and Water
Corliss-Carrington House	H	Private	Providence, RI	66 Williams Street	Home of an early mercantilist and industrialist, now used as an event venue.	NHL	N	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Crescent Park Looff Carousel	C, H, R	Captain Rocky Incorporated	East Providence, RI	Riverside Park	Hand-carved carousel built in 1895 by Charles I. D. Looff his NY factory, installed at Crescent Park Amusement Park in the Riverside section of East Providence.	NHL	Y	Land and Water
DeWolf Warehouse (DeWolf Tavern)	H	Private	Bristol, RI	259 Thames Street	The DeWolf Tavern is located in the historic building once known as DeWolf Rum Distillery on the Thames Street Landing, along the historic waterfront in Bristol, RI.		Y	Enslavement, Land and Water
Douglas Rayner Wildlife Refuge	N, R	Barrington Land Trust	Barrington, RI	111 George Street	A network of trails guides walkers through woodlands and meadows bordering Hundred Acre Cove.		Y	Land and Water
Downtown Providence National Historic District*	C, H	Private	Providence, RI	Roughly bounded by Washington, Westminster, Empire, and Weybosset Streets; also along Friendship, Pine, and Richmond Sts.; also 250 and 254 Washington Streets.	Originally known as "Weybossett Neck" or "Weybossett Side", Downtown was first settled by religious dissidents from the First Congregational Society in 1746.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
East Bay Bike Path	N, R	State of Rhode Island Dept. of Transportation	East Providence, Barrington, Warren, and Bristol, RI	Between Providence and Bristol, RI	A multi-town bike path that travels 14.5 miles from India Point Park in Providence to Independence Park in Bristol, passing many state and local parks and recreation areas.		Y	Land and Water
Echo Lake	N, R	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	South Lake Drive	Echo Lake is approximately 20 acres in size and provides a place for good fishing.		Y	Land and Water
Eddy-Cutler House	H	Private	Warren, RI	30 State Street	Built on the Warren waterfront c. 1806-1812 by Benjamin Eddy, merchant and trader of enslaved people.		N	Enslavement
Elm Farm	H	Private	Bristol, RI	1382 Hope Street	The farmhouse, built c.1687, sits at the corner of Hope and Elm Farm Road. The front section of the house dates to 1740, but the east portion of the ell behind it dates to 1695.		N	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Ephraim Hunt Ministerial Land	N	Rehoboth Land Trust	Rehoboth, MA	69 Pond Street, Rehoboth, MA	This 63-acre parcel contains classic post-glacial landscape features, streams, and trails frequented and enjoyed by hikers from throughout the Sowams area and beyond. The historic former property of the Rehoboth Congregational Church borders the former Providence and Taunton Street Railway line (c. 1901), now a hiking path to Rehoboth Village.		Y	Freedom of Conscience, Land and Water
First Baptist Church in America	C, H	First Baptist Church	Providence, RI	N. Main Street between Thomas and Waterman Streets	The oldest Baptist congregation in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the U.S., founded in 1663 by John Myles.	NHL	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
First Baptist Church, Swansea	C, H	First Baptist Church	Swansea, MA	21 Baptist Street	The oldest Baptist congregation in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the United States founded in 1663 by John Myles.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
First Congregational Church	H	Private	Bristol, RI	281 High Street	The first meeting house in Bristol was built in 1684 on the Town Common where the historic Court House now stands. Contains a museum of early artifacts.		Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience

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Fleur-de-lys Studios	C, H	Private	Providence, RI	7 Thomas Street	Home to the Providence Art Club, which is the premiere artist organization in Rhode Island; an historic art studio, and an important structure in the development of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the United States	NHL	N	Land and Water
Gamino Pond Conservation Area	N, R	Town of Seekonk	Seekonk, MA	463 Newman Street	A passive recreation area with trails, fishing, water access, and a picnic area at the trailhead on Newman Avenue.		Y	Land and Water
General Thomas Allin House	H	Private	Barrington, RI	Lincoln Avenue	The Allin family was among the leading slave-owning families in Barrington. Thomas Allin served as a town and state government official in the 18th century.	NRHP	N	Enslavement
Goff Homestead	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	40 Maple Lane	Built c. 1750–80, an extremely rare local example of a Georgian period house with end chimneys rather than a single central chimney	NRHP	N	Two Worlds

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Governor Henry Lippitt House	H	Preserve Rhode Island	Providence, RI	199 Hope Street	Mansion built in the 1860s by one of RI's leading textile manufacturing families, the Lippitts, who were active in public service for generations.	NHL	N	Two Worlds, Enslavement
Haile-Nunes Farmhouse	H	Private	Warren, RI	384 Market Street	A rare surviving representative of a 17th century Narragansett Bay saltwater live-stock farm. The original house was erected by Obadiah Bowen c. 1682 as a story-and-a-half house.		N	Two Worlds
Haines Memorial State Park	N, R	State of Rhode Island	Barrington, RI	Haines Park Road	This public recreation area in Barrington, RI, on the northeast side of the Narragansett Bay offers picnicking, playing fields, fishing, and boating facilities, and is a stop on the East Bay Bike Path.		Y	Land and Water
Hampden Meadows Greenbelt	N, R	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	Linden Road west of Sowams Road	The appendage of "Hampden" to the New Meadow Neck area was given by the Rhode Island Historical society, in honor of John Hampden, who visited Massasoit with Edward Winslow in 1623.		Y	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Herreshoff Marine Museum	C, E, H	Private	Bristol, RI	1 Burnside Street	Maritime museum in Bristol, RI, dedicated to the history of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, yachting, and America's Cup.		Y	Land and Water
Hornbine Baptist Church	H	Holy Cross Catholic Church	Swansea, MA	141 Hornbine Road	Built in 1753, it is the oldest Baptist meeting house in southeastern MA.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
Hornbine School	E, H	Hornbine School Association	Rehoboth, MA	136 Hornbine Road	One-room Hornbine School was built in 1845-46 and offered an education through grade 9 until 1937. Today the building is overseen by the Rehoboth Historical Commission.		Y	Land and Water
Hugh Cole Well	E, H	Town of Warren	Warren, RI	Along the bike path east of the Broken Bridge	The site on Crab Pond includes a monument to Cole and an explanatory historical marker about King Philip's War.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Hundred Acre Cove	N, R	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	Wampanoag Trail, Route 114	Part of the tidal Barrington River, which flows south into the Warren River and then to Narragansett Bay.		Y	Land and Water
Hunt's Mills , Ten Mile River	E, H, N, R	City of East Providence	Providence, RI	65 Hunts Mill Road	The Ten Mile River provided water power to a series of mills built along its banks from 1643 to 1893 by Stephen Payne early as 1645.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Independence Park	N, R	Town of Bristol	Bristol, RI	419-459 Thames Street	The scenic 4-acre park is located at the head of the East Bay Bike path on Bristol Harbor.		Y	Land and Water
India Point Park	H, N, R	City of Providence	Providence, RI	Fox Point	India Point was Providence's first port. It was established in 1680 and flourished as a center of maritime trade for 250 years. The park is a part of the Washington- Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Indian Oven	C, H, N	Private	Rehoboth, MA	Near Homestead Avenue and Perryville Road	The oven is a natural cylindrical hole in the southern face of a large rock out-cropping thought to be used by the Indigenous Tribes to parch their corn.		N	Two Worlds
Ingalls–Wheeler–Horton Homestead Site	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	214 Chestnut Street	A house was built c. 1730 on this property, which survived until the early 20th century; a new house was built on the property in 1895.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Jacob's Point Preserve	N, R	Warren Land Conservation Trust	Warren, RI	East Bay Bike Path and the Warren River	The site is approximately 35 acres along the northeast shore of Narragansett Bay as the bay narrows to form Warren harbor. It borders Audubon's Clair D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge.		Y	Land and Water
James Driscoll House	H	Private	Warren, RI	26 State Street	A three-story Federal Mansion built by James Maxwell, a sea captain and slave trader in the Triangle Trade and reputed to be one of the wealthiest men in Warren.		N	Two Worlds, Enslavement, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Jennys Lane Historic District	C, H	Private	Barrington, RI	Jennys Lane and Mathewson and Rumstick Roads	The Jennys Lane Historic District is a residential historic district encompassing a well-preserved subdivision in Barrington, Rhode Island, which was developed between 1860 and 1920. It is representative of the town's development as a suburb of Providence following the introduction of passenger rail service in 1855.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Jeremiah Dexter House	H	Private	Providence, RI	957 North Main Street	A gambrel-roofed wood-frame structure, built in 1754 for printer Jeremiah Dexter on farmland that was originally granted to his ancestor Gregory Dexter, a friend and printer for Roger Williams.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Johannis Farm Wildlife Preserve	N, R	Barrington Land Trust	Barrington, RI	461 Sowams Road	Johannis Farm includes open fields, farmland, saltwater marshes and wetlands, as well as woodlands. There is bird watching and other recreational activities, and the site is home to egrets, ospreys, geese, ducks, and bald eagles.		Y	Land and Water
John Brown House	H	RI Historical Society	Providence, RI	52 Power Street	The first mansion built on College Hill, where it borders the campus of Brown University, and named after one of the early benefactors of the university, merchant, statesman, and slave trader John Brown.	NHL	Y	Two Worlds, Enslavement

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
John Corliss House	H	Private	Providence, RI	201 South Main Street	A rare survivor of a major 1801 fire and one of only a few remaining houses in the area constructed prior to the American Revolution	NHRP	N	Two Worlds
John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor	C, E, H, N, R	Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc.	Various Towns, MA and RI	670 Linwood Avenue	This NH Corridor overlaps Sowams Heritage Area in the region between the Moshassuck and Seekonk Rivers; works with community partners to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Valley's historic, natural, and recreational resources.	NHA	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Enslavement, Freedom of Conscience, Land and Water
John Hunt House	E, H	East Providence Historical Society	East Providence, RI	Hunts Mill Road	The house serves as hub of activities associated with the East Providence Historical Society and as a house museum and repository for articles of significance to the city.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
John Martin House	H	Private	Barrington, RI	127 Massasoit Avenue	Built c. 1680, as one of Rhode Island's two-story stone-enders, originally consisted of only a few rooms.		N	Two Worlds
Joseph Haile House	H	Private	Providence, RI	106 George Street	A free-standing 1806 townhouse restored extensively in the 1930s to house a collection of furniture and paintings	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Joseph Reynolds House	H	Private	Bristol, RI	956 Hope Street	Built by Joseph Reynolds on land his father, Nathaniel Reynolds, a leather worker from Boston, had bought in 1684.	NHL	N	Two Worlds
Juniper Hill Cemetery	H	Private	Bristol, RI	24 Sherry Avenue	A historic cemetery in Bristol, RI, founded by George R. Usher, James D'Wolf Perry, Byron Diman, Ambrose E. Burnside, James H. West, Charles H. R. Doringle, and Lemanuel W. Briggs.	NRHP	Y	Enslavement, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Kee Farm	H	Private	Warren, RI	Long Lane and Barton Avenue	60-acre family farm in Touisset that is believed to have begun before 1700		N	Two Worlds
Kickemuit Cemetery	H	Town of Warren	Warren, RI	Serpentine Road	Graves include those of some who fought in the King Philip's War, 1675-1676, including that of John Luther in 1697.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
King Philip's Seat on Potumtuk	C, H, N	Pokanoket Tribe	Bristol, RI	Tower Road	A hollow at the base of a large quartz outcropping, reputed to be King Philip's "seat". Items found on the property confirm that the site was occupied by aboriginal people for thousands of years.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
King's Rock	C, H, N	Private	Warren-Swansea, MA	Route 136 at the Warren-Swansea Town line	Sachem's Knoll, where Native people from across New England celebrated victories in Tribal wars and discussed peace treaties. Rock has a hollow where women ground corn.		Y	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Kingsley House	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	108 Davis Street	The oldest portion of this house is estimated to have been built around 1680, making it the oldest structure in Rehoboth.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Linden Place	E, H	Friends of Linden Place	Bristol, RI	10 Wardwell Street	Built in 1810 by slave trader, merchant, privateer and ship owner General George DeWolf and designed by architect Russell Warren		Y	Enslavement, Land and Water
Luther House	H	Private	Swansea, MA	177 Market Street	Built c. 1740, probably by Hezekiah Luther, son of John Luther, the first of that name to settle the area.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Luther Store	C, H	Swansea Historical Society	Swansea, MA	Old Warren and Pierce Roads	The store was built in 1815 by John Brown Luther, and was operated by the Luther family as a store until 1903.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Margaret's Cave and Devil's Rock	C, H, N	Private	Swansea, MA	Off Birch Swamp Road	Two natural features have ties to Pokanoket history. The cave may have been tied to Roger Williams' recuperation by Tribal members. Nearby, a smooth area of stone at the top of the outcropping was thought to have been used for signal fires.		N	Two Worlds
Martin Farm-house	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	121 Martin Street	Built c. 1750–80 and expanded organically over the next 120 years	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Martin House	H	Private	Seekonk, MA	940 County Street	The house was built c. 1799–1801, and is stylistically similar to houses built at the time in Newport, Rhode Island.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Martin House and Farm	H	Colonial Dames of Massachusetts	Swansea, MA	22 Stony Hill Road	The main house is a one and one-half story gambrel-roofed wood-frame structure with a crosswise ell at the rear. The oldest portion was built in 1728 by John Martin.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Mason Street Conservation Area	N	Rehoboth Land Trust	Rehoboth, MA	80 Mason Street	The 12-acre area was a portion of the Brayton Mill farmstead and the historic Elisha D. Pearce house, which is now the site of Moonrose Farm, the Trust's agricultural tenant, a family-operated, organic, community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm.		Y	Land and Water
Massasoit Spring	C, H, N	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	Opposite 169 Rumstick Road	It is believed that Massasoit, while at peace with the Narragansetts, had his principal village near this spring [Bicknell, p. 194].		Y	Two Worlds
Massasoit Spring	C, H, N	Massasoit Historical Association	Warren, RI	Baker Street	A monument to the Massasoit Ousamequin, Chief of the Pokanoket tribe in the 17th century until 1661 at the site of one of the reputed aboriginal villages.		Y	Two Worlds
Miery Swamp	C, H, N	Private	Bristol, RI	Near Mt. Hope Farm	King Philip was killed in Miery Swamp a half mile southwest of King Philip's Seat on August 12, 1676. A monument, placed by the Rhode Island Historical Society in 1877, now stands by the spring on the site of his death.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Miller Bird Sanctuary	N, R	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	Lake Street	Over 45-acre parcel of conservation land on Lake Street in Rehoboth.		Y	Land and Water
Moses Brown School	C, E, H	Private	Providence, RI	250 Lloyd Avenue	The original Moses Brown School began in Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 1784, closed four years later, and re-opened in Providence in 1819.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Soul-Liberty, Enslavement, Land Water
Mount Hope Bridge	H	Rhode Island Bridge and Turnpike Authority	Bay, RI	RI 114 over Narragansett Bay	A two-lane suspension bridge spanning the Mount Hope Bay in eastern RI at one of the narrowest gaps in Narragansett Bay. The bridge connects Portsmouth and Bristol.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Mount Hope Farm	C, E, H, N, R	Mount Hope Trust	Bristol, RI	Metacom Avenue	The grounds have been farmed since the 1680s. The present 211 acres are a remnant of a much larger property that included Potumtuk (Mount Hope), the traditional seat of the Wampanoag people.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Enslavement

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Myles Garrison Site	H	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Swansea, MA	Barneyville and Old Providence Roads	Site of the garrison house used at the opening of King Philip's War in 1675 to house Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colony troops.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Nathaniel Bosworth House	H	Private	Bristol, RI	814 Hope Street	Deacon Nathaniel Bosworth constructed the first house in Bristol, RI, in 1680-81 using material shipped from England.		N	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Nathaniel Daggett House	H	Private	East Providence, RI	74 Roger Williams Avenue	Dates to prior to 1700, originally a two-story, gable-roofed, timber-framed, end-chimney dwelling, probably with only one room on each floor.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Nayatt Point Light	H	Private	Barrington, RI	Nayatt Point	The current light was built of brick in 1856 and contains an 1828 keeper's house.	NRHP	N	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Nelson W. Aldrich House	H	Rhode Island Historical Society	Providence, RI	110 Benevolent Street	Nelson W. Aldrich was a leading wholesale grocer who entered politics in 1869 and was elected to the US Senate in 1881.	NHL	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Neutaconkanut Hill*	C, H, N, R	City of Providence	Providence, RI	Killingly and Duxbury Streets	Location where the leaders of four Indigenous Tribes once gathered for council: Pokanoket, Narragansett, Nipmuc and Massachusett.		Y	Two Worlds
Newman Cemetery	C, H	Newman Congregational Church	East Providence, RI	100 Newman Avenue	One of the oldest cemeteries in RI, established in 1643, when the area was part of Rehoboth, MA. Its first recorded burial was in 1658. Contributes to the Newman Congregational Church NRHP listing.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience
Newman Congregational Church and the Ring of the Green	H	Newman Congregational Church	East Providence, RI	100 Newman Avenue	The Newman Church congregation was organized in 1643 by the Reverend Samuel Newman of Weymouth, MA. The Meeting House was built across the street from today's church in the center of what was the Ring of the Green.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Newman Oak Tree	H, N	East Providence Land Conservation Trust	East Providence, RI	Bridgham Farm	One of four trees believed to be over 400 years old designated as "Champion Trees" by the RI Tree Council. Named after Rev. Samuel Newman who led 58 Puritans from MA to settle nearby in 1643.		Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience, Land and Water
Nightingale-Brown House	E, H	Brown University	Providence, RI	357 Benefit Street	The house is architecturally significant as the largest surviving wood-frame house of the 18th century, and is historically significant as the longtime seat (from 1814 to 1985) of the Brown family.	NHL	Y	Two Worlds, Enslavement
Nockum Hill	H, N	Town Of Barrington	Barrington, RI	Near the Hundred Acre Cove estuary	Site of the first Baptist meetinghouse in North America, the area where English settlers were attacked by Pokanoket warriors prior to the start of King Philip's War.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience, Land and Water
Nockum Hill Cemetery	C, H	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	671 Warren Avenue	The site of the earliest burial ground in Barrington, RI containing graves of English settlers who settled the area in the 17th Century and fought in the King Philip War.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
North Burial Ground	C, H	City of Providence	St., RI	Between Branch Avenue and N. Main Street	The first public cemetery in Providence, RI, dating to 1700.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
Obadiah Bowen Lot Cemetery	H	Town of Warren	Warren, RI	Southeast corner of School House Road and Market Street	The second cemetery in Warren with burials prior to 1700. Named for Obadiah Bowen, Jr., the grandson of Richard Bowen and Ann Born/Bourne, who immigrated in 1640 from Wales.		Y	Two Worlds
Oddfellows Hall	H	Private	East Providence, RI	63-67 Warren Avenue	Oddfellows Hall is a rare surviving element of Watchemoket Square, a village that was the heart of the East Providence business community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.	NRHP	N	Land and Water
Old Colony History Museum*	E, H	Old Colony Historical Society	Taunton, MA	Old Colony Historical Society	Founded in 1853, Old Colony stewards an extensive collection of artifacts from southeastern MA, prior to its merger with Massachusetts Colony in 1691.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Old State House	C, E, H	State of Rhode Island	Providence, RI	150 Benefit Street	Brick Georgian-style building largely completed in 1762 used as the meeting place for the colonial and state legislatures for 149 years. Home to the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Osamequin Nature Trails and Bird Sanctuary	C, E, H, N, R	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	Wampanoag Trail, Route 114	The reserve on the west shore of the Hundred Acre Cove includes a 1.5 mile trail through the inland estuarine system.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Palmer River Cemetery	H	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	Lake Street just north of Palmer Meadow Lane	Earliest burial is 1717. Site of Christian burial rite for William Cahoon in June 2000. Cahoon, Swansea brickmaker, was killed near here in the early days of King Philip's War. His true burial site is unknown.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Perryville Dam (Butternut Falls)	H, N	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	131 Perryville Road	Just north of the dam, are the ruins of Jonathan Bliss's sawmill, built in 1720 on the East Branch of the Palmer River.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Philip Walker House	E, H	Preserve Rhode Island, East Providence Historical Society	East Providence, RI	432 Massasoit Avenue	The original house was built on the edge of the Ring of the Green in 1643, burned in King Philip's War, and rebuilt on the foundation in 1679.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Phillipsdale Historic District	C, H	Private	East Providence, RI	Roughly bounded by Seekonk River, Roger Williams Avenue and Ruth Avenue	Encompasses a historic mill village along the Seekonk River in East Providence, RI. The village grew up around the Richmond Paper Company Mill Complex.	NHRP	Y	Land and Water
Pierce Athletic Complex	C, H, R	City of East Providence	East Providence, RI	201 Mercer Street	Built in 1939 with WPA funds, the complex has long been host to recreational and cultural events and activities, including the annual Heritage Festival.		Y	Land and Water
Pomham Rocks Lighthouse	H	American Lighthouse Foundation	Providence, RI	Riverside Road	A historic lighthouse in the Providence River off the shoreline of the Riverside neighborhood of East Providence, RI.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Poppasquash Farms Historic District	C, H, N, R	State and private	Bristol, RI	Off Route 114	Encompasses most of Colt State Park and 50 acres of private lands on northern Poppasquash Neck. The area was occupied by the Pokanokets for hundreds of years, and settled by British colonists after King Philip's War.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Potumtuk	C, H, N	Pokanoket Tribe	Bristol, RI	Near Mt. Hope Farm	A Traditional Cultural Property also known as Mt. Hope, a quartz outcropping overlooking Mt. Hope Bay where the Pokanoket Massasoit presided over territory prior to first contact with colonists and through King Philip's War.		N	Two Worlds, King Philip's War
Providence City Hall*	C, H	City of Providence	Providence, RI	Dorance and Washington Streets	Constructed between 1875 and 1878, and designed by Samuel J. F. Thayer in the Second Empire style.	NHRP	Y	Land and Water
Redway Plain	C, H	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	401 Winthrop Street	This field was part of the Farm of Captain James Redway, commander of the Rehoboth militia which used Redway Plain as a training ground in the mid-1700s. Today, the grounds are used for community events, including Tribal powwows.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Rehoboth Dam	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	Junction of Locust Avenue and Bay State Road	The Bliss gristmill stood near this dam for about 180 years, starting sometime before 1690. The dam is a contributing structure to the Rehoboth Village Historic District NRHP listing.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Land and Water
Rehoboth State Forest	N, R	State of Massachusetts	Rehoboth, MA	90 Peck Street	Includes a gentle 1-mile loop trail and a spur trail leading to an Atlantic white cedar swamp.		Y	Land and Water
Rehoboth Town Forest	N, R	Town of Rehoboth	Rehoboth, MA	Fairview Avenue	The forest has a 1.5 mile hiking trail.		Y	Land and Water
Rehoboth Village Historic District	C, H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	Bay State Road and Locust Avenue	Encompasses the historic rural village center of Rehoboth, MA. Period of significance stretches from 1700 to 1899.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Revolutionary Heritage Byway	C, E, H, R	Town of Bristol and Private	Bristol, RI	Bristol	This historic byway travels through the quintessential New England town of Bristol, Rhode Island, a community rich in history and culture.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Rhode Island School of Design	C, E, H	RISD	Providence, RI	20 Washington Street	Founded as a coeducational institution in 1877 by Helen Adelia Rowe Metcalf, who sought to increase the accessibility of design education to women.		Y	Land and Water
Rhode Island School of Design Museum	C, E, H	RISD	Providence, RI	20 Washington Place	The RISD Museum offers ongoing programming and a global collection of fine art, design, and decorative arts that range from ancient Chinese sculpture to French Impressionist paintings and contemporary art in every medium.		Y	Land and Water
Rhode Island Slave History Medallions	E, H	RISHM	Various Towns, RI	Various Sites in Rhode Island	RISHM's mission is to highlight the overlooked histories of RI's free and enslaved African American and Indigenous communities through statewide installation of interactive bronze medallions.		Y	Enslavement

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Rhode Island State House*	C, E, H	State of Rhode Island	Providence, RI	90 Smith Street	The state house has the Charter Museum, a visitor center, and tours. The museum holds the 1663 Rhode Island Royal Charter. The neoclassical building features the fourth largest structural-stone dome in the world.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Richmond Paper Company Mill Complex	H	American Electrical Works	East Providence, RI	310 Bourne Avenue	The first seven of the surviving buildings were built between 1883 and 1887 by the Richmond Paper Company.	NRHP	N	Land and Water
Roger Williams National Memorial	E, H	National Park Service	Providence, RI	282 North Main Street	Commemorates the life of Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island and a champion of the ideal of religious freedom.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience, Enslavement
Roger Williams Park Historic District	C, H, N, R	City of Providence	Providence, RI	Roger Williams Park	Elaborately landscaped 427-acre city park in Providence, RI, an NRHP historic district.	NRHP	Y	Soul Liberty, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Roger Williams Spring	E, H	City of East Providence	East Providence, RI	Roger Williams Avenue	Roger Williams first settled here after he was banished from Salem, MA, in 1636.		Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
Roy Wheaton Horton Preserve	C, H, N	Rehoboth Land Trust	Rehoboth, MA	North of Old County Street and borders Maple Lane in Rehoboth	The 433-acre tract comprising a portion of the historically and environmentally important Squannakonk Swamp that adjoins Anawan Rock, site of a pivotal event in the conclusion of King Philip's War. Roy W. Horton was the last logger to work in Rehoboth's once iconic Atlantic white cedar swamps.		N (anticipated at a future date)	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Royal Charter of 1663*	E, H	State of Rhode Island	Providence, RI	Charter Room, State House, 82 Smith Street	The original charter along with other historic documents of the period can be seen at the Charter Museum in the Rhode Island State House in Providence.		Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Royal Pokanoket Burial Ground on Burr's Hill	C, E, H, N	Town of Warren	Warren, RI	Warren	An ancient Pokanoket royal burial ground containing dozens of grave sites, including those of people who occupied the area in the 1600s.		Y	Two Worlds
Rumford Chemical Works and Mill House Historic District	H	Private	East Providence, RI	N. Broadway, Newman, and Greenwood Avenues	A historic district encompassing the remnants of the Rumford Chemical Works, a historical chemical plant in East Providence, RI.	NRHP	N	Land and Water
Rumford Historic District	H	Private	Aves, RI	Pleasant Street and Greenwood and Pawtucket Avenues	Rumford has been part of three towns and two states: Rehoboth and Seekonk, MA, and, since 1862, East Providence, RI.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Runnins River Trail	N, R	Seekonk Land Conservation Trust	Seekonk, MA	100 Peck Street	Trail on 4.3 acre parcel that includes wetlands and upland forest and crosses the Runnins River. Area has bog bridges, boardwalks, and a footbridge over the river. The greenway connects several other area trails.		Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Saint Andrews Farm	N, R	Barrington Land Trust	Barrington, RI	101 Middle Highway	Property features walking trails through open fields and woodlands, maintained through a partnership with the Town of Barrington and the Barrington Land Conservation Trust.		Y	Land and Water
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church	C, H	Saint Mary's Episcopal Church	East Providence, RI	83 Warren Avenue	The congregation traces its history to a Bible school formed in 1867. It was admitted into the Episcopal Diocese of RI in 1871, and became an independent parish in 1894.	NHRP	No	Soul Liberty
Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church	C, H	Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church	Barrington, RI	5 Chapel Road	Historic Episcopal church is an active parish in the Episcopal Diocese of RI. The congregation began as a mission in 1880,	NHRP	N	Soul Liberty
Short's Tavern	H	Private	Swansea, MA	282 Market Street	Built c. 1742 as a farmhouse, and acquired in 1851 by James Short, who operated a tavern on the premises.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Slave Monument, Princes Hill Cemetery	E, H	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	North of Town Hall	A marker placed in the Princes Hill Cemetery in Barrington in 1903 (oldest in the country), memorializes enslaved people and their descendants who "faithfully served" Barrington families.		Y	Enslavement
Somerset Historical Society Museum	C, E, H	Town of Somerset	Somerset, MA	274 High Street	The museum interprets local history from pre-contact to the present and includes a collection with Indigenous items from Barnaby's Cove, Peace Haven, Mother's Brook, and Terryland across the Taunton River.		Y	Two Worlds, King Philip's War, Freedom of Conscience, Enslavement, Land and Water
Somerset Village Historic District	C, H	Private	Somerset, MA	Somerset	Settled in the 17th century, the village developed around a shipyard and pottery works, and became the town center when it was incorporated out of Swansea in 1790.	NHRP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
South Coast Bikeway	N, R	South Coast Bikeway Alliance	Swansea and Somerset, MA	Swansea and Somerset	Connecting to the East Bay Bike Path in Warren, RI, a 50-mile system of bike paths, multi-use paths, and bike lanes that creates a contiguous route through ten towns between RI and Cape Cod, MA.		Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Sowams Woods	N, R	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	South Lake Drive	The area around Sowams Woods is believed to be an area set aside hundreds of years ago by the Native population for women and for childbirth, a place of peace. In 2011, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT) purchased the Sowams Woods.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Squantum Association	H	Squantum Association	Bristol, RI	947 Veterans Memorial Parkway	This private club is in a Colonial Revival building constructed in 1900 by Martin & Hall.	NRHP	N	Land and Water
Stephen Hopkins House	E, H	State of Rhode Island	Providence, RI	15 Hopkins Street	The house was the home of Stephen Hopkins—a governor of Rhode Island and signatory of the Declaration of Independence—as well as at least six of his slaves.	NHL	Y	Two Worlds, Enslavement
Swansea Friends Meeting House and Cemetery	C, H	Private	Somerset, MA	223 Prospect Street	Oldest extant Quaker meetinghouse in the state. The oldest portion of the building dates to 1702, when Somerset was part of Swansea.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Swansea Village Historic District	C, H	Private	Swansea, MA	Roughly Main Street from Gardners Neck Road to Stephens Road and Ledge Road	The district encompasses what emerged in the late 18th century as the principal municipal center of the town.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds
Tall Cedars	N, R	Barrington Land Trust	Barrington, RI	35 Townsend Street	Offers walking and hiking experience for outdoor enthusiasts. The park features trails and picturesque landscapes.		Y	Land and Water
The Three Sisters	C, N	Pokanoket Tribe	Bristol, RI	Near Mount Hope	The Three Sisters consists of three rock outcrops that for the Pokanoket people represented the corn, beans, and squash sent by the Creator. The stories that nature provides for the Pokanoket are integral to their spirituality.		N	Two Worlds
Thomas P. Ives House	E, H	Brown University	Providence, RI	66 Power Street, College Hill	Thomas Poynton Ives was a wealthy merchant who formed a partnership with Nicholas Brown Jr., for whom Brown University was named. The brick structure is an extremely well-preserved and little-altered example of Adamesque-Federal style.	NHL	Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Tobey Site on the Palmer River	C, H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	Undisclosed location on private property	Using radiocarbon dating, researchers concluded that some of the tools found were used by people who lived here around 3,700 years ago.		N	Two Worlds
Tyler Point Cemetery	H	Town of Barrington	Barrington, RI	South end of Tyler Point Road	This cemetery was established by Rev. John Myles in 1702 at the end of Tyler Point Road, adjacent to the second Baptist meetinghouse.		N	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience
University Hall, Brown University	H	Brown University	Providence, RI	Brown University Campus	The first and oldest building on the campus of Brown University. Built in 1770, the building is one of only seven extant college buildings built prior to the American Revolution.	NHL	Y	Two Worlds, Freedom of Conscience, Enslavement, Land and Water
Veterans Memorial Auditorium*	C, H	Veterans Memorial Foundation	Providence, RI	Brownell and Park Streets	The performance space features a gilded proscenium arch, as well as allegorical and heraldic ceiling murals. The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra holds several concerts at The VETS each year.	NHRP	Y	Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Wannamoisett Marker	C, H	City of East Providence	East Providence, RI	3237 Pawtucket Avenue	Marks the original boundary between the Wannamoisett section of the Pokanoket settlement of "Sowams" in 1620, purchased by John Browne from the Massasoit Ousamequin in 1643.		Y	Two Worlds
Warren Middle Passage Project	E, H	Warren Middle Passage Project	Warren, RI	Various sites in Warren, RI	Volunteer research and interpretive initiative on the history of trading and enslavement in Warren. Their work has included the placement of a marker on Water Street that gives a brief history of Warren's involvement in the trade of enslaved people.			Enslavement
Warren United Methodist Church	C, H	Warren United Methodist Church	Warren, RI	27 Church Street	Church and house established in 1789 under the Rev. Daniel Smith, the first Methodist congregation in RI.	NRHP	Y	Soul Liberty
Warren Water-front Historic District	C, H	Private	Warren, RI	Bounded roughly by the Warren River, Belcher Cove, and the old town line (includes Main Street to Campbell St)	Area is a densely built residential, commercial, and civic area that has been the center of Warren since the mid-18th century.	NRHP	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail	E, H, R	Mostly private, managed by National Park Service	Bristol, Warren, Barrington, East Providence, Providence, RI	In RI, the trail extends from Newport to Providence	In 1781 General Rochambeau's French Army joined forces with General Washington's Continental Army to fight the British in Yorktown. The Revolutionary Route traces the path they took from Newport, RI, to Yorktown, VA.	National Historical Trail	Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Waypoysset Preserve	C, H, N, R	Town of Bristol	Bristol, RI	Narrows Road	Land trust property with recreational trails and evidence of human occupation dating back 7,000 years.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Weybosset Bridge	H	City of Providence	Providence, RI	College Street	A bridge has stood on this site since the colonial era, prior to 1660. Originally it was a wooden toll bridge across the Providence River at the entrance to the Cove.		Y	Two Worlds, Land and Water
Wheeler–Ingalls House	H	Private	Rehoboth, MA	51 Summer Street	One of the least-altered houses of the period, may have been built before 1710 by Samuel Millard.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
Whitcomb Farm	H	Private	East Providence, RI	36 Willett Avenue	Historic farmhouse built c. 1780–1805, a well-preserved example of Federal architecture.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds
Wildlands Trust (formerly Swansea Land Trust)	N, R	Wildlands Trust	Swansea, MA	Swansea	Protects and stewards six conservation parcels formerly held by the Swansea Land Trust, including Jarabeck Preserve, Tierney Preserve, and Barney-Bell Preserve, which are critical to interpreting the Swansea Purchase.		Y	Land and Water
William Hunt House	H	Private	Seekonk, MA	385 Jacobs Street	Originally a roadside tavern between Providence and Taunton-Brockton. Later the building was used as a residence and the land for farming.		N	Two Worlds
Winsor–Swan–Whitman Farm	H	Private	Providence, RI	416 Eaton Street	When it was constructed in 1742, the property was located on the northwest limit of the Providence city line, in a region commonly referred to as Elmhurst.	NRHP	N	Two Worlds

Resource Name	Type*	Owner/ Manager	Town, State	Address	Brief Description	Listing or Status	Open to Public	Themes
World War I Memorial	H	City of East Providence	East Providence, RI	Junction of Taunton Avenue and Weldon Street	The World War I Memorial is a bronze sculpture by Pietro Montana modeled on Charles Atlas and depicts a dynamically posed soldier standing on a granite base. This is a cherished landmark in East Providence representing centuries of service to the nation, going back to King Philip's War.	NRHP	Y	Land and Water
Ye Olde Eddy Burial Ground	H	Private	Swansea, MA	100 Ledge Road	The burial ground was established as early as 1687, twenty years after Swansea was established. The earliest known burial belongs to Samuel Eddy.		N	Two Worlds

APPENDIX F – SOWAMS AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Population and Socio-economic conditions

The preliminary area for the proposed Sowams NHA encompasses modern-day communities in both Massachusetts (Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea) and Rhode Island (Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Warren, and portions of Providence). These communities include a mix of compact urban landscapes, suburban developments, and rural towns with fewer than 20,000 residents.

Census data from 2020 show demographic differences between the more densely populated Providence/East Providence and the suburban and rural areas that abut them.¹⁷² With the exception of Warren, median age, median income, employment, and education levels tend to be higher outside the urban areas. The median age in suburban and rural areas is 43-48, but Providence has experienced notable growth in its under-18 population since 2020. Median household income in East Providence (~\$80k), and Warren (~\$90k) is significantly lower than the other areas (~\$110k-\$150k).

In Providence, per capita income is lower, and unemployment is higher, than in other parts of the area. Providence's unemployment is consistently higher than the national average and the city's rate of poverty is one of the highest in the nation. Much of this data applies to the western side of the city, which is beyond the proposed boundary.

The largest employers in the region are private companies (trade and transport), private not-for-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal government. Approximately one third of residents in Rehoboth and Seekonk work in education and healthcare. Because of the proximity to Providence and Boston, some residents commute to larger cities for employment.

Most of the area's population identifies as white (non-Hispanic), many of whom trace their ancestry to early immigrants from Italy, Ireland, and Portuguese-speaking countries (Cape Verde Islands, Azores, etc.). The percentage of people who identify as Black is higher in Providence (13.4%) than other areas (average 5.4%). Since the early 2000s, the percentage of Hispanic residents, mostly Dominican, has grown significantly in and around Providence. Today, 44.3% of Providence residents identify as Hispanic.

Land Use and Transportation

Water is the dominant feature in the region's physical landscape and it shapes all aspects of life for the plants, animals, and people found here. The proximity of the Atlantic Ocean means this part of New England is warmer than other inland areas and experiences hot, humid summers as well as cold, snowy winters. Narragansett Bay, New England's largest estuary, is adjacent to the Sowams area, bringing maritime ecosystems and opportunities for transport to its shores. Freshwater rivers and wetlands are plentiful throughout the region. The land is mostly flat with patchworks of farms, meadows, and oak-hickory forests among the communities.

¹⁷² U.S. Census Bureau. "Explore Census Data." <https://data.census.gov/>. Accessed August 5, 2025.

Waterways have always shaped human settlement and continue to be important for the movement of people and goods. Many shoreline communities still have working waterfronts that support marine-based industries and pleasure boaters. Most of the roads that connect the smaller towns are two-lane. While I-95 is adjacent to the heritage area, the only major road to cross the region is I-195.

Air and Water Quality

The region's geographic diversity supports multiple ecosystems that sustain a broad range of marine, aquatic, and terrestrial plants and animals.¹⁷³ Several of these species are federally endangered or threatened, including hawksbill and leatherback sea turtles, roseate terns, piping plovers, and northern long-eared bats.

Efforts to protect natural resources in Sowams have resulted in a significant number of conservation, preservation, and restoration initiatives. The outcome of these initiatives is evident in the thousands of acres of private and public lands that have been set aside for wildlife refuges, outdoor recreation, and education.

Tourism, Business, and Industry

Tourism

Visitors are drawn to the area for its historic towns and neighborhoods, working waterfronts, cultural events, extensive waterfronts, and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation. Providence also boasts a vibrant culinary scene that is supported by its culturally diverse population as well as access to local seafood and farm products.

Pleasure boating is immensely popular here. All manner of private watercraft and charters are common in the warmer months. Because of its proximity to larger population areas, day visitors come to spend a day on the water, walk the trails, or cycle rural roads and bike paths. Providence has a major airport that makes access easier, and often more affordable, than Boston's.

Business and Industry

Approximately one third of the area economy is based in trade, transportation, utilities, and educational and health services.¹⁷⁴ As the state capital, Providence also has a large percentage of government services for a city of its size. Higher education institutions include the Rhode Island School of Design, Roger Williams University, and Brown University, which supports first class medical facilities.

Providence was one of the first cities to industrialize in the United States. A number of prominent companies are headquartered there today including Fortune 500 Textron, an advanced technologies industrial conglomerate; United Natural Foods, a distributor of natural and organic foods; Fortune 1000 Nortek Incorporated; and Gilbane, a construction and real estate company.

¹⁷³ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "ECOS – Environmental Conservation Online System." [https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=RI&stateName=Rhode Island&statusCategory=Listed](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=RI&stateName=Rhode%20Island&statusCategory=Listed). Accessed August 5, 2025.

¹⁷⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Providence Area Economic Summary." https://www.bls.gov/regions/northeast/summary/bls-summary_providence.pdf. Accessed August 5, 2025.

Sowams Heritage Area

Bodies of Water and Public Protected Open Spaces

Square Mile Summary:							
Sowams Heritage Area	139.57						
Sowams Protected Open Space	12.15						
Sowams Water	3.49						
Sowams Wetland	19.47						
Wetland Type	Square Miles						
Estuarine and Marine Deepwater	0.296000004						
Estuarine and Marine Wetland	2.152750015						
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	1.154610038						
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	16.1595993						
Freshwater Pond	0.644461989						
Lake	1.400370002						
Riverine	<u>1.147930026</u>						
Total Water	3.488762021						
Total Wetland	19.46695936						
Open Space Site Name	Public_Access	State	Square_Miles	DataSource	SourceYear	NBEPYear	
	Yes	MA	0.17695086	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
100 Acre Cove	Yes	RI	0.00361525	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Aaron Avenue	Yes	RI	0.00065915	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Abbott Street	Limited	RI	0.00097197	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Agawam-Flynn Playground	Yes	RI	0.04613399	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Allen Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01334278	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Allen Avenue CR	Yes	MA	0.02024462	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Almeida /McCaffrey Woods	Yes	RI	0.00047133	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Almy Ave	Limited	RI	0.00308013	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Anawan Rock Historic Park	Yes	MA	0.01263687	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Andreozzi Park	Yes	RI	0.00070299	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Angus Street Right-of-Way	Yes	MA	9.2981E-05	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Annawamscutt Brook	Yes	RI	0.00279851	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Annawamscutt Brook / Kilham	Limited	RI	0.00751353	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Arcade Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.0006941	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Arnold Street Playground	Yes	RI	0.00065138	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Ashton Fields	Yes	MA	0.02207455	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Aurora Neck	Yes	RI	0.00105807	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Avila	Limited	RI	0.0087355	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Barney Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.0358272	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Barneyville Road Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01012295	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Baron Salt Marsh	Limited	RI	0.0183055	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Baron Salt Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00773503	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	

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Barrington Town Beach	Yes	RI	0.00549622	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Barrington/Veterans Parkway	Yes	RI	0.07593821	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Belcher Cove	Yes	RI	0.04291485	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Belcher Cove area	Yes	RI	0.00334181	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bell Preserve	Yes	MA	0.05120836	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bicknell Park	Yes	RI	0.00855926	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Birch Stevens Farm	Yes	MA	0.04141215	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Birch Swamp Area	Limited	RI	0.00084299	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Birch Swamp Area	Yes	RI	0.01626991	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Blackledge	Limited	MA	0.00182717	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Blackstone Boulevard	Yes	RI	0.00107205	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Blackstone Park	Yes	RI	0.06919518	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bliss Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01759223	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Blithewold	Yes	RI	0.0471113	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bold Point Park	Yes	RI	0.00575284	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Borge Preserve	Yes	MA	0.01461102	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bosworth Street	Yes	RI	0.01590803	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bourne Lane Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00640776	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Boyden Heights	Yes	RI	0.01692526	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bradley Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00874324	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Brayton Point WMA	Yes	MA	0.00309444	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bricknell Park	Yes	RI	0.014541	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Brickyard Pond / Nugent Wetland	Yes	RI	0.00691418	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Brickyard Pond / Robertson	Limited	RI	0.00057988	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bridgham Farm	Yes	RI	0.02812932	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Briggs Corner Cemetery	Limited	MA	0.02485052	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bristol County Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00066357	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bristol County Land	Yes	MA	0.00245536	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bristol Greenway	Limited	RI	0.00163442	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bristol Town Beach	Yes	RI	0.03892618	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bristol Town Park	Yes	RI	0.00988471	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bristol Town Woods	Yes	RI	0.00607331	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Britto Park	Yes	RI	0.03708057	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Broad Cove	Limited	MA	0.00151504	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Broad Cove	Yes	MA	0.02566484	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Brookside Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00824846	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Buffington Park	Yes	MA	0.04228777	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Bullocks Cove Playground	Yes	RI	0.02121744	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Burrs Hill Park	Yes	RI	0.01277299	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Camp Ramsbottom	Limited	MA	0.25381434	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Camp Ramsbottom	Yes	MA	0.00467608	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge	Yes	MA	0.30160531	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	

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Carousel Park	Yes	RI	0.01504637	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Carpenter Bird Sanctuary	Yes	MA	0.01338396	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Carpenter Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00114606	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Central Avenue Playground	Yes	RI	0.00390373	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Chace St School	Limited	MA	0.01809105	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Chase Preserve	Yes	MA	0.0098767	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Chestnut Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01744397	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Chianese Field	Yes	RI	0.01642287	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Child Street	Limited	RI	0.00076577	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Children's Grove	Yes	RI	0.01302897	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Church of the Holy Cross Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.01030061	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Claire D. McIntosh Refuge	Yes	RI	0.03950159	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Colt State Park	Yes	RI	0.71188033	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Connolly Ave Marsh	Limited	RI	0.00531333	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Correia	Yes	RI	0.00106169	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
County Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02770097	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Crescent Beach	Yes	RI	0.01649654	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Crestwood Country Club	Limited	MA	0.28616366	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Cummings Donation	Yes	RI	0.00653842	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Cushing Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01545181	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Danforth Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.04063019	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Delle Femine Playfield	Yes	RI	0.0142855	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Devine / Vargas Conservation Area	Yes	RI	0.06632262	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
DiOrio Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00147178	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Douglas Rayner Wildlife Refuge	Yes	RI	0.10762781	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Downing	Yes	RI	0.00065518	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Drown Cove	Yes	RI	0.00405246	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
East Providence High School	Yes	RI	0.02555302	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Echo Lake	Limited	RI	0.01891468	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Echo Lake	Yes	RI	0.00513057	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Echo Lake / Lombardi Park	Yes	RI	0.00562014	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge	Yes	MA	0.05106939	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Elm Street Acres	Yes	MA	0.08776653	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Etelvina Court	Yes	RI	0.00187488	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Etter Preserve	Yes	MA	0.00969277	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Fairview Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02743821	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Ferreira CR	Limited	MA	0.13403301	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Fiedler Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00036069	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Fillessey Preserve	Yes	MA	0.01352198	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Foot Street Park	Yes	RI	0.00070913	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Fox Lea Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00689922	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Fox Point	Yes	RI	0.00169336	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024

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Francesca Street	Yes	RI	0.00417785	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Freedom Park	Yes	RI	0.00152444	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Front St Property	Limited	MA	0.00094237	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gano Street Park	Yes	RI	0.01951535	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gardner	Limited	RI	0.00939404	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gardner Ave Property	Yes	MA	0.00295984	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gardner Woods	Limited	RI	0.00047852	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Garret and Janet Dewey Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02844008	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gibbs Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.00461864	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Girl Scouts Of Ri Land	Limited	MA	0.19405417	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Girl Scouts Of Ri Property	Limited	MA	0.061736	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gladys Potter Park	Yes	RI	0.00194623	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Glenlyon Playground	Yes	RI	0.01538539	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Glenview	Yes	RI	0.0315065	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Gooding Avenue	Yes	RI	0.04387884	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Grant Woodland	Limited	RI	0.00286579	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Grassy Plains	Yes	RI	0.02585638	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Greenwood Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.04575086	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Greenwood Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.00324049	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Guiteras Park	Yes	RI	0.01129271	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Haines Memorial State Park	Yes	RI	0.12533595	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Halfmile Hill	Yes	RI	0.16363195	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hammond Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01285504	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hampden Meadows	Yes	RI	0.13045959	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Harding Estate	Limited	RI	0.00120954	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Heritage Pake	Yes	RI	0.11736389	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hidden Hollow Golf Club	Limited	MA	0.10722117	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hope Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00122033	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hopeworth Ave	Yes	RI	0.01080728	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hopeworth Ave Conservation Area	Yes	RI	0.024003	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hugh Cole	Yes	RI	0.02170176	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hull Street Playground	Yes	RI	0.0140942	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hundred Acre Cove	Yes	RI	0.07003419	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hundred Acre Cove / Adams Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00674129	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hundred Acre Cove / Beauregard	Yes	RI	0.00736149	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hundred Acre Cove / Daniels	Yes	RI	9.2846E-05	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hundred Acre Cove / Esther Hill Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00051404	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hundred Acre Cove Tidal Marsh	Limited	RI	0.06557121	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hunts Mills	Yes	RI	0.07680824	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Hurley Middle School Athletic Fields	Yes	MA	0.02873912	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Iadaveia Swamp and Woodland	Yes	MA	0.08228778	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Independence Park	Yes	RI	0.00809751	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	

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India Point Park	Yes	RI	0.01991425	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
India Point Park / Community Boating	Yes	RI	0.00163544	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Industrial Way Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02111781	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Isaiah Hunt Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.0001528	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Jacobs Point / Hanley Farm Marsh	Yes	RI	0.05938782	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
James V Turner Reservoir	Yes	RI	0.03622504	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Jamuel Park	Yes	RI	0.01765789	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Jarabek Preserve	Yes	MA	0.0649567	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Johannis Farm	Limited	RI	0.04751564	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Johannis Farm	Yes	RI	0.00130006	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Joseph Cash High School	Yes	MA	0.06358226	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Kent Heights Field	Yes	RI	0.03752299	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Kent Street Park	Yes	RI	0.00164063	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Kezia Perry Swamp	Yes	MA	0.00308658	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Kickemuit River	Yes	RI	0.00976701	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Kingsley Estates Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02030704	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Lagerquist Memorial Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.11756022	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Latham Park	Yes	RI	0.00452759	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Leahys Pond	Yes	RI	0.00904637	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Ledgemont Country Club	Limited	MA	0.31999743	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Ledgemont Hill Estates Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01499019	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Leon F Walker Jr Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.03056058	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Lincoln Avenue Mini Park	Yes	RI	0.00014698	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Lincoln Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.03088136	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Lions Head	Yes	RI	0.00232548	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Lippitt Park	Yes	RI	0.00942376	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Little Squannakonk Swamp	Yes	MA	0.04995096	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Littlefield Estates Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.05455966	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Long Point	Limited	MA	0.00960597	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mallard Point	Yes	MA	0.00398393	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Maple Road	Limited	RI	0.00014773	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Market Square Park	Yes	RI	0.00076109	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Market Street	Limited	RI	0.0068764	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Market Street	Yes	RI	0.03587881	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Marnoch Drive Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02276052	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Martin Luther King Playground	Yes	RI	0.00303506	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mason Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01637771	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mauran Avenue Playground	Yes	RI	0.00055925	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
McCaffrey Woods	Limited	RI	0.00022373	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Medeiros Swansea Preserve	Yes	MA	0.04976208	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Middle Road & Upland	Yes	RI	0.00567133	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Middlebrook Country Club	Limited	MA	0.07563754	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	

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Mill Pond	Yes	RI	0.00044408	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mill Pond / Pire	Yes	RI	0.00097477	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mill Pond Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.0005382	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Miller Bird Sanctuary	Yes	MA	0.0751778	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Missile Loop	Yes	MA	0.01434461	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Monast Island	Yes	RI	0.00591827	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Moriarty	Yes	RI	0.00425863	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mount Hope	Limited	RI	0.07634608	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mount Hope Bay	Limited	RI	0.08133353	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mount Hope Farm	Yes	RI	0.19626865	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Mussachuck Creek	Yes	RI	0.00656714	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Naomi Street	Yes	RI	0.02841419	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Nathan Slade Cemetery	Limited	MA	0.00498325	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Nathan Slade Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.01705573	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Nayatt Road Park	Yes	RI	0.03806946	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
New Meadow	Yes	RI	0.06258737	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Newman Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01718597	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
North Elementary School Fields	Limited	MA	0.01943537	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
North Main Street Park	Yes	RI	0.00176231	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
North Street Landing	Yes	MA	0.00022064	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Nyatt Road Park / Colley	Yes	RI	0.0058715	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Oak Hill Beagle Club CR	Limited	MA	0.13902083	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Off Birchwood Ave Property	Limited	MA	0.00039242	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Off Circuit Dr Property	Yes	MA	0.00050051	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Off Front St Property	Yes	MA	0.00057002	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Off Long Point Property	Yes	MA	0.00131284	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Off Pearse Rd Property	Limited	MA	0.00078598	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Off Seaview Ave Property	Yes	MA	0.00105464	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Old Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.0005737	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
ONeil Playground	Yes	MA	0.00895856	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Ormand Park	Yes	RI	0.00320117	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Ossamequin Woods	Yes	RI	0.00168955	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Palmer Ave Marsh	Yes	RI	0.01340151	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Palmer River	Limited	RI	0.00205713	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Palmer River	Yes	RI	0.0859881	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Palmer River Burial Ground	Yes	MA	0.00261198	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Palmer River Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02706046	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Pamden Lane Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01020708	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Paquette Farm	Yes	MA	0.12652537	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Park	Yes	RI	0.00478719	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Patricia Ann Drive	Limited	RI	0.0007505	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Paull Park	Yes	RI	0.03183579	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	

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Bodies of Water and Public Protected Open Spaces

Pawtucket Country Club	Limited	MA	0.14570516	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Peck	Yes	RI	0.00696838	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Peck Avenue Park	Yes	MA	0.01709595	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Peck Burial Yard	Yes	MA	0.00015048	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Perna	Yes	RI	0.0090429	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Perry / StAngelo	Yes	RI	0.06488791	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Perryville Pond Mill Site	Yes	MA	0.00186564	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Perryville Road Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.022279	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
PIC-WIL Nature Preserve	Limited	RI	0.03007868	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Pierce Beach Park	Yes	MA	0.02246049	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Pierce Beach Playground	Yes	MA	0.01538133	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Pierce Field	Yes	RI	0.03885629	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Pine Valley Golf Club	Limited	MA	0.08776511	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Poppasquash Woods	Limited	RI	0.00651686	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Pratt Avenue Beach	Yes	MA	0.00037495	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Primrose Hill	Yes	RI	0.00720633	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Priscilla Drive Park	Yes	RI	0.03896277	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Prospect Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.13005133	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Prospect Terrace Park	Yes	RI	0.00305334	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Quirk Mello Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01417372	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Read Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00241245	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Read Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.11352815	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rehoboth Country Club	Limited	MA	0.19020727	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rehoboth Fire Tower	Yes	MA	0.00207112	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rehoboth State Forest	Yes	MA	0.21870618	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rehoboth Town Forest	Yes	MA	0.23989393	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Reynolds Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.05414478	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rhode Island Boy Scouts	Yes	MA	0.05464699	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Ripley Street Parcel	Yes	MA	0.00023833	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
River Oak	Limited	RI	0.00369886	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rockwell Park	Yes	RI	0.00084877	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rocky Meadow Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02427527	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Roger Williams National Park	Yes	RI	0.00738862	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rose Garden Playground	Yes	RI	0.01999975	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rosewood Ave Property	Yes	MA	0.00120776	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rotundo Sanctuary	Yes	MA	0.00778357	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rumford Hunting and Fishing Club	Limited	MA	0.01461195	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Rumstick Point	Yes	RI	0.05054949	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Runnins River	Limited	RI	0.0011442	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Runnins River	Yes	RI	0.01564545	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sabin Point	Yes	RI	0.01056731	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Saint Andrews Farm	Yes	RI	0.00116033	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024

Sowams Land and Water
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Sowams Heritage Area

Bodies of Water and Public Protected Open Spaces

Seacunk Sanctuary	Yes	MA	0.02199013	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sears Preserve	Yes	MA	0.00254625	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seaview Marsh	Limited	RI	0.0046193	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seekonk Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.00742396	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seekonk High School Athletic Fields	Yes	MA	0.0281127	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seekonk Meadows	Yes	MA	0.01293189	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seekonk Swimming and Tennis Club	Limited	MA	0.01163475	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seekonk Town Forest	Yes	MA	0.02784579	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Seekonk Veterans Memorial Park	Yes	MA	0.00174784	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Senior Center	Yes	RI	0.00944398	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Shady Lane	Yes	RI	0.00495099	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sharps Lot Road Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02421795	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sheperton Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00340032	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sherwood Field	Yes	RI	0.00679118	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Shore Drive Park	Yes	RI	0.00020806	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Silver Spring Playground	Yes	RI	0.00923372	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Smiths Cove	Yes	RI	0.02127735	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Smoke Rise Cir Property	Limited	MA	0.00222441	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Somerset Berkley Regional High School	Limited	MA	0.03776788	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
South Boyd Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	RI	0.01927964	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
South Complex	Yes	MA	0.03549286	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
South Main Street Park	Yes	RI	0.00216134	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
South Seekonk Rod and Gun Club	Limited	MA	0.01089375	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sowams Playground	Yes	RI	0.00208912	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sowams School	Yes	RI	0.01784059	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sprague Road Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.03762471	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Squannakonk Swamp/Roaring Brook Wood	Yes	MA	0.5410586	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Squantum Woods	Yes	RI	0.03782515	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
St Andrews Farm	Yes	RI	0.04467141	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
St. Andrews Farm	Yes	RI	0.04326694	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Summit Ave Playground	Yes	RI	0.00069823	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Sun Valley Golf Course	Limited	MA	0.26410174	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Swansea Country Club	Yes	MA	0.3223047	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Tall Cedars	Yes	RI	0.06547255	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Tanyard Reservoir	Yes	RI	0.00400884	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Tavares Farm	Yes	RI	0.02066224	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Ten Mile River	Yes	RI	0.00028124	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
The Bluffs	Yes	MA	0.00831218	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Thomas Park	Yes	RI	0.00161868	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Thomas Park (Silver Creek)	Yes	RI	0.00525114	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Tina Court	Yes	RI	0.0014951	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024
Touisset Country Club	Limited	MA	0.08255529	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024

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Bodies of Water and Public Protected Open Spaces

Touisset	Yes	RI	0.00060869	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge	Yes	RI	0.10944074	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Tower Road Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.0254041	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Town Beach	Yes	RI	0.0036004	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Town Common	Yes	RI	0.01360973	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Town Fields	Limited	MA	0.0067743	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Town Golf Course	Yes	RI	0.03478068	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Town Hall Cove	Yes	RI	0.00019049	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Towne Cyr	Yes	RI	0.0040893	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Tremont Street Ballfield	Yes	MA	0.00754328	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Turner Reservoir	Yes	RI	0.19523267	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Un-Named	Limited	MA	0.00039845	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Usher Cove Marsh	Limited	RI	0.01298864	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Vendituoli Farm	Limited	RI	0.00531163	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Veterans Memorial Park	Yes	RI	0.14737122	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Veterans Park	Yes	RI	0.00691162	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Village Cemetery	Yes	MA	0.02656904	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Village Park	Yes	MA	0.08883502	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Village School Fields	Limited	MA	0.00314063	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Village Waterfront Park	Yes	MA	0.00436347	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Vineyard Road Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00529612	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Walker Farm	Yes	RI	0.1160105	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Walley Park	Yes	RI	0.00088408	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Walnut Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01974632	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Wampanoag Rod and Gun Club	Limited	MA	0.02856601	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Warren Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.03372991	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Warren Bike Path	Limited	RI	0.00870438	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Waypoysset Preserve	Yes	RI	0.06866878	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
West Hill Playground	Limited	MA	0.00273403	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Wildflower Drive Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.00174864	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Willett Pond	Yes	RI	0.02562786	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Windquist Marsh	Yes	RI	0.00136672	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Winthrop Street Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.03707558	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Witherby Park	Yes	RI	0.0026944	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Woodland Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.01096687	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Woodward Avenue Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.02535443	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
Young Farm Conservation Area	Yes	MA	0.03244146	RIGIS; MassGIS	2024; 2024	2024	
TOTAL			12.1585226				

APPENDIX G – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. Shared Purpose and Engagement

A. *Shared Vision, Mission, and Core Values*

- Sowams Heritage Area and its partners will adhere to a shared mission and vision statement, along with core values articulating the goals and purpose of their collaboration. This shared understanding will guide all efforts, ensuring the Sowams Heritage Area's priorities remain at the forefront.

B. *Inclusivity and Diversity*

- Embrace diversity, including cultural, ethnic, social, economic backgrounds, and geographic representation. Ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and respected in decision-making processes.

C. *Stakeholder Engagement*

- Foster active and meaningful engagement with local communities, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, educational institutions, Tribes, and other relevant stakeholders. Encourage their participation in the planning, preserving, and promoting heritage resources.

D. *Public Awareness and Advocacy*

- Engage in public awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts to grow support for the Sowams Heritage Area's objectives and secure the necessary resources for its success.

II. Stewardship and Sustainability

A. *Sustainable Practices*

- Commit to sustainable practices that protect and conserve the natural, historic, and cultural resources within Sowams Heritage Area. This includes responsible tourism, environmental stewardship, and adaptive management strategies.

B. *Resource Stewardship*

- Collaborate on the responsible management, preservation, and restoration of heritage resources. Establish clear roles and responsibilities for partners in maintaining the integrity of Sowams Heritage Area.

C. *Sustainable Economic Development*

- Support local economies through heritage-related initiatives, such as heritage tourism and adaptive reuse of historic properties, while respecting the Sowams Heritage Area's values and resources. Seek a balance between economic growth and conservation.

III. Education and Capacity Building

A. *Education and Interpretation*

- Promote education and interpretation programs that enhance public understanding of the Sowams Heritage Area's significance. Provide opportunities for learning, research, and storytelling to connect people with their heritage.

B. Capacity Building

- Invest in the capacity building of partner organizations and individuals to ensure their ability to contribute effectively to the Sowams Heritage Area's goals. Share knowledge, training, and resources to strengthen the partnership.

IV. Collaboration and Accountability

A. Collaboration and Cooperation

- Pledge to work collaboratively, pooling resources, knowledge, and expertise. Together, we shall achieve more than we can individually, advancing our shared mission.

B. Transparency and Accountability

- Maintain transparency in decision-making processes, funding allocation, and reporting. Establish mechanisms for accountability to ensure that all partners fulfill their commitments.

C. Conflict Resolution

- Establish a straightforward process for resolving conflicts and disputes among partners. Encourage open dialogue and mediation to maintain a harmonious working relationship.

V. Timely Execution and Meeting Responsibilities

A. Responsibility and Deadlines

- Commit to fulfilling responsibilities on time and ensuring that work is conducted as scheduled. Partners are accountable for completing their assigned tasks promptly and contributing to the overall progress of Sowams Heritage Area. Delays, missed deadlines, or lack of participation must be addressed proactively to ensure the smooth functioning of the heritage area's operations.

B. Efficiency in Workflows

- Promote efficient workflows by setting clear timelines and deliverables for projects and activities. Encourage regular communication to monitor progress, identify potential challenges, and take corrective action where needed.

VI. Adaptability and Long-Term Commitment

A. Adaptability and Innovation

- Embrace adaptability and innovation to respond to changing circumstances and emerging challenges. Encourage experimentation and creative solutions to heritage preservation and promotion.

B. Long-Term Commitment

- Recognize that heritage preservation and promotion are long-term endeavors. Commit to sustained collaboration and the continuation of the Sowams Heritage Area's mission beyond short-term goals.

C. Evaluation and Review

- Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership and make adjustments as needed. Use feedback and lessons learned to continuously improve collaboration and achieve shared goals.

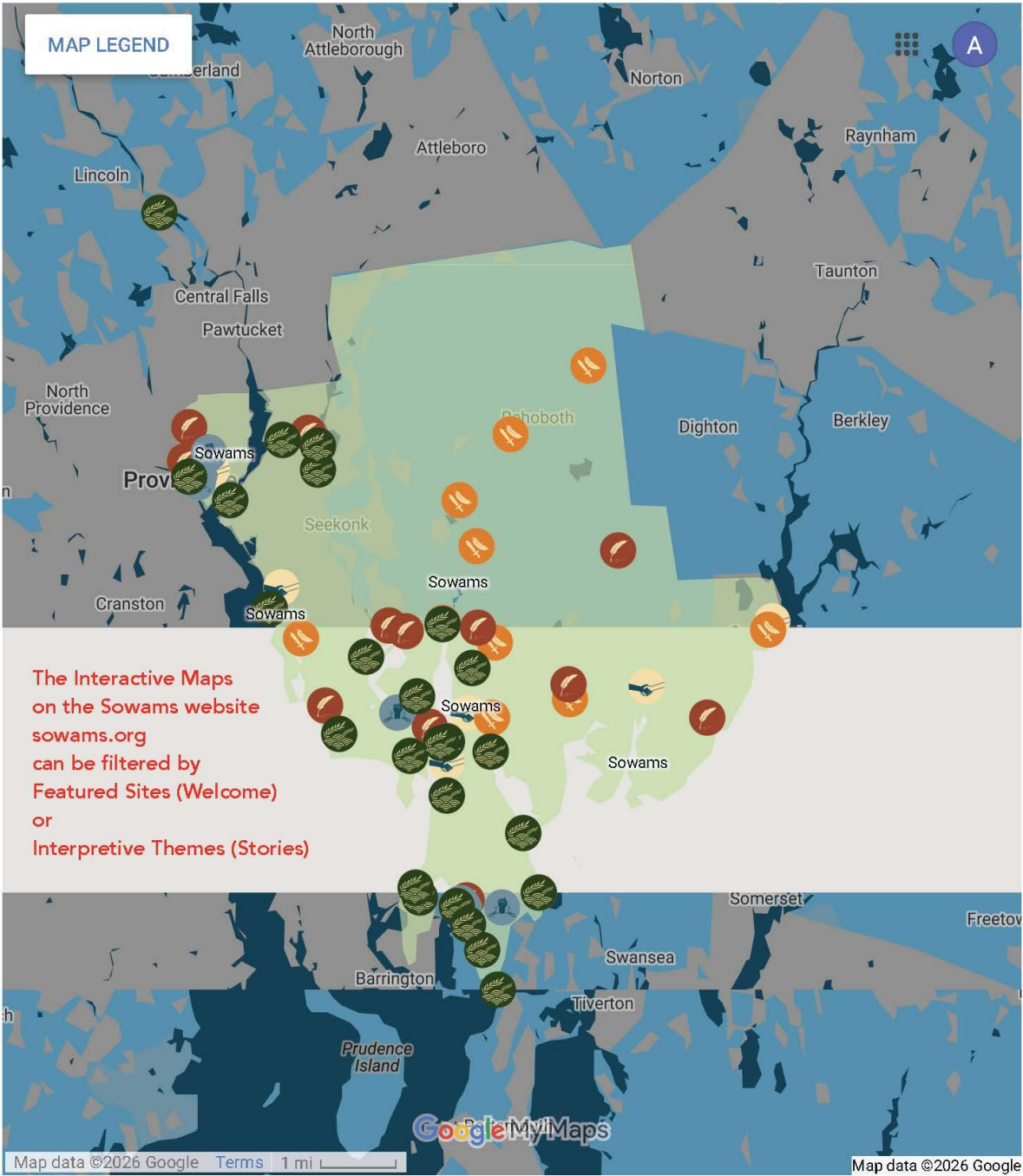
VII. Data and Research

A. Data and Research

Prioritize data collection and research to inform decision-making and measure the impact of collaborative efforts. Share findings and insights to enhance the Sowams Heritage Area's effectiveness.

APPENDIX H – MAPS

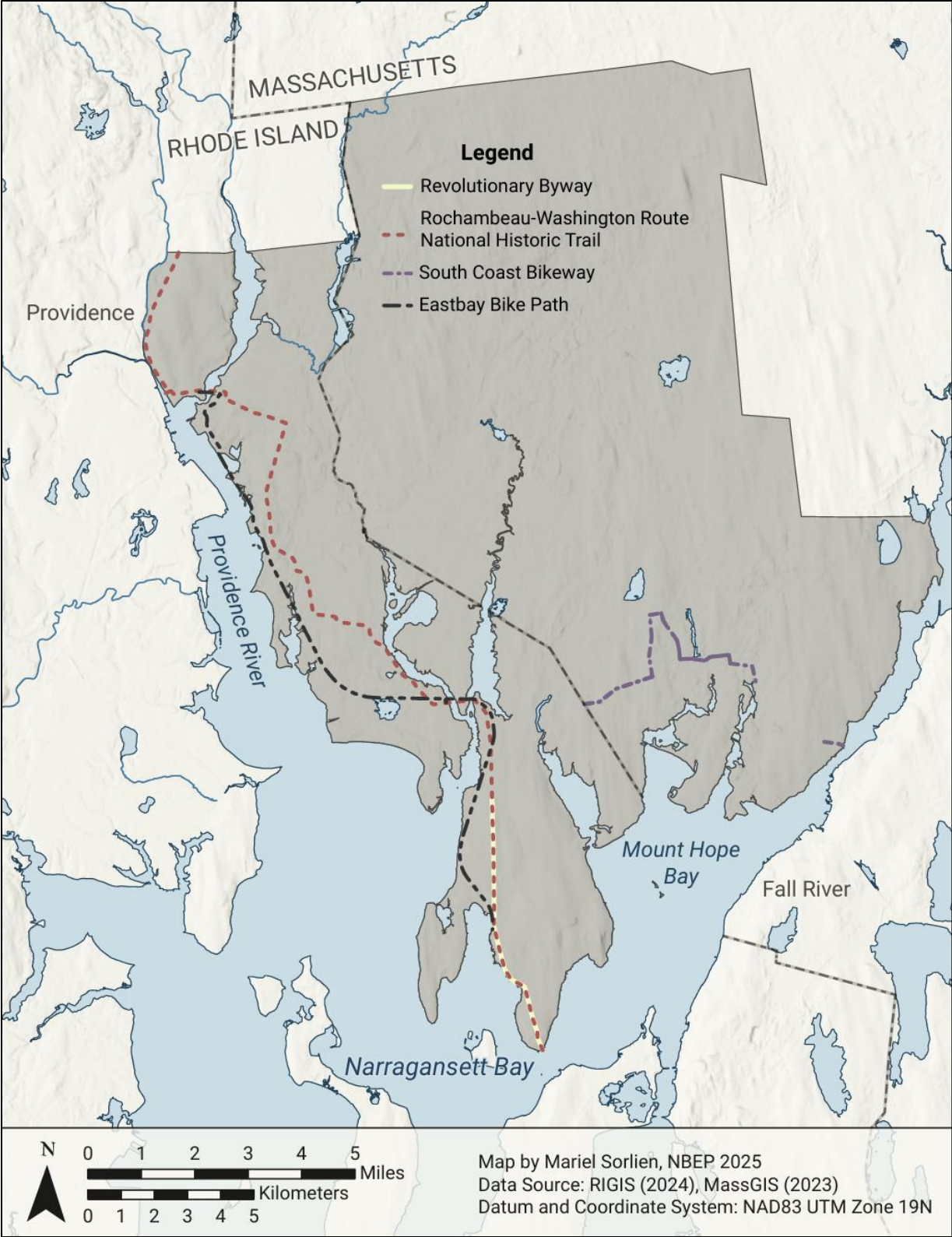
Sowams: Stories On The Landscape - Google My Maps 5/11/26, 12:43 PM



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APPENDIX I – COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT FOR SOWAMS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Letters

- MA State Representative (Third Bristol District)
- MA State Representative (Fourth Bristol District)
- MA State Senator (First Bristol and Plymouth District)
- MA State Senator (Fifth Bristol and Plymouth District)

State of Rhode Island Letters

- RI Commerce Corporation
- RI Secretary of State
- RI State Assembly Joint Session, Pokanoket Recognition Resolution
- RI State Representative (District 68)
- RI State Senate President
- RI State Senator (District 10)

Tribal Governments, Organizations, and Members

- Center for Indigenous People's Rights
- Friends of the Pokanoket Tribe
- Mashapaug Nahaganset Chippissuog Tribe
- Pokanoket Tribal Council and Tribe
- Ruth Major, artist, Nauset Tribal Council member

Municipal Government Resolutions and Letters

- Barrington, RI Town Council Resolution
- Barrington, RI Planning, Building and Resilience Department
- Bristol, RI Town Council Resolution
- East Providence, RI City Council Resolution
- East Providence, RI Mayor of the City of East Providence
- Providence, RI Mayor of the City of Providence
- Providence, RI City Council, land acknowledgement
- Rehoboth, MA Select Board
- Seekonk, MA Select Board Resolution
- Seekonk, MA Planning Board
- Somerset, MA Economic Development Committee
- Somerset, MA Historical Commission
- Somerset, MA Select Board Resolution
- Swansea, MA Select Board Resolution

- Swansea, MA Conservation Commission
- Swansea, MA Planning Board
- Warren, RI Town Council Resolution

Economic Development, Tourism, and Business

- Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
- Blount Boats
- Discover Newport
- East Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Explore Bristol
- Hope and Main Culinary Incubator
- Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Southeastern Mass Visitors Bureau
- Southeastern MA Planners Roundtable
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Environment and Recreation Organizations

- Blithewold Manor and Arboretum
- Coggeshall Farm Museum/Old Sturbridge Village
- Tony Morettini, environmental activist, Bristol, RI
- Mt. Hope Farm
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Osamequin Farm
- Rehoboth Land Trust
- Save the Bay
- Taunton River Stewardship Council
- Warren Land Trust

Historic Preservation and Humanities Organizations

- Barrington Public Library
- Bristol Historic & Preservation Society
- East Providence Historical Society
- Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation
- George Hail Free Library
- Herreshoff Marine Museum and America's Cup Hall of Fame
- Linden Place Historic Estate and Arts Center
- Massasoit Historical Association
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Plimoth Patuxet Museums

- Rehoboth Antiquarian Society (Carpenter Museum, Blanding Library)
- Seekonk Public Library
- Somerset Historical Society
- Somerset Public Library

Religious Organizations

- First Baptist Church of Swansea, MA
- First Congregational Church of Barrington, RI
- First Congregational Church of Bristol, RI
- Newman Congregational Church

Arts and Culture Organizations

- Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project
- Bristol Art Museum
- Providence Cultural Equity Initiative



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
 STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1063

January 15, 2026

Executive Board
 Sowams Heritage Area Project
 23 Bridge Street
 Warren, RI 02885

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Executive Board,

As the elected officials representing the Massachusetts House of Representatives 4th Bristol District and the Senate Third Bristol and Plymouth District, which are comprised, in part, of some of the nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of the Narragansett Bay that comprise the Sowams Heritage Area, we write to express our support for the designation of the Sowams as a National Heritage Area by the United States Congress. This ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history, serves a vital and integral part of the history of our districts.

This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in the history of our nation, such as the beginning and end of King Philip's War, the founding of the state of Rhode Island by Roger Williams, where the seeds of religious freedom took root, the business of slave trading igniting a trans-Atlantic economy and moral outcry, and the dynamic interplay of land and water, which defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

We recognize that National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage and are designated by the U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government. Further, these designations are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration, which we are confident would be beneficial to the Sowams Heritage Area.

We are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area. Please feel free to contact our offices with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Howitt
State Representative
 4th Bristol District
 (617) 722-2305
Steven.Howitt@mahouse.gov

Kelly Dooner
State Senator, Assistant Minority Leader
 Third Bristol and Plymouth
 (617) 722-1551
Kelly.Dooner@masenate.gov



SENATOR MICHAEL J. RODRIGUES
First Bristol and Plymouth District

CHAIR
Committee on Ways and Means

MICHAEL.RODRIGUES@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 212
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL: (617) 722-1114
FAX: (617) 722-1498
WAYS & MEANS: (617) 722-1481

ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
ROOM 235
FALL RIVER, MA 02722
TEL. (508) 646-0650
FAX. (508) 646-0656

SOMERSET TOWN HALL
140 WOOD STREET
SOMERSET, MA 02726
TEL. (508) 673-8408

February 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

I write to express my strong and unequivocal support for the official designation of the Sowams National Heritage Area. This historically significant landscape, situated along the borders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe and the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin Tribe who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621. This encounter started a strong friendship and forged a 50-year alliance that was upended by the King Philip's War, also called the First Indian War of 1675. The region encompasses compelling history including the fundamental principle of the separation of church and state, enshrined in Rhode Island's Charter.

The designation as a "National Heritage Area" would provide many opportunities to promote and highlight the stories of how the distinctive places in this area provided a backdrop and a compelling narrative of a complex period of American history. The hope is to expand community dialogue and collaboration about its interpretation for the benefit of future generations. This in turn would enable expanded access for public engagement with educational resources that describe and recognize the historical significance of the Sowams region with national recognition.

As a National Heritage Area, the nine (9) cities and towns that make up the Sowams would tell a revealing story about America's complex and often difficult beginnings. Typically, National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage. While they are designated by U.S. Congress, they are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government in any way, and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration,

As a strong proponent of the Sowams National Heritage designation, I hope their proposal is approved.

Please feel free to contact me at (617) 722-1114 if you would like to discuss their application further.

Sincerely,

State Senator Michael J. Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

JUSTIN E. THURBER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
FIFTH BRISTOL DISTRICT

STATE HOUSE ROOM 443
Justin.Thurber@MAHouse.gov

Dear Members of the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic and unwavering support for the designation of the Sowams National Heritage Area. This initiative offers a transformative opportunity to preserve and interpret the region's profound contributions to American history while driving sustainable economic growth across the nine communities that comprise Sowams.

The Sowams region holds significant historical importance as the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe (also known as the Wampanoag), centered on the northeastern watershed of Narragansett Bay. It was here that Massasoit Ousamequin resided and forged a vital alliance of friendship with the Pilgrims in 1621, an agreement that ensured the survival of the early Plymouth colony for decades. Communities like Swansea and Somerset were integral to the original Sowams lands, acquired in key 17th-century purchases from Indigenous leaders. Dighton adds further depth through landmarks such as Dighton Rock—a boulder bearing ancient petroglyphs long associated with Indigenous peoples and early speculative theories of pre-Columbian contact—symbolizing the region's mysterious and layered human story. Sowams also bore witness to the devastating conflicts of King Philip's War (1675–1676), which reshaped New England, and served as a cradle for American religious freedom (through figures like Roger Williams) and a hub of maritime innovation and exploration. Designating Sowams as a National Heritage Area would illuminate these pivotal, interconnected stories and honor the complex origins of our nation, for generations to come.

Equally compelling are the economic benefits this designation would deliver. National Heritage Areas are proven catalysts for heritage tourism and community revitalization, without federal land ownership or control. This would translate to increased visitors supporting local businesses, restaurants, hotels, and the hospitality sector in towns like Swansea, Somerset, and beyond. It would also unlock consistent federal resources for job-creating projects, including historic site restorations, and recreational trail expansions.

The Sowams Heritage Area project, led by a dedicated nonprofit and supported by local boards and towns—including strong representation from Swansea, Somerset, and adjacent areas. I urge swift action to secure congressional designation and stand ready to collaborate with our congressional delegation, state and local leaders, and fellow community members to bring this vision to fruition.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important matter. Preserving Sowams honors our shared past, and invests in a stronger, more vibrant future for our region.

Sincerely,

State Representative Justin Thurber



November 17, 2025

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of Rhode Island Commerce enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

Our mission is to help you achieve yours. At Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, we understand that each business requires different kinds of support at different times. Our team of Business Engagement Specialists are here to assist your business in navigating any obstacles you may face. Whether you are considering launching a startup, seeking to expand your existing company or looking for assistance with red tape reduction, Rhode Island Commerce's mission is to help you achieve your goals. We offer business assistance, access to funding and red tape reduction for companies of all sizes.

As a quasi-public agency, we serve as a government and community resource to help businesses expand in, and relocate to, Rhode Island. Our Specialists work with Rhode Island businesses in all industries and at all stages.

In fact, we are already working collaboratively with you on Sowams Heritage area. Providence is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history. This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia. National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration.

We see opportunities for collaboration with Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area and proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

 A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bennett".

Jim Bennett
President and CEO, Rhode Island Commerce

315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401.278.9100 • Fax: 401.273.8270 • CommerceRI.com



State of Rhode Island
Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State
 Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

April 22, 2026

To the Board of Directors of the Sowams Heritage Area,

Thank you for your commitment to highlighting the rich history of the Sowams region. As you know, prior to being elected as Secretary of State, I spent nearly thirty years as a public high school history and civics teacher. I shared the story of Rhode Island and how it has shaped our country.

Now, in my role as the Chair of the RI250 Commission, I continue to support efforts across the state to highlight the vibrant history of Rhode Island, its role in the nation's founding, and ongoing work to preserve those stories for generations to come. I also believe the Semiquincentennial is an appropriate time to advance legacy projects that will continue to foster civic engagement.

I appreciate and support your efforts to continue to highlight the history of Sowams by pursuing a Congressional designation as a National Heritage Area. As the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor highlights the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution, Sowams would elevate Rhode Island's role as the birthplace of religious freedom, its critical contributions to the American Revolution, and the intersection of all people who have shaped the region over time.

If you have any questions as you pursue the National Heritage Area designation, feel free to reach out to our RI250 Program Coordinator, Lauren Fogarty, at lforgarty@sos.ri.gov. Thank you again for your dedication to preserving Rhode Island's important history.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
 Secretary of State

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903
 Phone: 401-222-2357 | Fax: 401-222-1356 | secretaryamore@sos.ri.gov | www.sos.ri.gov

2025 -- S 1034

LC002775

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF THE POKANOKET TRIBE AS THE ANCIENT
AND ONGOING STEWARDS OF THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND, AND
ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR CENTRAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE REGION'S PAST,
PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Introduced By: Senators Ujifusa, Urso, Britto, McKenney, Gu, Appollonio, Sosnowski,
Raptakis, DiPalma, and Murray

Date Introduced: May 07, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Pokanoket Tribe is the ancient and continuous steward of the lands now
2 known as Bristol, Warren, Barrington, East Providence, and parts of Providence, including Mount
3 Hope (Montaup), the seat of Pokanoket government and the home of Massasoit (Great Sachem)
4 Ousamequin; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pokanoket Tribe was the headship tribe of the Pokanoket Confederacy,
6 which included over 60 Tribes and Bands united by cultural, linguistic, and historical ties, and
7 continue to uphold traditions, protect sacred sites, and revitalize languages across Rhode Island
8 and southeastern Massachusetts; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pokanoket people developed sophisticated systems of governance,
10 diplomacy, and environmental stewardship long before European contact, values they continue to
11 uphold through formal tribal structures and spiritual practice; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1524, Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano described the Pokanoket
13 peoples at Mount Hope Bay as "the goodliest people" he had seen, noting their strength, dignity,
14 and generosity; and

15 WHEREAS, In March 1621, Massasoit Ousamequin entered into a treaty with the
16 Plymouth Colony, ensuring mutual protection and peaceful coexistence that lasted for more than
17 fifty years; and

18 WHEREAS, The Pokanoket sheltered and nursed an ailing Roger Williams back to

1 health, contributing to the founding of Rhode Island in 1636; and

2 WHEREAS, Massasoit Ousamequin was laid to rest at Burr's Hill in Warren, Rhode
3 Island, a sacred site, and in 2017, the Wampanoag Repatriation Confederation secured the return
4 of sacred items from the Smithsonian under the 1990 federal Native American Graves Protection
5 and Repatriation Act; and

6 WHEREAS, Members of the Pokanoket tribe, including Simeon Simon in 1781, served
7 in the Revolutionary War, fighting with American soldiers; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, Pokanoket leaders like Princess
9 Red Wing (Mary E. Glasko Congdon), Frederick Weeden, and Sagamore William "Winds of
10 Thunder" Guy have advanced Indigenous rights, cultural preservation, and sovereignty, including
11 helping to secure the return of sacred lands from Brown University in 2017; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pokanoket Tribe continues to engage in educational initiatives, land
13 stewardship, and cultural celebrations across their homeland, ensuring their history remains vital
14 to Rhode Island's identity; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2021, the Tribe marked the 400th anniversary of the 1621 treaty, and
16 dealing with centuries of challenges, including the erosion of land rights, broken treaties, and
17 unfulfilled promises—with enduring strength and resilience; and

18 WHEREAS, In November 2024, Brown University, as part of its commitment to
19 preserving the land and ensuring sustainable access for Native tribes with ties to it, transferred
20 ownership of 255 acres of its Mount Hope property in Bristol to a preservation trust established
21 by the Pokanoket Tribe; and

22 WHEREAS, This land holds significant ancestral importance for the Tribe, being the
23 home of Metacom (King Philip) and the site of his death during King Philip's War, and the
24 transfer ensures access to this historically and spiritually vital land and water; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby supports the
26 recognition of the Pokanoket Tribe as the ancient and ongoing steward of its ancestral homeland,
27 and acknowledges its central role in shaping the region's past, present, and future; and be it
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby honors the Pokanoket Tribe's ancestors and living
30 descendants, and commits to promoting and protecting their cultural heritage, sacred lands, and
31 rightful place in Rhode Island history; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
33 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Senator Jack Reed, the
34 Honorable Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, the Honorable Congressman Seth Magaziner, the

- 1 Honorable Congressman Gabe Amo, the Honorable Governor Dan McKee, the Honorable Lt.
- 2 Governor Sabina Matos, the Honorable Treasurer James Diossa, the Honorable Secretary of State
- 3 Gregg Amore, and Sagamore William Guy.

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LC002775
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State of Rhode Island

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JUNE S. SPEAKMAN, *District 68*
Second Vice-Chair, Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Committee on Health and Human Services
Committee on Oversight
Chair, Housing Affordability Commission

February 5, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

As a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, I strongly support designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. This historically important region is in, and adjacent to, the House district in Bristol and Warren that I am honored to represent.

I am pleased to join the many partners inside and outside of government, throughout the Sowams region, in supporting this measure that will provide stewardship for the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

It is essential that current and future residents and visitors to our beautiful area not only enjoy it as it is today, but also have access to resources that help us all understand the important stories of America's complex beginnings. Much of this history is found in the Sowams area and helps us understand the arc of events that bring us to today.

The proposed designation of Sowams National Heritage Area, across the nine towns and cities that comprise it, in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts will facilitate the telling of this history. I am honored to support the Sowams NHA initiative and commend the experts, community members and advocates who are dedicated to achieving it.

Sincerely,

June S. Speakman, Ph.D.

Representative, District 68

Bristol/Warren

54 SEYMOUR STREET
 WARREN, RHODE ISLAND 02885



SENATOR
VALARIE J. LAWSON
District 14

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Office: 401-222-6655
Fax: 401-222-2967

sen-lawson@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

April 28, 2026

To the Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

As a former history and civics teacher, and a proud resident and elected representative of the City of East Providence, I write to convey my strong support for the proposal to designate the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

I believe strongly in the importance of preserving and celebrating the historical and natural resources that have defined our state. The Sowams region, which has been home to many people and cultures over the course of centuries, is a place where the diverse threads of Rhode Island's story truly come together. Securing its designation as a National Heritage Area will demonstrate that we collectively embrace our stewardship of this land and its legacy.

This year, as we join in the celebration of the nation's semiquincentennial, we have a special opportunity to bring Rhode Islanders together around our shared heritage. Designation of the Sowams as a National Heritage Area will generate enthusiasm and engagement among citizens of our state, and I am grateful for the opportunity to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Valarie J. Lawson
President, Rhode Island Senate

State of Rhode Island

SENATOR
WALTER S. FELAG
District 10

51 Overhill Road
Warren, Rhode Island 02885

Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RESIDENCE: 401-245-7521
OFFICE: 401-276-5599
FAX: 401-222-2967

sen-felag@rilegislature.gov



Senate Chamber

CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Special
Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

2ND VICE CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Finance

March 11, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

I wish to express my strong support for the proposed designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. Securing this important recognition will help ensure the continued protection and celebration of this nationally significant region, along with its natural landscape and rich cultural heritage.

As a member of the Rhode Island Senate who represents two of the communities within Sowams, Warren and Bristol – as well as the adjacent community of Tiverton – I am proud to call this region my home, and to stand alongside so many local partners who serve as its stewards. For thousands of years, countless people have built lives and communities within the nine cities and towns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island that we identify today as part of Sowams. Honoring that incredible legacy is a great responsibility, and I am committed to ensuring that residents and visitors alike can fully access and experience the many natural and historic resources that make our region so special, now and for many years to come.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, I believe it is more important than ever for us to honor the landscapes and cultures that have played a central role in the rich, complex story of our country. In doing so, we express our appreciation for all our predecessors on this land, while achieving a deeper understanding of ourselves. For these reasons, I am grateful to lend my voice to the call for Sowams to be designated as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Walter S. Felag Jr.

Senator, District 10

Warren, Bristol, Tiverton



January 30, 2026

Re: Support for Congressional Designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area

To whom it may concern,

I write in my capacity as Co-Director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights and General Counsel to the Pokanoket Tribe, the ancestral inhabitants of the Sowams region, to express unequivocal support for the congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

The Sowams Heritage Area represents a distinct and historically significant living landscape spanning portions of southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, encompassing the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket People, where relations between Indigenous communities and early European settlers played a formative role in the history of this nation. The area's history includes the 50-year peace between the Pokanoket under Massasoit and Plymouth Colony settlers beginning in 1621, as well as pivotal events such as King Philip's War, the birth of principles of religious freedom around Providence, and the long intersection of land, water, and multiple cultural communities. These narratives are irreplaceable elements of the American story and merit federal recognition and support for preservation and interpretation.

A National Heritage Area designation by Congress would not impose federal ownership, control, or management within the Sowams region, but would enable dynamic public-private partnerships to preserve cultural, historic, and natural resources, to support heritage tourism, educational initiatives, community development, and collaborative stewardship by local and tribal partners. This framework aligns with the structure and purpose of NHAs, which honor regions that have made meaningful contributions to the development of the United States while retaining community-based governance.

The Pokanoket Tribe's recent reclamation of Potumtuk from Brown University underscores the living nature of Indigenous connections to this landscape and reinforces the need for sustained recognition and preservation of Indigenous heritage within Sowams. A federal designation would affirm Indigenous history as central rather than peripheral to the American historical record.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge support for the congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area. Such designation would strengthen preservation efforts, enhance public understanding of the region's layered histories, and support equitable community engagement with heritage resources.

info@thecipr.org | www.thecipr.org | P.O. Box 10337, Cranston, RI 02910

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal line, likely representing the name Taino J. Palermo.

Dr. Taino J. Palermo, Esq., Co-Director
Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights



FRIENDS OF THE POKANOKET TRIBE
41 FALES AVENUE
BARRINGTON, RI 02806 USA

May 6, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board,

The Friends of the Pokanoket Tribe enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

The Friends was organized 2021 to educate the larger community about the history, culture and folkways of the Pokanoket Tribe through publications, public events, advocacy and direct support in order to increase awareness of and support for the Tribe.

Over the past five years, the Friends have organized public education efforts in coordination with Roger Williams University by publishing and distributing over 5,000 booklets about the Tribe and its history. It has also sponsored three annual Pokanoket Heritage Days to give visitors a perspective on Pokanoket life in the East Bay through dancing, singing, drumming, storytelling, presentations and displays on Pokanoket history and culture. These and other efforts have helped to support the return of Mount Hope Lands (Potumtuk) from Brown University to the ownership of the Tribe.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams will tell important stories about America's complex beginnings, and we are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

David S. Weed
President

A 501(c)3 organization EIN# 85-3985247



Mashapaug Nahaganset Chippissuog
Neechanoag toh Kawtawntawitt

DESK OF THE CHIPPINUONK SÂCHEM

June 15, 2026

Re: Support for Congressional Designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter of support is submitted on behalf of the Mashapaug Nahaganset Chippissuog (the “Mashapaug Tribe”), a sovereign American Indian Tribe of Nanhigganêuck Peoples, and is intended to confirm the Mashapug Tribe’s full support for the congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area.

The Sowams Heritage Area represents a distinct and historically significant living landscape spanning portions of southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, encompassing the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket People, where relations between Indigenous communities and early European settlers played a formative role in the history of this nation. The area’s history includes the 50-year peace between the Pokanoket under Massasoit and Plymouth Colony settlers beginning in 1621, as well as pivotal events such as King Philip’s War, the birth of principles of freedom of speech and religion, and the long intersection of land, water, and multiple cultural communities. These narratives are irreplaceable elements of the American story and merit federal recognition and support for preservation and interpretation.

Specific to the Mashapaug Tribe, the Moshassuck territory of Sowams—contemporarily referred to as the East Side of Providence, Rhode Island—was a boundary of the tradional Nanhigganêuck territories and played a key role in the formation of the colony of Rhode Island and of America as a whole. After the Pokanoket were ravaged by the diseases introduced by European settlers, the Nanhigganêuck began to eneroach upon much of the traditonal Pokanoket territories. Despite this advance by the Nanhigganêuck, the Massasoit adamantly disavowed the notion that Moshassuck was ever properly removed from Pokanoket jurisdiction. Considering this ongoing controversy, when the Nanhigganêuck Sagamores from Pawtuxet, Neutoconkanut, and Mashapaug protested William’s companions’ ongoing incursions into their jurisdictions, Moshassuck was where Mianotnomi, at the behest of Canonicus, directed Roger Williams to settle in. Aware of the Pokanoket’s claim to Moshassuck, Miantinomi directed Williams to cross the Moshassuck River into Moshassuck; a decision that enabled Canonicus and Miantinomi to

maintain their trade relations with Williams while simultaneously preventing retaliatory actions against Williams and his companions by the Nanhigganêuck Sagamores. This decision allowed Williams to strengthen his ties with Canonicus and set the stage for the growth of the colony of Rhode Island.

In this historical context, the Mashapaug Tribe strongly supports a National Heritage Area designation for Sowams as a means of properly acknowledging the role the territory played in Williams' development of the euro-colonial concepts of freedom of religion and freedom of speech, which are not only indigenous in origin, but also foundational and fundamental elements of contemporary American society. The Mashapaug Tribe further asserts that a National Heritage Area designation by Congress would enable dynamic public-private partnerships to preserve cultural, historic, and natural resources, while supporting heritage tourism, educational initiatives, community development, and collaborative stewardship by local and tribal partners. This framework aligns with the structure and purpose of NHAs, which honor regions that have made meaningful contributions to the development of the United States while retaining community-based governance. Ultimately, the Mashapaug Tribe affirms that a National Heritage Area designation would affirm Indigenous history as a central factor in rather than a peripheral narrative to the American historical record.

For the foregoing reasons, on behalf of the Mashapaug Tribe, I respectfully urge support for the congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area, and affirm that such designation would strengthen preservation efforts, enhance public understanding of the region's layered histories, and support equitable community engagement with heritage resources.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any further information or support in this regard.

Cordially,



Neesu Wushuwunoag
Chippinuoak Sâchem
MAshapaug Nahaganset Chippissuog



January 31, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Pokanoket Tribal Council and the Pokanoket Tribe to express our strong support for the designation and continued development of Sowams as a National Heritage Area. This corridor represents a vital opportunity to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the rich historical, cultural, and natural resources that have shaped our region and the nation as a whole.

National heritage areas play a critical role in safeguarding stories that might otherwise be lost: stories of the people, industries, landscapes, and traditions that define our shared heritage. Sowams, the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Pokanoket Tribe, uniquely reflects these themes through its historic sites, working landscapes, waterways, and communities, offering meaningful connections between the past and present.

For these reasons, we strongly support the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area. This initiative is a meaningful investment in preservation, education, and community resilience, and it will continue to yield lasting benefits for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to protecting our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

Sachem Po Pummukaonk Anogqs

P.O.Box 172 • Barrington • RI • 02806

Subject:Letter of Support

Date:Mon, 9 Mar 2026 10:29:04 -0400

From:Ruth Major <rmajorarts@gmail.com>

To:David Weed <drweed@cox.net>

Dr. David Weed
Project Historian
Sowams Heritage Area

Dear Dr. Weed,

About ten years ago, I recall meeting you. Our shared intense interest in Pokanoket History and Culture led us in different directions, but it was clear that we were both serious about our work to further the history and culture of Sowams. While in graduate school at the Massachusetts College of Art, I planned an Independent Study and created a 4- course program supervised by MCA and Museum of Fine Arts School faculty. The program resulted in successful completion of the courses, and an exhibit of 100 pieces that I researched and made, using local materials and New England indigenous methods. The exhibit and coursework prepared me well for a career in oil painting of historical figures and artifacts. All of the 100 pieces exhibited had a historical reference, so viewers could read and know that similar pieces were made by Late Woodland Stage People who lived in New England prior to 1620.

By the time I met you, Dr. Weed, you had a dream to turn Sowams area into a National Heritage Site, which I have supported and imagined for years. You said it would take much work and commitment to have the 9-Town area of Sowams, half in Massachusetts and half in Rhode Island, designated as a National Heritage site. You were right! I have received your newsletters for years now and watched with excitement as new cultural sites and historical places were added, researched, documented and celebrated.

I repainted and corrected my large oil portrait of Massasoit Ousamequin wearing a gifted red English horseman's coat and copper beads. The painting was purchased by the Town of Warren and hangs in the **George Hale Library** in Warren. Subsequently, the town commissioned a painting of Ousamequin's Winter Campsite just beyond Mowag's Pond, as

commissioned a painting of Ousamequin's winter campsite just beyond Margaret's Rock, as the site was chosen as a likely location which could easily be defended if needed. In the painting of the Winter campsite, I depicted many details, related to Pokanoket Ousamequin and his Nikmuc in-laws, celebrating and feasting together at the Pokanoket winter campsite. Viewers of the painting may study the indigenous housing structures, method of burning out log boats, of storing water for the community, manner of dress and of removing and carrying skins with tails on, communal fire making for feasts, and some types of pottery and bark containers.

Since completing those historical paintings, I have completed several others for the Pokanoket people, who have shared so much of their rich and significant history and culture with me. Sowams was the homeland of the last four Pokanoket Massasoits or Great Leaders (Ousamequin's father, Ousamequin, and his sons Wamsutta and PoMetacom). Prior to the "Great dying" (1616-1619,) in times of distress or of needing or providing defense, these Pokanoket leaders called on their confederacy of at least 67 sachemships, villages and tribes. The confederacy spanned the territory from Sowams' easterly boundaries all the way out to the Nauset Sachemships and villages on the Outer Cape Cod.

Our American History begins in Sowams, a place so rich in history, nearly every street, valley, wooded path or hill-top tells a piece of New England's history. Where else in this great country can one truly say, "SOWAMS - This is the birthplace of today's America?!"

Respectfully,

Ruth Major

- Historical Painter and retired Educator, BFA, MS
- Co-Author, **Connecticut River Shipbuilding**
- 2025 Recipient of a **MA Cultural Council Grant**
for creative work with the Pokanoket Tribe
- Documented Nauset and Nauset Council Member

**TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RI
RESOLUTION**

SOWAMS, NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Whereas,

The Town of Barrington is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history,

Whereas,

This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

Whereas,

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, education, and regional collaboration,

Therefore,

We, the Barrington Town Council, are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Approved at the Town Council meeting on December 1, 2025



Braxton H. Cloutier
Town Council President

Attested by



Stephanie Bernardo, CMC
Town Clerk





BARRINGTON
RHODE ISLAND

Planning, Building, and Resilience Department
Barrington Town Hall | 283 County Road | Barrington, RI 02806
(401) 247-1900, ext. 4 | hdurfee@barrington.ri.gov

May 18, 2026

Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors
Attn: Andrea Rounds, Sowams Project Advisor
23 Bridge Street
Warren, Rhode Island 02885

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

The Planning, Building & Resilience Department of the Town of Barrington, Rhode Island is pleased to express its support for your effort to obtain Congressional approval designating Sowams as a National Heritage Area. With such designation the Sowams area could benefit from activities supporting sustainable economic development, a healthier environment and people, an improved quality of life, community connection via education and stewardship, and strengthening the area's sense of place and community pride.

Currently, Barrington is updating the Town's *Comprehensive Plan*. One of the plan's statutorily requirement elements must include consideration for cultural and historic resources. The purpose for such chapter is focused on protecting the architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage of the Town and its surrounding region. Within that draft element, for reasons the Sowams Board of Directors well-understands, the plan specifically supports the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Also, as a specific example of the need to obtain such designation, the Town of Barrington owns several parcels off George St on the eastern shore of One Hundred Acre Cove – with the general area known as "Nockum Hill". The site is where the first Baptist meeting house in America was built in 1643 and later burned when the first shots were fired in the King Philip's War – aka Metacom's Rebellion. Based on funding from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, the Nockum Hill Historic Site is now regarded as the site of the inception of the 1675-1676 war between Metacom and the settler-colonists – the bloodiest per capita conflict in American history. The war was sparked by rising tensions over land, English encroachment, and cultural differences. The conflict's inception and Nockum Hill are at the heart of Sowams – the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket.

Given the above information and other factors affecting the area's history, culture, and the like, the department strongly supports designation of the Sowams Heritage Area and recognizes the value-added benefit such designation would afford the region.

Sincerely

Herbert A. Durfee, III, Director
Planning, Building & Resilience

**BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
2025-12-10-F2**

Endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area

WHEREAS, The town of Bristol, RI is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history; and

WHEREAS, This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation’s history. Here, King Philip’s War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island, and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region’s contribution to America’s heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, education, and regional collaboration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED We are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

ADOPTED this 10th day of Dec, 2025.

ATTEST: 
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk


Nathan T. Calouro, Chairman
Bristol Town Council



BK28

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE**

Pg 271

RESOLUTION NO. 234

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SOWAMS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, the City of East Providence is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history; and

WHEREAS, this landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, education, and regional collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of East Providence, Roberto DaSilva, has issued a proclamation endorsing and supporting the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the East Providence City Council is proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Adopted by the City Council: 12/2/25

Attest:

Andrew Skypworth
City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Council President Rodericks, Council Vice President Rego



City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva
Mayor

November 24, 2025

Sowams Heritage Area
 Steering Committee

Dear Committee Members,

As Mayor of the City of East Providence, I write this letter in strong support and endorsement of designating the Sowams Heritage Area as a new federally designated National Heritage Area. East Providence is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities working together to establish this new federal Heritage Area. Sowams is the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of American history. Sowams is also the setting for many of our most pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island, first landing in East Providence, before founding the City of Providence, where the seeds of religious freedom and tolerance took root.

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage with the intent of encouraging heritage area conservation, community and economic development and educational opportunities, and strong regional collaboration.

I am proud to join the eight other communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Roberto L. DaSilva
 Mayor

CC. East Providence City Council
 Keith A. Brynes, AICP, Director of Planning and Economic Development

145 Taunton Ave. East Providence, RI 02914 Tel: (401) 435-7521 /Fax: (401) 438-1719



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

December 9, 2025

Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee

Re: Sowams Heritage Area

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

I am pleased to support the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

Providence stands on the traditional homelands of the Narragansett and Pokanoket Tribal Nations, known historically as Maswasseut and Moshassuck. The lands east of the Moshassuck River are part of Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and who forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history.

This area in Providence, along with eight Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay, is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island, and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

National designation will not only safeguard irreplaceable resources; it will invite residents and visitors alike to engage with the complex beginnings of the American story, encouraging meaningful interpretation, reconciliation and collaborative conservation.

Sincerely,


Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903
Phone (401) 421-2489 Fax (401) 274-8240



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council acknowledges that it stands on the traditional homelands of the Narragansett and Pokanoket Tribal Nations, known historically as Maswasscut and Moshassuck; and

WHEREAS, The Narragansett and Pokanoket are the first peoples and ancestral inhabitants of these lands, whose presence long predates the founding of Providence and continues today; and

WHEREAS, The City Council also recognizes the Nipmuc, Niantic, and Manissean Tribal Nations as Indigenous peoples to the region now known as Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The Narragansett and Pokanoket were not only the first people to call Providence home, but also the first to establish systems of governance, trade, and community grounded in respect and coexistence, shaping the cultural and political foundations of this country; and

WHEREAS, Despite centuries of displacement and marginalization, the Narragansett, Pokanoket, Nipmuc, Niantic, and Manissean Nations continue to maintain their traditions, leadership, and active presence in Providence and across Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, As we work collectively to create a better and brighter future for all members of the Providence community, we acknowledge the original inhabitants of these lands and their lasting contributions to the City's identity and history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of Providence expresses its deep respect and gratitude to the Narragansett, Pokanoket, Nipmuc, Niantic, and Manissean Tribal Nations as the first peoples of these lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council reaffirms its commitment to collaboration with Indigenous communities and to advancing inclusion, understanding, and equity for all residents of the City of Providence.

**Office of
SELECTMEN
340 Anawan Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769**



**Tel.: (508) 252-3758
Fax: (508) 252-5342**

January 28, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

I am pleased to report that during their meeting on December 1, 2025, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Rehoboth, MA voted unanimously to support Sowams Heritage Area, as follows: "Selectman Johnson re-reading the motion: motion for the Board of Selectmen to support the Sowams National Heritage Area planning going forward. Second by L. Mills. Vote 5-0."

If you would like a copy of the entire minutes of that meeting, signed by the officers, we are happy to send it to you.

Good luck with the project!

Sincerely,

Deborah Arruda
Rehoboth Town Administrator



**SELECT BOARD
100 PECK STREET
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS 02771**

RESOLUTION As Passed, By Unanimous 5-0 Vote, Of The Select Board Of The Town Of Seekonk On December 3, 2025 In Support Of The Designation Of The Sowams National Heritage Area By The Congress Of The United States Of America:

RESOLVED

WHEREAS,

The Town Of Seekonk Is One Of Nine Massachusetts And Rhode Island Municipalities On The Northeastern Shore Of Narragansett Bay That Comprise Sowams, The Ancestral Homeland Of The Massasoit Ousamequin Who Welcomed The Pilgrims In 1621 And Forged A 50-Year Alliance That Changed The Course Of History,

WHEREAS,

This Landscape Is Also The Setting For Other Pivotal Events In Our Nation's History. Here, King Philip's War Began And Ended; Roger Williams Founded Rhode Island And The Seeds Of Religious Freedom Took Root; The Business Of Slave Trading Ignited A Trans-Atlantic Economy, And Moral Outcry; And The Dynamic Interplay Of Land And Water Defined The History And Culture Of The Region For Millennia.

WHEREAS,

National Heritage Areas Are Grassroots, Community-Driven Programs That Celebrate A Region's Contribution To America's Heritage; Are Designated By U.S. Congress, But Are Not Owned, Controlled, Or Managed By The Federal Government; And Are Intended To Encourage Heritage Conservation, Community Development, And Regional Collaboration,

THEREFORE,

We Are Proud To Join The Communities Of Sowams In Endorsing The Designation Of Sowams As A National Heritage Area.

Signed:


Michelle Hines, Town of
Seekonk Select Board Chair

on

Feb. 05, , 2026



Planning Board
 100 PECK STREET
 SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS 02771
 1-508-336-2961

Date: December 9, 2025

Executive Board
 Sowams Heritage Area Project
 23 Bridge Street, Warren, RI 02885.

Sowams Heritage Area Executive Board,

As the Town of Seekonk is one of the nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history. This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

The Seekonk Planning Board recognizes that National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration,

We, the Planning Board of the Town of Seekonk, are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area by the Congress of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

David Sullivan Jr.
 Chairman
 Seekonk Planning Board



Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

The Somerset Economic Development Committee enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

The Somerset Economic Development Committee is responsible for advising the Somerset Selectmen regarding the cultivation of a diverse economy while recognizing the need to maintain a balance between attracting new investment to increase the local tax base, encouraging and supporting local businesses, fostering local entrepreneurship, and strengthening Somerset key businesses and industries.

We are already working collaboratively with Sowams on projects such as the Swansea Friends Meeting House, located in Somerset, which is reportedly the oldest Quaker meeting house in Massachusetts and has recently been designated as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Somerset is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history. This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Cogley, Jr.
Chairman



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Somerset Town Hall
140 WOOD STREET
SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS, 02726

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Commissioners of the Somerset Historical Commission enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our mission is to identify, protect, and preserve the historical heritage and resources of the Town of Somerset. In fact, one of our commissioners is already working collaboratively with you by serving on the Sowams Steering Committee.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Rua-Larsen

Chair, Somerset Historical Commission



TOWN OF SOMERSET BOARD OF SELECTMAN RESOLUTION

Adopted on December 4th, 2025

RESOLVED

Whereas,

The town of Somerset is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history,

Whereas,

This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

Whereas,

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Somerset, on this day, December 4th, 2025 and all day's hereafter, are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams, as a National Heritage Area, here in, and for the Town of Somerset.

Somerset Board of Selectman

Chairman Allen Smith

Selectman Jamison Souza

Selectman Todd Costa



Resolved

Whereas,

The Town of Swansea is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history,

Whereas,

This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

Whereas,

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration,

Therefore,

We are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Steven H. Kitchin, Chairman

Michael K. Beaudette, Vice Chairman

Robert C. Medeiros, Clerk



TOWN OF SWANSEA
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
68 STEVENS RD
SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS
PHONE NUMBER: 508-674-5731 ext.5

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Swansea Conservation Commission
Is dedicated to protect all wetlands, to
preserve the water supply and all natural
resources; to protect habitats for native
wildlife, to ensure that lands bordering
rivers, streams and ponds remain as
natural watersheds.*

Date: November 14th, 2025

To: Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee

Re: Sowams Heritage Area Feasibility Study

The Swansea Conservation Commission enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. The Swansea Conservation Commission is dedicated to safeguarding wetlands, the preservation of the water supply, and the protection of all natural resources. Our goal is to protect habitats for native wildlife, to ensure that lands bordering rivers, streams and ponds remain as natural watersheds. It is the belief of the Commission that the proposed designation of the Sowams region as a Natural Heritage Area aligns with this mission.

The nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. The Swansea Conservation Commission is pleased to be part of the Sowams Natural Heritage Area initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conservation Department.

Regards,

Nanci Hedgcorth

Nanci Hedgcorth, Chairperson
Conservation Commission

CC: Adeline Bellesheim, Conservation Agent



Swansea Planning Board

68 Stevens Road
Swansea, MA 02777

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Swansea Planning Board enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our recently approved Comprehensive Plan speaks to this project in Element 5: Natural and Cultural Resources. Specifically, goal 5.2 explores ways to protect and preserve Swansea's natural, scenic, historical and cultural resources with strategy 5.2-3 calling out the need to coordinate with the Sowams Heritage Area Project to conduct an inventory of important scenic and cultural landscapes.

We believe that as an NHA, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Christopher C. Parayno

Town Planner on behalf of the Swansea Planning Board

TOWN OF WARREN
RESOLUTION

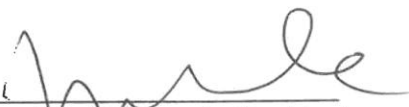
SOWAMS, NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

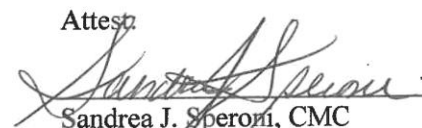
Whereas, The Town of Warren is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history,

Whereas, This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island, and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia.

Whereas, National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration,

Therefore, We, the Warren Town Council are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.


Joseph A. DePasquale, President
Keri M. Cronin, Vice President
John W. Hanley, Councilman
Derrik L. Trombley, Councilman
Louis A. Rego, Councilman

Attest:

Sandra J. Speroni, CMC
Town Clerk



TOURBLACKSTONE.COM

November 18, 2025

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is proud to express its full support for the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant landscape.

As an organization that played a leading role in establishing the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor forty years ago in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, we understand the commitment required to build a successful heritage area. This includes engaging partners and supporters, cataloging cultural and natural assets, developing meaningful community outreach, and demonstrating that a Sowams National Heritage Area is both feasible and sustainable for generations to come.

Our mission—to increase and inspire sustainable tourism in the Blackstone River Valley—guides all that we do. In pursuit of this mission, we continually work to:

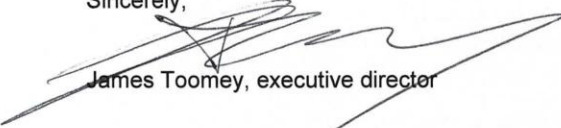
- Advance Tourism while protecting the ecological balance of the Blackstone River Valley.
- Protect the Environment through education on the river and in our RiverClassroom.
- Strengthen Community Pride by enhancing the social fabric and improving the quality of life for those who live and work in our region.
- Boost the Local Economy by promoting businesses, programs, and events across our ten cities and towns.

We already see strong opportunities for collaboration with a future Sowams National Heritage Area. Our director of events and community, Laura McNamara, has served as an active member of the Sowams Heritage Area Project Steering Committee for the past three years, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to this effort.

We believe the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell vital stories about America's complex beginnings—stories that complement and enrich those of the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor. The two regions are deeply interconnected, and together they strengthen our understanding of the nation's early history.

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is pleased to support the Sowams NHA initiative and remains committed to elevating all the communities that call this remarkable place home.

Sincerely,



James Toomey, executive director

EAT | DRINK | HIKE | BIKE | LEARN | GROW | ENJOY

1420 Broad Street 3rd Floor
Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863

T: 401-724-2200
E: info@tourblackstone.com





Letter of Support for the Sowams National Heritage Area

Blount Boats, Inc.
461 Water Street
Warren, Rhode Island 02885

May 20, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board,

On behalf of Blount Boats, Inc., we are proud to offer our enthusiastic support for the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

For 77 years, Blount Boats has operated as a family-owned shipyard in the historic Sowams area, where the relationship between land, water, craftsmanship, and community has shaped generations of people and industries. Our company's roots are deeply tied to the waters of Narragansett Bay and the maritime traditions that continue to define this remarkable region.

As builders of vessels that serve commercial, research, transportation, and offshore industries, we recognize the enduring importance of preserving and celebrating the cultural and economic heritage of the Sowams region. The stories of Indigenous stewardship, maritime enterprise, industrial innovation, religious freedom, and working waterfront communities are not only central to local history — they are part of the larger American story.

We believe the creation of the Sowams National Heritage Area will strengthen public understanding of this nationally significant landscape while encouraging heritage tourism, environmental stewardship, education, and economic vitality throughout the region. We are especially encouraged by the initiative's commitment to honoring the many communities and traditions that have shaped Sowams over thousands of years.

Blount Boats is honored to stand with the many organizations, municipalities, businesses, and residents supporting this effort. We believe the designation will help preserve the unique character and working heritage of the Sowams area for future generations.

Sincerely,

Marcia Blount

Marcia Blount
President

461 WATER STREET P.O. BOX 368 WARREN, RHODE ISLAND 02885
T 401.245.8300 F 401.245.8303 E info@blountboats.com W blountboats.com



June 5, 2026

Sowams Heritage Area
P.O. Box 81
Bristol, RI 02809

Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

On behalf of Discover Newport, I am pleased to support the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

As the destination marketing organization for Newport and Bristol Counties, we proudly promote the communities of Barrington, Bristol, and Warren—three towns that are integral to the Sowams story. As the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket people and Massasoit Ousamequin, Sowams holds a unique and important place in our nation’s history.

National Heritage Area designation would help elevate the region’s rich cultural and historical assets, strengthen heritage tourism, and create new opportunities for community and economic development. Together, the communities of Sowams tell a powerful story that deserves broader recognition and appreciation.

We are excited by the prospect of this designation and look forward to supporting the continued success of the Sowams Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Victoria Cimino
President & CEO
Discover Newport

BARRINGTON | BRISTOL | JAMESTOWN | LITTLE COMPTON | MIDDLETOWN | NEWPORT | PORTSMOUTH | TIVERTON | WARREN

44 LONG WHARF MALL NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840 800.326.6030 DiscoverNewport.org



East Bay Chamber of Commerce
 16 Cutler St., Warren, RI 02885
 February 26, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board,

On behalf of the East Bay Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to express our strong support for the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

The East Bay Chamber is committed to strengthening our local economy, supporting small businesses, and enhancing the overall vitality of the communities we serve. The Sowams Heritage Area initiative aligns directly with that mission. By preserving and promoting the region's deep Indigenous, colonial, maritime, and cultural history, this designation will not only honor our shared heritage but also create meaningful opportunities for heritage tourism, education, and regional collaboration.

The nine towns and cities that comprise the Sowams region tell powerful and complex stories about the origins of our nation. Elevating those stories through National Heritage Area recognition will strengthen community identity, increase visitor engagement, and drive sustainable economic activity that benefits local businesses and residents alike.

We commend the leadership and dedication of the Sowams Heritage Area project team and look forward to continued partnership as this important initiative moves forward. The East Bay Chamber is proud to stand in support of this effort and the long-term cultural and economic vitality it represents.

Sincerely,

Andy Arruda

Chairman
 East Bay Chamber of Commerce

16 Cutler St. Warren, RI 02885 | [\(401\) 245-0750](tel:(401)245-0750) | Fax: (401) 245-0110 | info@eastbaychamberri.org

EXPLORE
BRISTOL
RHODE ISLAND

February 18, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

On behalf of Explore Bristol, I am pleased to support designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

Our businesses depend on the tourists they attract. Bristol residents have a deep appreciation for the national significance of our quintessential New England town. Our manufacturers in the blue economy carry the legacy of marine trades that has defined the economy of Sowams for centuries.

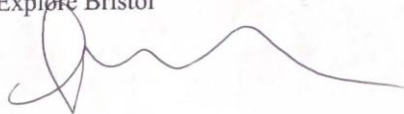
Our cultural venues—Mt. Hope Farm, Linden Place, Blithewold Manor Gardens and Arboetum, Herreshoff Marine Museum, the Bristol Art Museum, the Middle Passage Port Marker Project, and Coggeshall Farm—are part of the Sowams Heritage Area family.

What Sowams Heritage Area brings to the table is the power regional partnerships, opportunities to share resources and a network of cross-promotion. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Alayne White, Co -Chair of Explore Bristol

11 Constitution St.
Bristol, RI 02809
info@explorebristolri.com





May 20, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

As the founder and CEO of Hope and Main Culinary Incubator, I write to express my enthusiastic support for the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

I have followed this project with interest for the last four years, first advising the planning team on their outreach campaign and then hosting one of their first public input sessions at our food maker space in Warren, RI. We are all makers in our communities, whether we're producing food products or building boats or developing heritage programming. Hope and Main and Sowams Heritage Area share the same reverence for our heritage and commitment to honoring the legacy of those who have lived here.

As the founder of Hope and Main, I know the challenge of mobilizing diverse communities around a worthy cause. The Sowams planning team has earned the confidence and respect of stakeholders across two states and nine towns. NHA designation will take that to the next level and lift all boats, including ours. This landscape deserves to be recognized, not only for its unique role in the American origin story, but also for the way it is being carefully stewarded by today.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Raiola, MPH
President & Founder

691 Main St., Warren, RI 02885 | www.makefoordyourbusiness.org | (401) 245-7400

PROVIDENCE WARWICK CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

May 28, 2026

To the Board of Directors of Sowams Heritage Area,

On behalf of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, I would like to establish our support for the Congressional designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

Tourism is one Rhode Island's largest industries, employing tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders and bringing millions of visitors to the Ocean State. As the destination marketing organization for Providence and Warwick, we sell and market nearly half of the hotel rooms in the state. Many of our visitors are drawn to Rhode Island for its rich history, vibrant culture and stunning natural beauty. This project combines all of those elements in one.

Over the last four years, Sowams Heritage Area has made tremendous progress raising awareness of the region's pivotal role in shaping the nation. Designating Sowams as an NHA will lift all boats, shining a national spotlight not only on Sowams, but also on the Ocean State and the Bay State.

We are pleased to be included in the Sowams partnership network and are excited about the opportunities to collaborate for years to come.

Sincerely,



Kristen L. Adamo
President & CEO

100 Westminster Street / Providence, RI 02903 / P: 401.456.0200

GoProvidence.com



3/12/26

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Tourism Bureau, we are pleased to express our strong support for the designation of Sowam as a National Heritage Area.

The Town of Somerset is one of nine municipalities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island located along the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that together comprise Sowam, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket leader Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and established a 50-year alliance that profoundly shaped the course of American history.

This remarkable landscape also served as the backdrop for other pivotal events in our nation's past. It is where King Philip's War began and ended; where Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and advanced the principles of religious freedom; where the business of slave trading helped ignite a trans-Atlantic economy and a powerful moral reckoning; and where the dynamic relationship between land and water has shaped the culture, livelihoods, and heritage of the region for millennia.

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven initiatives that recognize and celebrate regions that have made significant contributions to America's story. Although designated by the United States Congress, these areas are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government. Instead, they encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration while strengthening cultural tourism and local economies.

As an organization dedicated to promoting heritage tourism and regional storytelling, we believe the designation of Sowam as a National Heritage Area will help preserve the region's rich history while fostering responsible tourism, education, and economic vitality for the communities that share this important landscape.

We are proud to join the communities of Sowam in endorsing the designation of Sowam as a National Heritage Area and look forward to the opportunities this recognition will bring to celebrate and share the heritage of this extraordinary region.

Chrisanne Tyrrell

Chrisanne Tyrrell

Executive Director

Southeastern Mass Visitors Bureau

25 Elm Street, Suite 101, New Bedford, MA 02740 Tel: 508-999-5231



January 15, 2026

Executive Board
Sowams Heritage Area Project
23 Bridge Street, Warren, RI 02885

RE: Support for Sowams National Heritage Area Nomination

Sowams Heritage Area Executive Board,

The Southeastern Massachusetts Planners Roundtable is pleased to express its support for the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

Southeastern Massachusetts includes several of the nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities located along the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that together comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket and Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a fifty-year alliance that changed the course of American history. This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal chapters in our nation's past. Here, King Philip's War both began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island and advanced the principles of religious freedom; the business of slave trading helped fuel a transatlantic economy and moral reckoning; and the enduring relationship between land and water shaped the region's culture, economy, and settlement patterns for millennia.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Planners Roundtable recognizes that National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven initiatives that celebrate a region's contributions to America's heritage. These areas are designated by the United States Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government. Instead, they are intended to foster heritage conservation, community development, education, and regional collaboration; goals that strongly align with the values and professional practice of planners across southeastern Massachusetts.

We are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing its designation as a National Heritage Area by the Congress of the United States and commend the collaborative effort underlying this nomination.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Raposa, AICP
Organizer



SRPEDD
Southeastern Regional Planning
& Economic Development District

Acushnet
Attleboro
Berkley
Carver
Dartmouth
Dighton
Fairhaven
Fall River
Freetown
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marion
Mattapoisett
Middleborough
New Bedford
N. Attleborough
Norton
Plainville
Raynham
Rehoboth
Rochester
Seekonk
Taunton
Somerset
Swansea
Wareham
Westport

May 18, 2026

Sowams Heritage Area
23 Bridge Street
Warren, RI 02885

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors:

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) serves the 27 municipalities that make up Southeast Massachusetts, of which Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset and Swansea, MA are all in the Sowams Heritage Area. Our work is place-based and community-centered, meaning that we work collaboratively and transparently to create and implement plans alongside our professional partners.

Bill Napolitano, recently retired Senior Environmental Planner of SRPEDD, spent 35 years with the agency and was instrumental in securing the federal designation of the Taunton River as a Wild and Scenic River. He was also a founding member of the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee and continues to advise the Sowams planning team on the federal designation process.

Richard Peirce, who serves on our Executive Board, also recently joined the Sowams Heritage Area reconstituted Board of Directors, and we are proud to consider Sowams Heritage Area among our regional partners.

Sowams has built an impressive network of heritage, environmental, and civic organizations in the region, whose historic and cultural programming complement our planning efforts. NHA designation of Sowams will help us help our communities build a nationally recognized brand for heritage tourism and community development.

We enthusiastically endorse the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Walker, AICP
Executive Director

88 Broadwav. Taunton. MA 02780 • 508-824-1367 • www.srpedd.org



Blithewold

January 8, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

On behalf of the board of directors of Blithewold Manor, Gardens and Arboretum, I am pleased to support designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. As one of the most fully developed and authentic examples of the Country Place Era, Blithewold is a nationally significant tourist destination in Bristol, Rhode Island. In the long, sweeping story of Sowams, this garden estate chronicles the lives of a prominent, yet socially unpretentious family in the dawn of the 20th century.

Though seemingly worlds away from the devastating clash of cultures in the 17th century, Blithewold shares with its cultural partners in the region a commitment to educating the public about history and a deep respect for the land. We steward an exceptional collection of plants and specimen trees on the 33-acre grounds overlooking Narragansett Bay.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex history. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Lastly, by coincidence, I attended the Bristol Town Council Meeting when Andrea Rounds presented the case for support of this initiative. I was very impressed with Andrea's depth of knowledge and passion for the project. I was very pleased by the Town Council comments and the unanimous vote of support.

Sincerely,

Karen Binder, Executive Director

kbinder@blithewold.org

101 Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809 www.blithewold.org 401-253-2707

Mission: To preserve New England's finest garden estate through excellence in horticulture and historic preservation, and by our example to teach and inspire others.



Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

Coggeshall Farm Museum Bristol RI, enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. The Sowams Heritage Area is significant to the regional history and home to several cultural sites working together to share the importance of educating about the complete history of the area.

Coggeshall Farm Museum’s mission is to preserve this 1790s Rhode Island salt-marsh farm. We serve the local community and beyond as a living museum and vital educational resource through demonstration of daily farm activity and honest interpretation that reflects its historical, multicultural influence. As part of our mission Coggeshall Farm Museum partners with many local, historical and environmental organizations to further the reach for our educational programs. This designation will further these collaborations and broaden the audience that is connected to the community cultural organizations.

Designation as a National Heritage Area would significantly strengthen these partnerships, providing greater visibility, shared resources, and new opportunities to collaborate across communities. Importantly, this designation would also support the preservation of critical cultural landscapes and historic resources, while promoting sustainable heritage tourism that benefits local economies. By connecting sites across municipal boundaries, the Sowams Heritage Area would create a cohesive and compelling narrative that encourages visitors to explore, learn, and engage more deeply with the region.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell essential and interconnected stories about America’s complex beginnings, including Indigenous history, settlement, agriculture, and environmental change. This designation will help ensure these stories are preserved, interpreted with care, and shared widely for generations to come.

We are proud to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to uplifting all the communities who call this place home. Coggeshall Farm Museum strongly supports this designation and looks forward to continuing our work alongside our partners to steward and share the rich heritage of the Sowams region.

Sincerely,

Shelli Costa

Executive Director



1 Colt Drive | Bristol, RI 02809 | www.coggeshallfarm.org

From: Tony Morettini tmorettini@gmail.com
Subject: Sowams National Heritage Area
Date: December 8, 2025 at 9:02 AM
To: Nathan Calouro nathancalouro@gmail.com, Mary Parella maryp02809@gmail.com, Tim Sweeney RI timothysweeneyri@gmail.com, Aaron Ley aaron.ley@gmail.com, Tony Texiera MrTonyTeixeira@yahoo.com
Cc: Melissa Cordeiro mcordeiro@bristolri.gov, Andrea Rounds andrearounds@me.com



Dear Council Members,

Tomorrow night, you will be hearing a petition from The Sowams National Heritage Area organization (Andrea Rounds, on cc here, speaking on their behalf), to ask for Bristol's support of its establishment. National Heritage Area (NHA) is a Congressional designation for an area of particular cultural and historic significance in the US. Currently, there are 62 across the country, including the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Area just north of us.

This designation brings attention to the area it encompasses, and establishes it as a significant part of our country's heritage and history. Sowams, as you know, is the homeland of the Pokanoket, and is the basis for the Land Acknowledgement you passed last year, acknowledging Bristol's part in it (thank, you, again). As a particularly important part of Sowams, culturally, spiritually, and historically, Bristol, and especially Potumtuk (Mt Hope), it's important Congress knows we support the NHA.

The NHA will bring status, reinforce our place in history and, as importantly, establish us as a national destination for heritage tourism. While not costing the Town a penny.

Bristol has a long and proud tradition of celebrating our history, back to 1680. Our town seal has on it a Pokanoket and Potumtuk. Many of us have been to Metacom's Seat, overlooking Mt Hope Bay. It only makes sense that we assert our place as an essential part of North American history, going back to, and including the original people of the area, the Pokanoket. A designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area will do that. Please support this request to support Bristol as part of the Sowams National Heritage Area.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Tony Morettini
 46 Highland Rd

PS - sorry if you got an aborted version of this note. I hit "Enter," and it apparently sent the email. Again, my apologies. These things never happened when we actually had to "write" our correspondence!



MOUNT HOPE FARM

February 3, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Trustees of Mount Hope Farm enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Mount Hope Farm is a non-profit organization with a mission to steward the Farm's land, landscape and structures for long-term sustainability, while cultivating appreciation of our agrarian, Native American and Colonial history which is why being a part of Sowams is so important to the farm. We have a beautiful marker on our property signifying that we are a proud supporter of this region and the importance of acknowledging Sowams.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. Mount Hope Farm is pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Brenda Turchetta
Executive Director

**NARRAGANSETT BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

235 Promenade Street, Suite 393
Providence, RI 02908
401-633-0550
info@nbep.org
www.nbep.org

May 22, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP), I am pleased support the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

NBEP is a stakeholder-led National Estuary Program pursuing place-based conservation across the three-state Narragansett Bay region of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. We provide scientific data analysis and communication, independent convening, and funding for projects that advance the implementation of our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

For the last three years, NBEP's Geospatial and Design Manager has collaborated with the Sowams planning team to map the Sowams region. Our GIS maps have helped Sowams locate contemporary boundaries and measure the area's open space, wetlands, and bodies of water.

The Sowams team recognizes the critical role of the environment in history, the evolution of cultures over the centuries, and the protection of the region for future generations. Designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area would support implementation of NBEP's 2026 CCMP Revision by increasing public awareness of the many ways people have long depended on a healthy and vibrant Narragansett Bay.

We are proud to play our part in helping Sowams Heritage Area interpret the nationally significant story behind the natural features on the landscape and we enthusiastically endorse the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,



Darcy Young
Executive Director



Osamequin Farm

Nurturing Land • Connecting People

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of Osamequin Farm enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

Our mission is to share the historic land of Osamequin Farm by hosting a cooperative of small scale farmers, public gatherings, and educational opportunities for our community.

Our farm is named in honor of Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history. We do our best to honor this deep history and spread awareness throughout the community about the first people of this land. We see many opportunities for collaboration in the future with the other partners and players in the Sowams Heritage Area effort in order to deepen community awareness and engagement with the layers of history we are a part of today. We're enthusiastic about collaborative events, both on our site and elsewhere, opportunities for shared marketing and communication efforts, cohesive visuals and signage and language, and a general pooling of resources and expertise among the many partners.

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration. We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Debbie Block
President
Board of Directors
Osamequin Farm
Seekonk Massachusetts



March 11, 2026

Subject: Proposed Sowams National Heritage Area

To Whom It Concerns:

The *Rehoboth Land Trust* (RLT) strongly supports designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area pursuant to 54 US Code Chapter 1201.

RLT has dedicated 36 years to conservation of Rehoboth's natural resources, open spaces, and scenic landscape. We continue our mission of helping residents protect their land for posterity and ensuring that Rehoboth retains natural areas for public enjoyment and environmental quality.

In our conservation efforts, RLT recognizes the importance of our location in a region of extraordinary historical, cultural, and ecological significance. The Sowams area constitutes a unique portion of New England's south coast in which pivotal European and Pokanoket interactions took place nearly four centuries ago and which has since remained the scene of a remarkable convergence of many ethnic groups that make up our society. Sowams comprises much of the Narragansett Bay's lower watershed, a vitally important area for the health of this bay, a critical natural resource that connects us with the Atlantic Ocean.

RLT takes pride in collaborating with our neighboring communities and partner organizations to advance this worthy effort. The *Sowams Heritage Area* project offers an extraordinary opportunity for us to promote a regional and national appreciation of our distinctive tangible and intangible heritage. We believe that the establishment of our own National Heritage Area represents a collective assertion of our sense of place for a broader constituency. As it has elsewhere, this designation and associated outreach should bring a variety of benefits with respect to conservation, education, recreation, arts, tourism, and other commercial interests.

With excitement at the prospect of this new designation, we thank the *Sowams Heritage Area* project for their dedication to this initiative and wish them a successful outcome.

Sincerely,

Rehoboth Land Trust



THE BAY CENTER
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905
phone: 401-272-3540

SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE
8 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891
phone: 401-315-2709

HAMILTON FAMILY AQUARIUM
23 America's Cup Ave, First Floor
Newport, RI 02840
phone: 401-324-6020

May 22, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

Save The Bay strongly supports designating the Sowams region in the Narragansett Bay watershed as a National Heritage Area. The Sowams region has been a focus for Save The Bay's salt marsh and aquatic connectivity restoration efforts for the last 30 years from restoring river herring passage to spawning waters in the Ten Mile River and Palmer Rivers to restoring tidal flow to the upper Kickemuit River and salt marshes along the region's embayments.

Designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area ties to Save The Bay's mission to protect and restore the waters of Narragansett Bay and its tributaries. From the headwater streams to the coves and salt marshes along Narragansett Bay's shoreline, the Sowams region's waters link the diversity of habitats and the communities together. We collaborate closely with community partners including non-profits, land trusts, the Pokanoket Tribe, municipalities, and state and federal agencies on accomplishing our mission. The communities in the Sowams region are intrinsically connected to these waters and play an important role in protecting and restoring their health for future generations.

A National Heritage Area designation will build upon the grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate this region's contribution to America's heritage and will enhance regional collaboration on enhancing cultural awareness of this region and the ongoing protection and restoration of its diverse habitats. This designation will provide an opportunity to expand inclusion of indigenous, minority and underrepresented communities in plans for the future protection of its unique history, cultural heritage and natural resources.

Save The Bay looks forward to further collaboration with members of the Sowams Heritage Area Board and other community partners on supporting this federal designation.

Sincerely,

Topher Hamblett
Executive Director

savebay@savebay.org
SAVEBAY.ORG



May 20, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council (TRSC), I am pleased to express our enthusiastic support for the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

The Taunton River, which forms the southeastern border of Sowams Heritage Area, is a designated National Wild and Scenic River. We understand the significance of Sowams and its network of rivers and estuaries to the American origin story. The Taunton River was a primary waterway between Plymouth and Sowams for the Pokanoket Massasoit and English colonists and continued to play an important role in the maritime culture that defined the region for centuries.

We recognize the Sowams designation to be consistent with the goals and objectives of the TRSC's Stewardship Plan, which promotes the following actions in the Taunton Wild & Scenic River corridor and its watershed:

"Increase Public Awareness of the historical and archaeological resources of the Taunton River and its tributaries"

"Inventory and Document historical and archaeological resources of the Taunton River and its tributaries"

"Seek Protection for threatened sites and areas of highest archeological sensitivity"

As one of the original funders of the Sowams Heritage Area feasibility, TRSC has been on the ground floor of this exciting initiative. Over the last four years, we have watched the Sowams planning team develop a comprehensive and inclusive case for NHA designation. As important, they have built a robust network of support, mobilizing environmental, heritage, and civic organizations throughout the region.

We applaud their efforts and look forward to partnering with them for years to come.

Sincerely,

Gloria Bancroft
Council Coordinator
gbancroft@savethetaunton.org
tauntonriver.org

Watershed Center- Sweets Knoll State Park, 1387 Somerset Ave, (Rt 138), Dighton MA
Mailing address- P.O. Box 1116 Taunton, MA 02780; www.tauntonriver.org

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Warren Land Trust enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

Our mission is to protect open space in Warren and keep that land undeveloped forever. The trust preserves and restores land for the benefit of the general public and the conservation of Warren's natural resources, and recognizes the rich traditions of the native people who lived as one with the land. We are honored to be acting as stewards of these historic properties, maintaining them as much as possible in their natural state.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Pisano

Kate Pisano
President
Warren Land Trust



WARREN LAND TRUST
P.O. Box 565, Warren, RI 02885
WarrenLCT.org

Kate Pisano, President
E. Jenny K. Flanagan, Treasurer
Martha Antaya, Secretary

Kara Johnston
Max Bliss
Thomas Luthi
Anat Sagi
David Weed



January 2, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Barrington Public Library Board of Trustees strongly supports the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

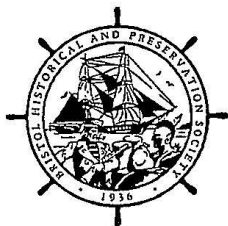
We are honored to join other civic organizations across the region in advancing the stewardship of Sowams’ heritage, environment, and diverse cultures. Through our collections, programs, and educational initiatives, the library seeks to enrich and inform the residents of Barrington and neighboring communities about the region’s significant history, ensuring that these resources remain timely, relevant, and accessible to all.

We believe that the nine towns and cities comprising the Sowams region together tell vital stories of our nation’s early and complex beginnings. The Barrington Public Library is proud to endorse the Sowams National Heritage Area initiative, and we look forward to partnering with you to bring educational programs about Sowams’ rich history.

Sincerely,

Vincent G. Wicker
Chair, Barrington Public Library Board

Barringtonlibrary.org
401-247-1920
281 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806



BRISTOL HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY
48 Court St., P.O. Box 356, Bristol, RI 02809

Telephone (401) 253-7223
www.bhpsri.org

To Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee:

On behalf of the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society’s Board of Directors, I am writing to express our enthusiastic and unqualified support for designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area. The histories of the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams shed important light on our nation’s complex founding years. This designation will elevate and emphasize these stories by providing a long-overdue national platform and bringing them to the attention of a nation-wide audience.

As longtime supporters of the Sowams Heritage Area, we have been pleased to collaborate on educational programs that set Bristol’s history in its larger context. As such, we are deeply familiar with the Sowams Heritage Area’s efforts to steward the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region and are equally committed to serving all the communities who call this place home.

Thank you for offering us the opportunity to express our support for this initiative. We are looking forward to seeing this designation move forward, to the benefit of our entire nation.

Sincerely,



Catherine W. Zipf
Executive Director

Founded in 1936 to promote historical research of Bristol, to collect and preserve whatever pertains to the Town’s heritage.



East Providence Historical Society
65 Hunt's Mills Road, (mailing P.O. Box 4774) East Providence, RI 02916

November 10, 2025

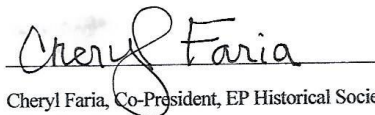
Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

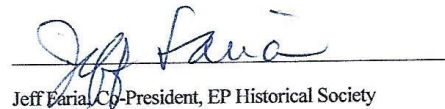
The Board of Directors of the East Providence Historical Society enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our mission is to enrich and educate the citizens of East Providence and surrounding communities about its history through excellent museum experiences and quality educational programs that are relevant and accessible to everyone. In fact, we are already working collaboratively with you on many aspects of East Providence history.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,


Cheryl Faria, Co-President, EP Historical Society


Jeff Faria, Co-President, EP Historical Society



Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation

November 15, 2025

Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation
265 Read Street
Somerset, MA 02726

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Somerset Historical Preservation. enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our mission is to the preservation of historic structures and landmarks.. In fact, one of our board members is already working collaboratively with you by serving on the Sowams Steering Committee.

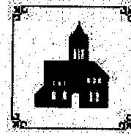
We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Peirce
Chair/Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation

The George Hail Free Library

530 Main Street Warren, RI 02885
 (401) 245-7686
 Fax/TTY: (401) 245-7470
www.georgehail.org



Chris Matos
 Library Director
director@georgehail.org

April 22, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of the George Hail Free Library enthusiastically supports the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

- Our mission is to advance intellectual discovery, foster lifelong learning, and enrich the lives of all Warren community members. The library's goals are to provide a variety of resources, innovative programs, and welcoming spaces that promote community engagement and connection while adapting to evolving needs.
- In fact, we are already working collaboratively with you, providing materials and resources regarding the history of this area.
- We see opportunities for collaboration through future exhibits, programs, and resources.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities that call this place home.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Barry, President of the Board of Directors
 Board of Directors of the George Hail Free Library



HERRESHOFF
Marine Museum

AMERICA'S CUP
Hall of Fame

ONE BURNSIDE STREET ~ P.O. BOX 450
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809 U.S.A.

Phone 401.253.5000
Fax 401.253.6222
Email INFO@HERRESHOFF.ORG
Web WWW.HERRESHOFF.ORG

March 13, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Herreshoff Marine Museum, I am pleased to support the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

Our museum chronicles the storied history of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company that pioneered boat building from the 1880s through the 1930s. Noted for the ingenuity and excellence of its designs, its construction methods, and its manufacturing and business efficiency, Herreshoff produced state-of-the-art steam vessels, torpedo boats, and racing sailboats, including seven America's Cup defenders—the largest, most complex and powerful racing sloops the world has ever known.

An international tourist destination, the Herreshoff Marine Museum exemplifies the legacy of marine trades that has driven the economy of Sowams for centuries. We share with our heritage partners in the region a commitment to educating the public along with a deep respect for the dynamic interplay of land and water which is a primary interpretive theme of Sowams Heritage Area.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex history. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Bill Lynn
President & Executive Director



November 26, 2025

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

Linden Place is pleased to support designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

The mission of the Friends of Linden Place is to preserve the treasured historic property for future generations and to create a welcoming environment by developing programs that enhance the artistic, cultural, and educational life of the community.

In fact, we are already collaborating with other organizations in the Sowams region to tell the complex story of the area, including Blithewold, the Bristol Art Museum, Bristol Garden Club, the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, Bristol Merchants’ Association, Bristol Warren Art Night, Coggeshall Farm Museum, Discover Newport, Explore Bristol, First Congregational Church of Bristol, Herreshoff Marine Museum, Mt. Hope Farm, Mt. Hope High School, LitArts RI, The Pennfield School, RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Rogers Free Library, Roger Williams University, and University of Rhode Island.

We see the designation of the Sowams region as a National Heritage area as an opportunity to strengthen our existing partnerships and establish new collaborations with museums, universities, schools, businesses, and other organizations across the region.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America’s complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cara Massey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

Cara Massey
Executive Director

Linden Place | 500 Hope St., Bristol, RI 02809 | www.lindenplace.org | (401) 253-0390



March 23, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Massasoit Historical Association (MHA) enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our organization charges itself with the collection and preservation of historical data and relics pertaining to the town of Warren and its history and to care for and preserve the Maxwell House as a museum space. We also preserve and mark landmarks and other objects of historic or architectural interest and conduct events and activities, to educate, and to stimulate an interest in local history. Our mission is aligned with that of the Sowams Heritage Area and MHA is the official steward of the Massasoit Spring in Warren, RI. We are eager to support activities that bring greater attention to significant locations.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Debra Jobin
 President, Massasoit Historical Association
 debjobinhomes@gmail.com
 Street Address: 59 Church Street, Warren, RI 02885
 Mailing Address: Post Office Box 203, Warren RI 02885



January 16, 2026

Dear Members of the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing to express our strong support for the designation of the Sowams National Heritage Area. We are grateful for your leadership and dedication to the preservation of this historically significant landscape.

The history and evolution of the Sowams region tell a unique story about the many cultures, communities, and events that shaped significant moments in our nation's history. This cultural landscape situated along the borders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island is the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe and the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that unraveled during King Philip's War. The regions layered history, including the origins of freedom of conscience and the separation of church and state principles enshrined within Rhode Island's charter, the history of forced labor and enslavement, and centuries-old cultural traditions in maritime industry and resource conservation contribute to the rich, multi-layered history of the Sowams landscape.

Designation as a National Heritage Area would provide numerous opportunities to elevate the stories of distinctive places that tell the story of a complex period of American history and expand community dialogue and collaboration about its interpretation for the benefit of future generations. Such a designation would not only expand access for public engagement with educational resources that interpret these historic resources, but also appropriately recognize the significance of the Sowams region with national recognition.

We are particularly encouraged by the strength of this initiative due to the ongoing efforts of the Steering Committee and their collaboration with key stakeholders. The development of an informative National Heritage Area feasibility study documenting the national significance of the Sowams region, executing a comprehensive public outreach and engagement strategy, securing the support of a diverse group of stakeholders, and the pursuit of a formal governance framework further contribute to the strong justification for National Heritage Area designation.

The National Trust is pleased to have joined the groundswell of public, community, and tribal support for this initiative with a contribution from our Telling the Full History Preservation Fund to assist with a feasibility study aimed at establishing Sowams as a National Heritage Area. Similarly, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with your organization and related stakeholders as these efforts move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Sowams National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Pam Bowman

Pam Bowman
Senior Director of Government Relations
National Trust for Historic Preservation

600 14th Street NW Suite 500 Washington, DC 20005
E info@savingplaces.org P 202.588.6000 F 202.588.6038 SavingPlaces.org

PLIMOTH PATUXET MUSEUMS

Letter of Support for Sowams Heritage Area

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

On behalf of Plimoth Patuxet Museums, I am honored to express our wholehearted support for designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

As the Deputy Executive Director and Senior Historian of Plimoth Patuxet Museums, I have followed the Sowams Heritage Area project for several years, often collaborating with Sowams Project Historian, David Weed, on programming related to early contact between the leaders of the Separatist Pilgrims and the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousquequin.

On March 22, 2023, in the Roger Williams University Library, Don "Strong Turtle" Brown, Tribal Historian of the Pokanoket Tribe, and I commemorated the 400th anniversary of the meeting between Pilgrim ambassador, Edward Winslow, and the ailing Massasoit. This historic event cemented the friendship between the two men, thus ensuring peaceful relations in the first 50 years of Plimoth Colony. In our public conversation four centuries later, Strong Turtle and I shared the different perspectives of the Pokanoket and English on this pivotal moment in history.

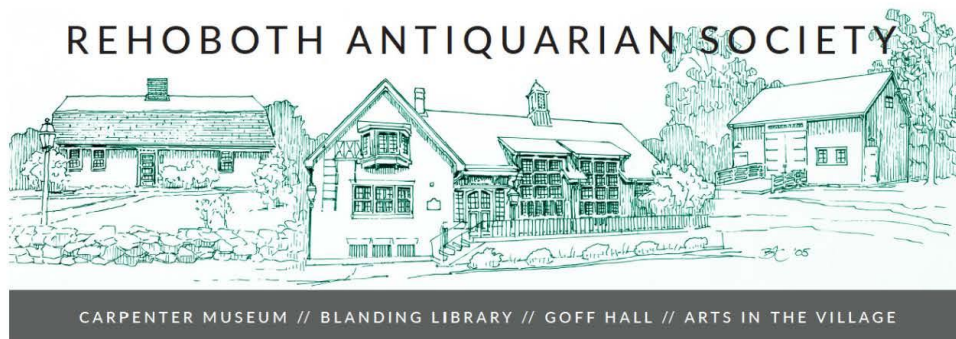
Later that summer, the Pokanoket Sachem and Sagamore escorted me to King Philip's Seat, the Miery Swamp where Philip was murdered, and other Indigenous landmarks in Sowams. Each time I visit Sowams, I am reminded of the tragic and poignant history that Plimoth Patuxet Museums shares with Sowams Heritage Area.

Designating Sowams as a National Heritage Area will provide necessary ballast to the colonial interpretation of history, enriching our understanding of the complex beginnings of the American story.

Sincerely,



www.plimoth.org • P.O. Box 1620 • Plymouth, MA 02362 • (508) 746-1622



December 5, 2025

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

As the Director of the Carpenter Museum I enthusiastically support designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

I am pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region.

- Our mission is to
 - Collect, document, preserve, and share material culture related to Rehoboth's history.
 - Connect the Rehoboth community with these artifacts and with local history in general through our exhibits and programming.
 - Provide the wider community with research support.
 - Promote learning about American history through direct experience with objects from the past.

The Carpenter Museum is already working collaboratively with you on educating our members and visitors on the history of Native Peoples in Rehoboth, hosting events, and providing our insight on the National Heritage Area Steering Committee. I see opportunities for collaboration in future educational programs and events.

National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, and regional collaboration. Therefore, I am proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

I believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. I am pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and am committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,
Danielle DiGiacomo

Director, Carpenter Museum
Rehoboth Antiquarian Society



21 May 2026

Sowams Heritage Area Project
23 Bridge Street
Warren, RI 02885

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

I write on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees at Seekonk Library in Seekonk, Massachusetts to express our enthusiastic support for the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Seekonk Library has partnered with Sowams Heritage Area, having hosted one of their first Community Conversations a few years ago. The Library property, Seekonk Meadows next door, and the Gammino Pond Conservation Area nearby, are on land that was part of the original Rehoboth Purchase in 1643. Our community values its ties to history and the land, and the Library’s programming reflects that.

Over the years, Sowams Heritage Area has built an impressive network of partners from all sectors of the community. By showcasing the region’s distinctive role in America’s founding years, their outreach has strengthened our relationship with our regional colleagues and raised awareness of the wealth of resources in the area. NHA designation would take this to the national level.

We are proud to partner with Sowams Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Alyssa Richard'.

Alyssa Richard
Chair, Board of Library Trustees
Seekonk Public Library

410 Newman Ave., Seekonk, MA 02771 | 508-336-8230 | seekonkpl.org | library@seekonkpl.org



Somerset Historical Society

274 MAIN STREET
SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS

October 25, 2025

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Somerset Historical Society, Inc. enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our mission is to collect, preserve the history of Somerset and the surrounding area for today and the future. In fact, our Director is already working collaboratively with you by serving on the Sowams Steering Committee.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Christopher Duarte

President/Somerset Historical Society



1464 COUNTY STREET
SOMERSET, MA 02726
508-646-2829

www.somersetpubliclibrary.org

December 4, 2025

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Library Board of Trustees of Somerset, enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Our mission is to serve the citizens of the Town of Somerset by providing access to books, access to presentations, access to public computers, access to a local history reference room, and a meeting place for various town boards and other organizations. We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Gayle Bradbury

Chair/Somerset Library Board of Trustees

June 16, 2026

481 County St. Seekonk, MA

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

As an educator at Roger Williams University, retired pastor of the First Baptist Church of Swansea, MA, and now Pastor in Residence at Community Church of Providence, I wholeheartedly endorse the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

In 2001 I became the 44th settled pastor of the third Baptist community established on the continent (1663). As a Baptist, it was like swimming upstream to find my origins. Here I came to appreciate who I am as a Baptist Christian and the heritage of the early Baptists. I co-authored with William H. Brackney *"Baptists in Early North America—Swansea, Massachusetts"*, Mercer Univ. Press, 2013. This was significant research into early Baptist history through previously unpublished records. This ancient source, the "Ilston book" is the record written by Elder John Myles beginning in 1649 and brought to Plymouth Colony from Wales. This volume is the oldest "Baptist" congregational record. It provides essential context for the early developments of the Baptist movement in the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies.

John Myles, the founder of the First Baptist Church in Swansea, MA, was my pastoral ancestor. He and his congregation built the very first "Baptist" meeting house in North America (1667) on Nockum Hill in Sowams (Barrington, RI). The structure was burned to the ground in what is regarded as the outbreak of King Philip's War in 1675. Thanks to the Barrington Preservation Society, the Town of Barrington and the National Park Service Battlefield Grant program, archeological digs there have revealed the charred timbers of the meeting house, which anchored the first settlement of the town of Swansea, MA.

The Swansea congregation is also of subsequent significance through its daughter congregation, the Baptist Church in Warren, where Brown University was founded, and James Manning, with Issac Backus, worked to disestablish the church in Massachusetts in 1833.

I am proud to be a continuing part of the Swansea story, which has such profound religious and historical significance.

Sincerely,


The Rev. Dr. Charles K. Hartman





BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ

461 County Road, Barrington RI 02806

Email office@bccucc.org

Phone (401) 246-0111

Website www.bccucc.org

The Rev. Joe Zarro
Interim Sr. Minister

The Rev. Racquel Ray
Associate Minister of Congregational Life

May 28, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

As the Associate Minister of Congregational Life at the Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, I support the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Our congregation was established soon after the King Philip's War and in 1737 the meeting house was moved to its present site at the junction of the Barrington River and 100-Acre Cove. It stands as a quintessential historic New England Congregational church with white clapboard siding, two story windows, and towering white steeple. Known to locals as "the white church," Barrington Congregational Church, UCC has played a role in the story of Sowams for more than three centuries. It is still an active congregation which hosts community events as well as church life activities due to its excellent location, accessibility, and large commuter parking lot.

I have been keenly interested in the Sowams Heritage Area project since I attended their first community conversation in the fall of 2023. I attend Sowams Heritage Area project events on behalf of the church and the Barrington Interfaith Partners, like the dedication of the historic marker at Osamequin Nature Trails and Bird Sanctuary. This past January our church hosted the first meeting of the Sowams Heritage Board of Directors, which marked the formal transition of Sowams Heritage Area from a regional coalition to a formal regional network of partners. The planning team and their broad base of supporters have built a unique coalition of environmentalists, heritage, cultural stakeholders, and community leaders. Together, we are dedicated to telling the story of Sowams with many and diverse voices. It is an impressive accomplishment, and we have only just begun!

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, "the white church," is a proud partner of Sowams Heritage Area. We believe the NHA designation will show the rest of the nation what we've known all along—that Sowams is the setting for seminal events in our nation's history—past, present, and future.

Sincerely

Rev. Racquel R. Ray, MDiv



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup
nhsoukup@gmail.com

Office: 401/253-3680
 Cell : 401/338-4606

June 5, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

As the Settled Minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Bristol, RI, I support the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

I serve a congregation that was gathered in 1680, at a time when establishing a church was a precondition for founding a town. Thus, our church has been inextricably linked to the history of Bristol, RI, for nearly 350 years. We are very cognizant that our congregational gathering occurred on the ground where King Philip's War started and ended, and that we have a responsibility to be educators about this history. Furthermore, the life of this church has been intertwined with the American Revolution, the Civil War, and several international wars. Our members were Bristolians who lived and died for their country.

We have supported Sowams Heritage Area ever since we erected one of their first heritage markers in front of our church. We have invited Dave Weed to our church to talk about the Sowams history, and the importance of preserving the heritage area it embodies. Over the year, the Sowams coalition has made enormous strides showcasing Sowams' role in the early years of our nation, and the NHA designation will allow them to build on that momentum. Above all, they are shining a light on the origins of religious tolerance and the Separation of Church and State, a legacy which is a vital part of our worship today.

We are pleased to be among the partners of Sowams who believe in the power of place-making and place-keeping to help communities work together, grow together, and honor their heritage.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup
 Settled Minister, First Congregational Church, UCC, Bristol, RI

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809



Newman Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

100 Newman Avenue

Rumford, Rhode Island 02916

Telephone: 401-434-4742

Email: newmanucc1643@gmail.com

www.newmanucc.org

May 20, 2026

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors,

We live in a unique era, when the preservation, engagement, and understanding of history is shaping our present and future possibilities as a society in unprecedented ways. This reality makes your work of laying the groundwork for a Sowams National Heritage Area so important. As the minister of a 387-year-old church in the Sowams area, I'm proud to support your work.

Newman Congregational Church has the distinction of existing in three towns, two states, and three countries without ever having moved from its original location where Rev. Samuel Newman first gathered our congregation in 1643 at the base of an oak tree. He named the place Rehoboth, which was then the westernmost point of Plymouth Colony. When Rehoboth divided in 1821, the church became part of the town of Seekonk. Then in 1862, the state line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island shifted and the church became part of East Providence. Our congregation is the oldest in Sowams.

I started as the twenty-second senior minister at Newman Church during the 350th anniversary of King Philip's War, a seminal event in the history of Sowams. The second minister of Newman, Noah Newman, was himself involved in the war, and his correspondences serve as important primary sources for today's historians. Noah Newman provided overnight lodgings to Massachusetts Bay soldiers as they traveled to what became known as the Great Swamp Massacre in Kingston, the deadliest day of the war. Getting to discuss how this history impacts us today as part of a panel in May 2025 with the Pokanoket Tribal Historian Don "Strong Turtle" Brown was a powerful moment.

Last March, Newman Church had the pleasure of hosting the final Community Conversation for Sowams Heritage Area. The turnout was impressive, both in the number of people and diversity of backgrounds and organizational affiliations. We welcomed people from all over the region—historians, environmentalists, Tribes, elected officials, and spiritual leaders. I think we all recognize that this Sowams initiative can help us productively live into the complex history of our area, and create a legacy of collaboration that will hopefully outlive all of us.

Newman Church is proud to partner with Sowams Heritage Area and we look forward to working together long into the future.

Sincerely,

Rev. Sam Lovett



BRISTOL MIDDLE PASSAGE PORT MARKER PROJECT

PO Box 871 Bristol, RI 02809 bmppmp.org info@bmppmp.org

January 22, 2026

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HOLLY FULTON
VICTORIA JOHNSON
ELIZABETH STURGES
LESENA
CHARLES ROBERTS

HONORARY
JODY & BILLY ANDRADE

Dear Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project enthusiastically supports designating the Sowams region as a National Heritage Area.

We are pleased to join our partners throughout Sowams in stewarding the heritage, environment, and cultures of this nationally significant region. Last year, we successfully completed our mission to acknowledge the history and memory of Bristol's participation in slavery and the Transatlantic Human Trade and its resounding effects on African and Indigenous peoples by erecting a memorial to honor those affected by this history and their contributions to our nation. Going forward, we want this memorial to serve as a site for educating people on this history and for hosting reconciliation and healing ceremonies. We see opportunities for collaboration with the Sowams Heritage Area in this endeavor.

We believe that as a National Heritage Area, the nine towns and cities that comprise Sowams tell important stories about America's complex beginnings. We are pleased to be part of the Sowams NHA initiative and are committed to lifting all the communities who call this region their home.

Sincerely,

Bernard Freamon
President

The Bristol Middle Passage Port Market Project is a 501c3 non-profit volunteer organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



December 2, 2025

Dear Members of the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee,

On behalf of the Bristol Art Museum, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area. This milestone represents an extraordinary opportunity for our region; culturally, historically, artistically, environmentally, and economically.

The establishment of a National Heritage Area in Sowams would be beneficial to all parties and a community-wide benefit for both the region and the cultural institutions that serve it. Sowams sits at the heart of a landscape shaped by Indigenous sovereignty, early colonial contact, King Philip's War, religious freedom, the business of slavery, and the intertwined histories of land and water. These narratives are foundational for honoring the history and sovereignty of the Pokanoket and remain essential to understanding who we are today.

The Bristol Art Museum believes the NHA designation would:

- **Strengthen collaboration** among cultural, educational, and historical organizations across nine towns/cities and two states.
- **Support interdisciplinary partnerships** connecting art with history, ecology, public humanities, and tourism.
- **Deepen regional impact** by expanding program reach and fostering cross-community dialogue.
- **Raise the visibility of local institutions**, including BAM, on a national platform, ultimately enriching cultural engagement for residents and visitors alike.

The Bristol Art Museum is committed to being an active and creative partner in interpreting the Sowams story. Our mission is to connect people with art, ideas, and the lived experience of place, this aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Sowams Heritage Area.

We see numerous opportunities to collaborate, including:

- **Artistic interpretation of the five defining themes** - first contact, King Philip's War, religious freedom, the business of slavery, and the dynamic relationship between land and water.
- **Exhibitions and public programs** that help animate and translate these histories for a broad public audience.
- **Creative pathways to education**, employing the visual arts as a bridge between past and present.

This partnership is already underway. BAM's curator developed the Sowams logo and branding guide pro bono and she is now creating a photographic essay exploring what the Sowams landscape continues to teach us, and the Museum hosted the Steering Committee retreat this past May.

We look forward to deepening this work and joining the growing network of organizations committed to the creation of a Sowams National Heritage Area.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the feasibility study and offer feedback. We also welcome the invitation to become a formal partner as the organization develops. We strongly support efforts to encourage the federal delegations to introduce a National Heritage Area bill in 2026 and are honored to submit this letter of support toward that goal.

Please do not hesitate to reach out as your work progresses. The Bristol Art Museum remains eager to collaborate and help bring this important designation to fruition.

With appreciation and support,

Mary Dondero
Exhibition Curator and Board Director - Bristol Art Museum

10 Wardwell Street | PO Box 42 | Bristol Rhode Island 02809



Providence Cultural Equity Initiative

“Changing how the story of Rhode Island is told and sold.”

June 15, 2026

Re: Support for Congressional Designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter of support is submitted on behalf of the Providence Cultural Equity Initiative (“PCEI”), a Providence, Rhode Island based 501(c)3 cultural consultancy, and is intended to confirm PCEI’s full support for the congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area.

PCEI provides supports and services in the areas of cultural creation, cultural collaboration, and cultural consultation. PCEI’s mission is “*to steward and ambassador Rhode Island’s Cultural Sector & Economy.*” PCEI’s vision is “*to transform Rhode Island into New England’s premier cultural hub.*” PCEI supports and values uncompromising commitment to cultural authenticity, equity, and sustainability by promoting and presenting products, services and opportunities to engage with Rhode Island’s cultural sector, economy, and communities. Accordingly, PCEI’s Value Proposition is that PCEI is “*Changing how the story of Rhode Island is told and sold.*” PCEI achieves these goals by implementing a strategy of cultural placemaking, which 1) focuses on culture as a force that defines, connects, sustains, and distinguishes us; 2) centers the living culture of specific cultural communities; and 3) highlights the narratives that tie cultural communities to the place being made.

In this context PCEI fully supports congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area as PCEI believes that Sowams Heritage Areas as a tremendous example of cultural placemaking in southern New England. The Sowams Heritage Area represents a distinct and historically significant living landscape spanning portions of southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, encompassing the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket People, where relations between Indigenous communities and early European settlers played a formative role in the history of this nation. The area’s history includes the 50-year peace between the Pokanoket under Massasoit and Plymouth Colony settlers beginning in 1621, as well as pivotal events such as King Philip’s War, the birth of principles of religious freedom around Providence, and the long intersection of land, water, and multiple cultural communities. These narratives are irreplaceable elements of the American story and merit federal recognition and support for preservation and interpretation.

Page 1 of 2

PCEI strongly believes that the combination of these elements represent a tremendous opportunity for Rhode Island and Massachusetts to strengthen their market share of the international cultural tourism market through supporting cultural communities in developing and leveraging their cultural assets for the international tourism market. This is a key opportunity because not because cultural tourism represented \$6.52 billion of the Global Market in 2023, but also because it is forecasted to reach \$15.23 billion Global Market by 2031.¹ Further, cultural tourism represents 40% of worldwide tourism, with statistics showing that approximately 49% of cultural travelers are willing to pay more for lodging with distinctive cultural or heritage component.²

It is for these foregoing reasons that PCEI respectfully urges support for the congressional designation of the Sowams Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area. PCEI is confident that such designation would not only strengthen preservation efforts, enhance public understanding of the region's layered histories, and support equitable community engagement with heritage resources, but also establish an extremely attractive cultural placemaking initiative that attracts a larger share of the cultural tourism market.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any further support or information.

Cordially,



Raymond Two Hawks Watson
CEO/President
Providence Cultural Equity Initiative

¹ *Global Cultural Tourism Market Size, Share, and Trends Analysis Report – Industry Overview and Forecast to 2031* (Data Bridge Market Services)

² *The Importance of Cultural Heritage Tourism* (American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association)





STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Bristol Town Council
From: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
Re: 235 High Street — Reynolds School

Date: September 8, 2026

Dear Members of the Bristol Town Council,

Based on the Town's current facility needs and the ongoing costs associated with maintaining the former Reynolds School at 235 High Street, it is recommended that the Bristol Town Council authorize the Town to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of the property.

The Town has continued to maintain the property while evaluating its future use. Given the building's ongoing maintenance and operating costs, and the Town's other facility needs, proceeding with an RFP would allow the Town to determine the market interest and potential value of the property.

The Town Council has previously identified improvements to the Guiteras School Government Center as a use for proceeds from the sale of Reynolds School.

It is further recommended that, following completion of the Guiteras School Government Center improvements, any remaining net proceeds could be available for other municipal building improvements as determined by the Town Council.

The sale would provide an opportunity to generate funds from an underutilized municipal asset, reduce the Town's ongoing costs associated with the property, and return the property to the tax rolls, while advancing the Town's facility priorities.

Authorize the Town Administrator to proceed with the RFP process for the sale of 235 High Street (Reynolds School), including the necessary public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Contente, Town Administrator



STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

To: Bristol Town Council

Date: September 8, 2026

From: Steven Contente, Town Administrator

Re: Town Administrator Salary — FY2027–2028 and FY2028–2029

Dear Members of the Bristol Town Council,

Pursuant to the provisions of the Bristol Town Charter regarding the salary of the Town Administrator, I respectfully request that the Town Council consider establishing the salary for the position at \$110,000 for FY2027–2028 and \$115,000 for FY2028–2029. The current salary for FY2026–2027 is \$105,000.

For the Council's consideration, I have attached the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns (RILCT) Annual Salary Survey for Municipal CEOs, which provides comparative salary information for municipal chief executive positions throughout Rhode Island. I have also attached a comparison of the base salaries of Bristol Town department heads, as reflected in the Town's FY2026–2027 adopted budget. This provides an additional reference point for evaluating the compensation of the Town Administrator relative to other senior municipal positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Contente", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven Contente, Town Administrator

Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Municipal Salary Survey
Fiscal Year 2026
(Job Positions in Descending Order)

<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	
Municipality	
East Greenwich	225,000
Newport	225,000
Middletown	221,913
Portsmouth	190,245
Westerly	187,648
South Kingstown	187,598
Providence	185,210
Barrington	180,171
West Warwick	179,703
Tiverton	175,000
North Kingstown	171,847
New Shoreham	162,958
Smithfield	160,600
Coventry	154,500
Burrillville	146,010
Narragansett	145,307
Jamestown	144,364
Charlestown	132,613
Pawtucket	130,000
Woonsocket	120,000
Cumberland	118,642
Hopkinton	117,300
Lincoln	105,802
Cranston	105,000
North Providence	105,000
Richmond	102,625
Bristol	100,000
Warwick	100,000
Warren	98,940
West Greenwich	91,924
East Providence	90,000
North Smithfield	90,000
Central Falls	85,662
Little Compton	80,493
Johnston	75,000
Exeter	N/A
Foster	N/A
Gloicester	N/A
Scituate	N/A

<u>Chief of Staff</u>	
Municipality	
Warwick	176,095 Combined w. Comm. Devel.
Newport	175,027 Deputy City Manager
Providence	158,741
South Kingstown	140,700
Westerly	119,643 Assistant Town Manager
Cranston	100,478
Bristol	75,748 Municipal Ops Mgr.
Central Falls	73,853
Cumberland	69,904
Johnston	50,000 PT
Barrington	N/A
Burrillville	N/A
Charlestown	N/A
Coventry	N/A
East Greenwich	N/A
East Providence	N/A
Exeter	N/A
Foster	N/A
Gloicester	N/A
Hopkinton	N/A
Jamestown	N/A
Lincoln	N/A
Little Compton	N/A
Middletown	N/A
Narragansett	N/A
New Shoreham	N/A
North Kingstown	N/A
North Providence	N/A
North Smithfield	N/A
Pawtucket	N/A
Portsmouth	N/A
Richmond	N/A
Scituate	N/A
Smithfield	N/A
Tiverton	N/A
Warren	N/A
West Greenwich	N/A
West Warwick	N/A
Woonsocket	N/A

Bristol Town Department Heads**FY2027 – Base Pay**

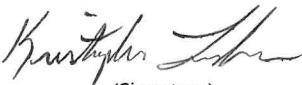
1. Police Chief Kevin Lynch - \$136,251
2. Treasurer, Carl Carulli – \$125,000
3. Fire Chief, Michael DeMello – \$122,260
4. Community Development Director, Diane Williamson – \$110,626
5. Director of Public Works, Chris Parella - \$105,644
6. Town Administrator, Steven Contente – \$105,000
7. Town Clerk, Melissa Cordeiro – \$104,375
8. Tax Assessor, Kristopher Leadem – \$101,970
9. Rogers Free Library Director, Eileen Dyer - \$97,581
10. Harbor Master, Gregg Marsili - \$96,378

BID/RFP ADVERTISING AUTHORIZATION FORM

This authorization form must be fully completed. Bids will not be considered unless accompanied by a signed authorization from both the Town Treasurer and Town Administrator. It is the responsibility of the submitting party to ensure completeness before submission to the Clerk's office.

BID/RFP # 1096

REQUESTED BY: Kristopher Leadem-Tax Assessor/
(Printed)


(Signature)

BRIEF PROJECT NARRATIVE:

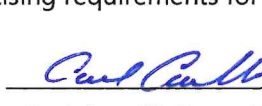
12/31/2027 Full Revaluation. Re assessment of all Real Property. RIGL 44-5-11.6

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Approved by Town Council (Date) 4/27/2026
Regular Budget Line Item (Number) 501 43450
Special Appropriation _____
Grant (source) _____
Other _____

Authorization is hereby granted to proceed with the advertising requirements for the Bid/RFP described above.

 8/5/26
Steven Contente, Town Administrator (Date)

 8/4/26
Carl Carulli, Town Treasurer (Date)

Pre-Bid Meeting ☒no ☐yes **if yes,** ☐mandatory or ☐recommended

Date: 9/16/2026 - Bid Opening Time: 12 pm

Location: 10 Court Street

Special Instructions (if applicable): _____

Question Submission Information:

Deadline Date: September 8, 2026 Time:12pm

Contact Name: Kristopher Leadem, Tax Assessor

Contact email: kleadem@bristolri.gov Phone #401-253-700 xt 142

All fields must be completed. Incomplete authorization forms may be rejected, leading to potential postponement of bid opening dates. Forms must be completed and submitted with the bid documents no later than one week before the first scheduled advertising date.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BRISTOL INVITATION TO BID BID NO. 1096

Sealed Bids will be received until 12 noon on September 16, 2026, for the following:

2027 FULL REVALUATION UPDATE

BIDS WILL BE OPENED AT 12 NOON AT THE BRISTOL TOWN HALL, 10 COURT STREET ON September 16, 2026, FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF September 16, 2026.

The Town of Bristol is requesting sealed bids for a 2027 Full Revaluation Update in accordance with all terms and specifications contained herein.

Specifications may be obtained and bids MUST be filed at the Office of the Town Clerk, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809. Specifications are available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/rhode-island/bristolri> by registering and/or logging in as a vendor.

Bids (one original marked "MASTER" and one copy) must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be clearly marked on the outside, "**Bid #1096 – 2027 FULL REVALUATION UPDATE**" and addressed to the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809. Sealed bids will be received until 12 noon on September 16, 2026.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Town Clerk's Office (401) 253-7000 three business days prior to the bid opening.

The Town reserves all rights to reject any and all bids, or any part thereof, or to go on the open market when it is deemed in the best interest of the Town.

MELISSA CORDEIRO
TOWN CLERK

August 27 & September 3, 2026

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
INVITATION TO BID
BID No. 1096**

Sealed Bids will be received until 12 noon on September 16, 2026, for the following:

2027 FULL REVALUATION UPDATE

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MELISSA CORDEIRO
TOWN CLERK

August 27 & September 3, 2026

BID/RFP ADVERTISING AUTHORIZATION FORM

This authorization form must be fully completed. Bids will not be considered unless accompanied by a signed authorization from both the Town Treasurer and Town Administrator. It is the responsibility of the submitting party to ensure completeness before submission to the Clerk's office.

BID/RFP # 1097

REQUESTED BY: Nicholas Tote / [Signature]
(Printed) (Signature)

BRIEF PROJECT NARRATIVE: Replacement of clay sewer
pipes running to Gutters

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Approved by Town Council (Date) _____
Regular Budget Line Item (Number) 3154 001 49500 1000
Special Appropriation _____
Grant (source) _____
Other _____

Authorization is hereby granted to proceed with the advertising requirements for the Bid/RFP described above.

[Signature]
Steven Contente, Town Administrator (Date)

Carl Carulli 8/17/26
Carl Carulli, Town Treasurer (Date)

Pre-Bid Meeting ☒ no ☐ yes if yes, ☐ mandatory or ☐ recommended

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Special Instructions (if applicable): _____

Question Submission Information:

Deadline Date: September 9 Time: 12 PM

Contact Name: Nicholas Tote

Contact email: ntote@bristolri.gov Phone # (401) 253-7000x153

All fields must be completed. Incomplete authorization forms may be rejected, leading to potential postponement of bid opening dates. Forms must be completed and submitted with the bid documents no later than one week before the first scheduled advertising date.

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
INVITATION TO BID
BID NO. 1097**

Sealed Bids will be received until 12 noon on September 16, 2026, for the following:

**GUTERAS SCHOOL SEWER LINE
REPLACEMENT**

BIDS WILL BE OPENED AT 12 NOON AT THE BRISTOL TOWN HALL, 10 COURT STREET ON September 16, 2026, FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF September 16, 2026.

The Town of Bristol is requesting sealed bids for the Guterias School Sewer Line Replacement in accordance with all terms and specifications contained herein.

Specifications may be obtained and bids MUST be filed at the Office of the Town Clerk, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809. Specifications are available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/rhode-island/bristolri> by registering and/or logging in as a vendor.

Bids (one original marked "MASTER" and one copy) must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be clearly marked on the outside, "**Bid #1097 – GUTERAS SCHOOL SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT**" and addressed to the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809. Sealed bids will be received until 12 noon on September 16, 2026.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Town Clerk's Office (401) 253-7000 three business days prior to the bid opening.

The Town reserves all rights to reject any and all bids, or any part thereof, or to go on the open market when it is deemed in the best interest of the Town.

MELISSA CORDEIRO
TOWN CLERK

August 27 & September 3, 2026

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
INVITATION TO BID
BID No. 1097**

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MELISSA CORDEIRO
TOWN CLERK

August 27 & September 3, 2026



BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

FY2026 ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026

BCWARI.COM



INTRODUCTION

For more than 100 years, the water supply for Barrington, Bristol, and Warren was managed by the Bristol County Water Company. The Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) was established in 1984 by the Rhode Island legislature, and BCWA assumed full responsibility for the county's water supply in 1986.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	SECTION II

BCWA continually adopts operational efficiencies while it invests in, modernizes, and maintains the utility. With strategic planning, vigilant maintenance, and constant innovation, BCWA successfully supplies an average of 3.2 million gallons of quality water daily to 17,446 metered service connections. BCWA serves a customer population of 50,793 residents and more than 1,000 commercial users.

ABOUT BCWA

MISSION

To provide the highest quality water to all our customers.

VISION

BCWA will be a model regional water utility, recognized for its customer focus, water quality, system reliability, and efficiency.

VALUES



Quality product and exceptional customer service



Effective and efficient asset managment



Environmental sensitivity

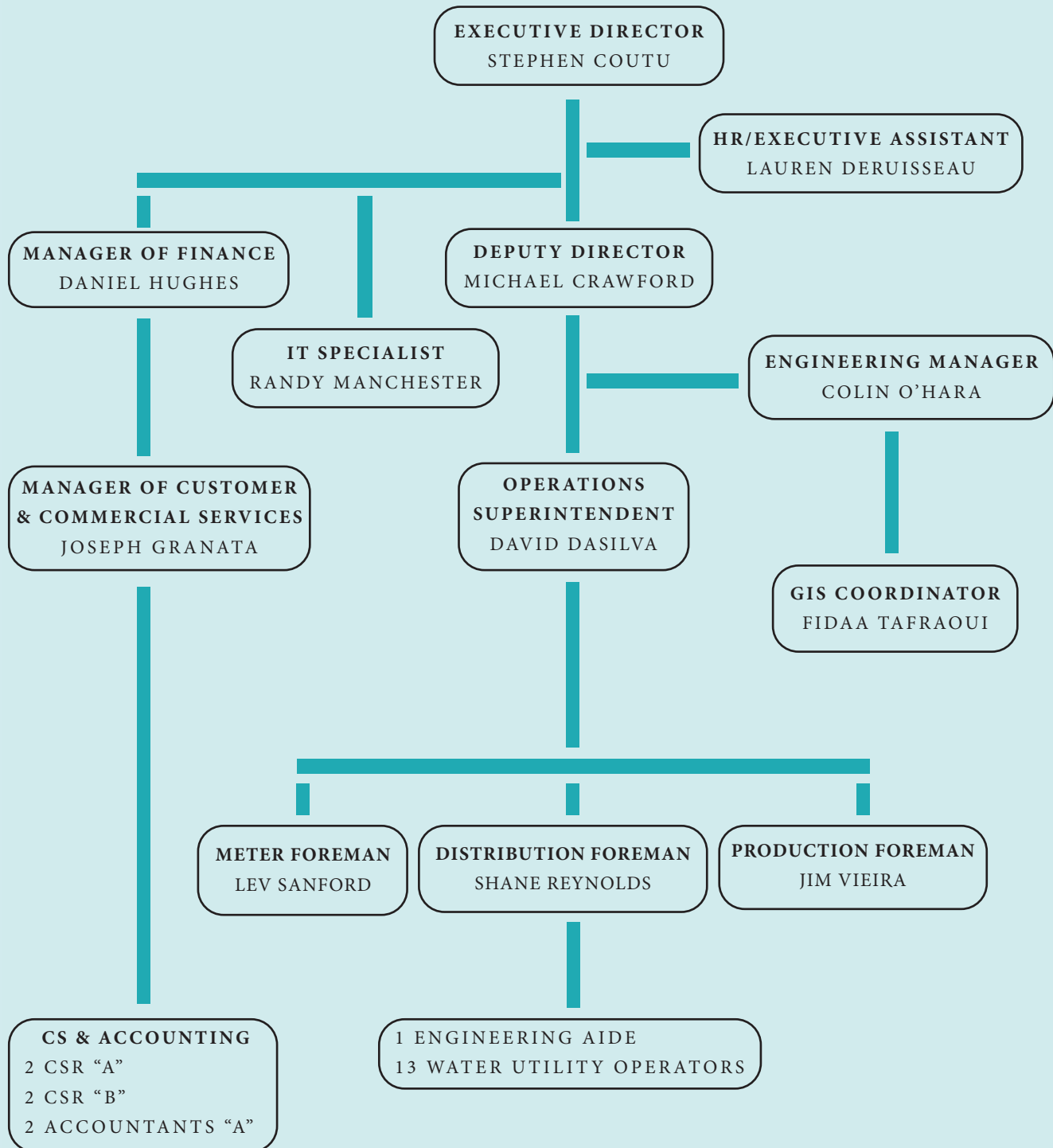


Employee development



Integrity and transparency

ORGANIZATION





A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

JUAN MARISCAL

ON JULY 4, 2026, THE UNITED STATES CELEBRATES ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Rhode Island was the first of the thirteen colonies to officially renounce its allegiance to King George III two months earlier on May 4, 1776. Rhode Island traces its colonial roots to Roger Williams' founding of Providence in 1636 after being banished from Massachusetts. The winter of 1635-36 has been reported as a bitterly cold one, sounding like our recent 2025-2026 winter. Fortunately, Roger Williams was helped by the native Wampanoags and Narragansetts from which he was able to purchase land where there was a freshwater spring. This water source was the first drinking water source for Roger Williams and other settlers in Providence.

Without Roger Williams finding a good water source, Providence and Rhode Island might not exist today as

we know it. Similarly, Bristol County's water sources were defined and supported the development of the three communities that the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) serves today.

Unfortunately, BCWA's original water sources are no longer available in the proper quantity and quality for Bristol County. Fortunately, through foresight and considerable planning, engineering, and construction, the BCWA built the Cross-Bay Pipeline which now provides the daily drinking water needs of over 50,000 Bristol County residents and businesses. Seven years ago, a pipeline leak (since repaired) highlighted the risks of relying on a single water source and transmission system.

We are now focused on completing the design and permitting of a connection to the Pawtucket water system. The first part of this project, an interconnection with the City of East Providence's water system, was completed in 2022. This allows BCWA to access Providence water through two separate access points. The second part of the

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Pawtucket Project, the connection to the Pawtucket system, is expected to be put out to bid in 2027. Once completed, the new pipeline will provide the redundancy needed to adequately and continuously supply water to Bristol County for the foreseeable future. This pipeline will also provide the City of East Providence with needed redundancy. As such, the BCWA and the City of East Providence have entered into a cost-sharing agreement for the design of the Project.

In addition to this major project, BCWA invests significant effort each year in upgrading existing infrastructure. As our operations change, so does the use of BCWA-owned property. On Serpentine Road, a new more-efficient operations building will be replacing functionally obsolete facilities. This project is expected to be under construction in 2027.

Each of the nine board members serves on committees and meets monthly as a board. The public is welcome to attend these open meetings and provide input. We are very much interested in learning of any gaps that might exist in our water services and providing additional community services to address our main mission – to provide the highest quality water to all our customers. If you have ideas for educational, public information, demonstration, efficiency or other water projects, we encourage you to share them with us. Finally, it is very important to stress that our daily activities could not be accomplished without the excellent and conscientious work of our staff. Our staff work diligently to provide the most efficient administrative and field services at the lowest costs to our customers. We thank them for their professionalism and commitment to serving our community.





A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STEPHEN COUTU

THE BLIZZARD OF 2026 WAS A HISTORIC WEATHER EVENT, AND THE EXTREME COLD TEMPERATURES EXPERIENCED THROUGHOUT THE WINTER PRESENTED SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES ACROSS OUR REGION, INCLUDING FOR WATER UTILITIES.

Winter is typically the season when water systems experience the highest number of water main breaks, and this year was no exception. BCWA crews responded to 35 water main breaks caused by the severe weather conditions.

Whenever a water main break or leak occurs, our crews respond immediately, at any hour of the day and in all weather conditions. Thanks to their dedication, expertise, and professionalism, service disruptions were minimized and repairs were completed safely, efficiently, and as quickly as possible.

Harsh winter conditions place considerable stress on aging water infrastructure. Deep ground frost increases pressure on older cast iron pipes, making them more susceptible to cracking, while repeated freeze-thaw cycles can cause ground movement that contributes to pipeline failures. Like many utilities across the country, BCWA manages an aging underground distribution system. Nearly one-third of our network, approximately 78 miles, consists of unlined cast iron pipe.

Over the past decade, BCWA has replaced or improved nearly 20 miles of water main. While this progress is significant, important work remains to ensure the continued reliability and quality of the water service our customers depend upon. Maintaining and upgrading aging infrastructure is an ongoing challenge, particularly as construction and material costs continue to rise. Despite these challenges, we remain firmly committed to investing in the long-term reliability and resilience of our system through careful planning and responsible infrastructure improvements.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BCWA purchases all of its drinking water from Providence Water, which sources its supply from the Scituate Reservoir. Our primary transmission main connects to the Providence Water system through a pipeline that crosses 160 feet beneath the Providence River. A leak in this pipeline in 2019 highlighted the vulnerability of relying on a single supply connection and reinforced the importance of developing a secondary source of water. Establishing an interconnection with the Pawtucket Water Supply remains one of our highest priorities and would provide a reliable, high-quality backup source to strengthen the region's water supply resiliency.

The work we do is guided by four strategic priorities: maintaining exceptional water quality and strengthening our water supply; providing outstanding customer service; enhancing operational efficiency; and ensuring long-term financial stability. Achieving these objectives requires the dedication and teamwork of our utility operators, customer service representatives, management team, and the ongoing support of the BCWA Board of Directors.

Water is essential to every aspect of daily life. At BCWA, we remain committed to delivering safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water while maintaining the infrastructure and services our customers and communities depend upon. We are proud to serve our region and remain focused on meeting today's challenges while preparing for the future.



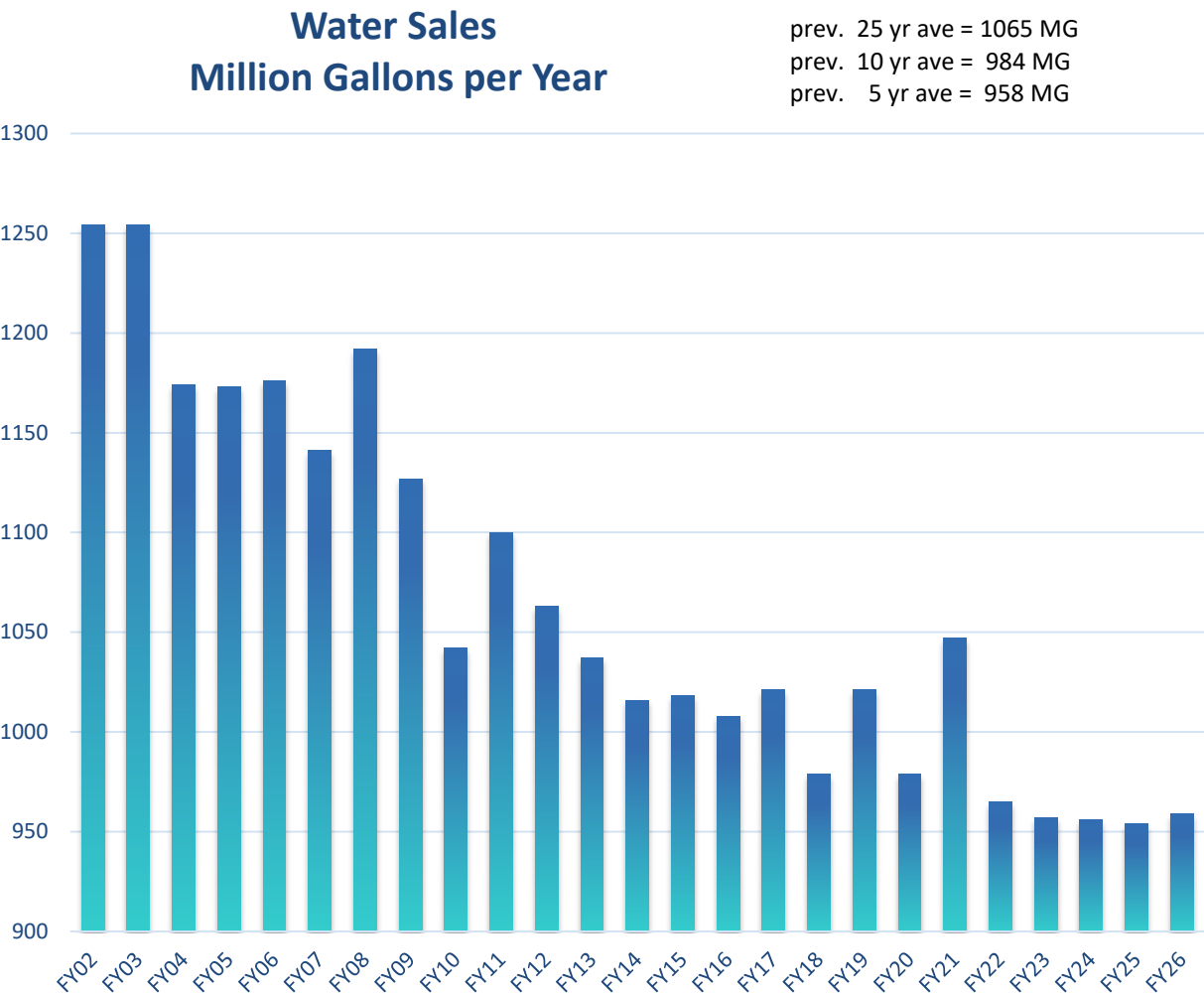
FY2027 RATE INCREASE

The BCWA Board of Directors has implemented a rate increase of 3.00% for FY2027 to help us fulfill our ongoing commitment to provide a safe, high-quality, and reliable water supply. This increase is crucial to meet our revenue needs and support our 10-year Financial Plan for the Capital Improvement Program.

With this rate adjustment, the average residential water bill is projected to increase by approximately \$1.92 per month, or \$23.00 annually. All funds received by BCWA are directly reinvested into our operations, reserves, and capital programs. This rate increase will help us

- ensure water supply security through the Pawtucket Pipeline Project
- finance infrastructure projects that enhance water quality and reliability
- continue to provide exceptional customer service
- preserve reserves for bonding and minimize future rate hikes
- adjust for decreases in water consumption

We understand that rate increases of any kind affect our customers’ households and businesses. However, this increase enables us to effectively address the current and future needs of our customers and the communities we serve while also providing financial stability to fund our critical capital improvements.



BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

FIVE YEAR COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

ITEM	FY2026	FY2025	FY2024	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021
# Customers:						
Residential	16,283	16,257	16,236	16,224	16,187	16,141
Commercial	1,066	1,070	1,060	1,060	1,056	1,057
Industrial	8	8	8	8	8	8
Municipal	89	93	89	89	103	85
Total:	17,446	17,428	17,393	17,381	17,354	17,291
# Employees (FTEs)*:	32	32	32	33	33	34
Consumption: (Thousands of Gallons)						
Residential	756,185	746,106	742,153	741,515	753,177	838,030
Commercial	184,953	187,308	195,733	195,180	190,196	187,366
Industrial	1,612	2,208	1,893	1,682	1,481	1,322
Municipal	16,488	18,428	19,249	18,362	20,397	20,845
Total:	959,238	954,050	956,028	956,739	965,251	1,047,563
Unaccounted-for Water (%):	12%	11.3%	11.5%	13%	9.97%	9.8%
Rate Increases (%):	3%	5%	6%	4%	3.5%	10%

FINANCIAL	FY2026	FY2025	FY2024	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021
Operating Revenue	\$19,617,256	\$18,326,430	\$17,247,931	\$16,167,735	\$16,066,002	\$16,223,925
Operating Expenses	\$9,563,252	\$12,868,736	\$12,973,560	\$10,947,462	\$10,322,013	\$11,386,966
Operating Income	\$10,054,004	\$5,457,694	\$4,274,371	\$5,220,273	\$5,743,989	\$4,836,959
Net Assets	\$115,229,536	\$103,741,363	\$94,849,837	\$88,100,798	\$83,135,047	\$78,034,477
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$3,852,646	\$3,472,279	\$3,187,563	\$3,364,224	\$3,291,024	\$3,094,067
Debt Coverage Ratio	9.39	7.87	6.66	6.87	7.62	6.74

*Full Time Equivalents

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JUAN MARISCAL
CHAIRMAN
BRISTOL REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 3/31/29



THOMAS KRAIG
VICE-CHAIRMAN
BARRINGTON REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 2/28/27



CHRISTOPHER STANLEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER
WARREN REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 1/31/27



RICHARD E. FOURNIER
BRISTOL REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 2/29/28



DAVID E. FALES
BARRINGTON REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 2/29/28



JOHN JANNITTO
WARREN REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 2/28/29



ROBERT MARTIN
BRISTOL REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 2/28/27



STEPHEN J. GROSS
BARRINGTON REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 2/28/29



FRANK J. ALFANO
WARREN REPRESENTATIVE
TERM ENDING: 1/31/28

FY2026 SYSTEM INFORMATION



PAWTUCKET PIPELINE PROJECT

The Pawtucket Pipeline Project is a critical infrastructure initiative involving the construction of approximately five miles of 30-inch transmission pipeline. The new pipeline will originate at the Kent Heights Water Tank site in East Providence and connect to the Pawtucket Water Supply near the East Providence–Pawtucket line along Pawtucket Avenue.

As illustrated in the accompanying maps, most of the pipeline will be installed along the most direct route within Pawtucket Avenue. The project also includes several complex engineering components, including crossings of Interstate 195, the Ten Mile River, and two active railroad corridors.

Design of the majority of the project has now reached the 90 percent completion stage and has been submitted for permitting to several regulatory agencies, including the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). Pending permit approvals and review timelines, construction may commence in 2027.

PROJECT PURPOSE

BCWA currently purchases its entire water supply—approximately 3.2 million gallons per day—from a single source, Providence Water. A reduction in supply, service interruption, or failure of the East Bay pipeline, as experienced in 2019, could significantly impact BCWA's ability to meet customer demand.

Addressing this vulnerability is the primary objective of the Pawtucket Pipeline Project. The City of East Providence faces a similar risk due to its reliance on Providence Water; therefore, Phase II is being developed as a jointly owned transmission pipeline that will provide both communities with access to an additional source of water supply.

Phase I of the project was completed in June 2022 and established a critical interconnection between the BCWA and East Providence water systems, laying the foundation for this next phase of regional water supply resilience.

PROJECT COSTS

Recognizing the mutual benefits of the project, the City of East Providence has partnered with BCWA in funding the Phase II design effort, sharing approximately \$2 million in design costs. The estimated construction cost for Phase II is currently projected to range between \$50 million and \$70 million.

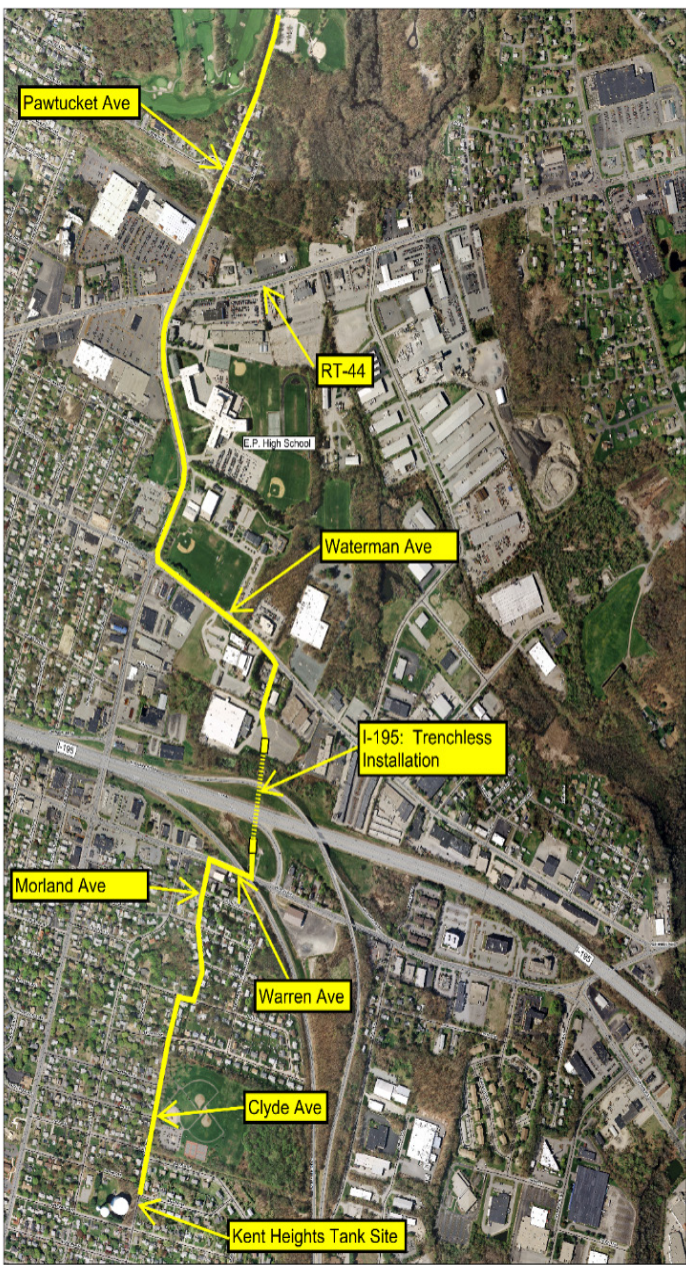
To prepare for the financial impact of this investment, BCWA has strategically built reserves over the past several years to help minimize the need for significant future rate increases. While the current project budget does not assume any state or federal funding assistance, BCWA has applied for funding through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, and the project is ranked on the State Project Priority List.



PAWTUCKET PIPELINE PROJECT

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Upon completion, the Pawtucket Pipeline Project will provide a critical level of water supply redundancy, reliability, and resilience for the communities of Barrington, Warren, Bristol, and East Providence. This investment will help ensure a secure and dependable water supply for generations to come.

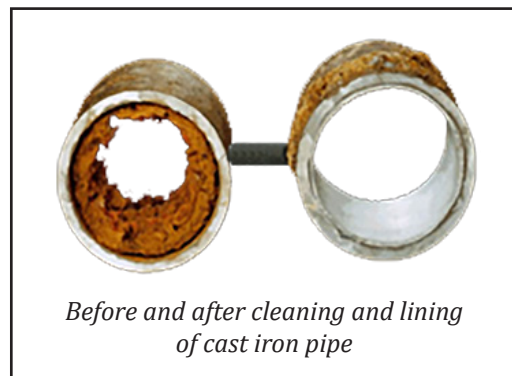


CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

INVESTING IN WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintaining and improving water system infrastructure is essential to BCWA's mission of delivering a safe, reliable, and high-quality water supply. Ongoing system maintenance and strategic capital investments help ensure operational efficiency, enhance system resilience, and support future water demands. BCWA's annual capital improvement program focuses on:

- Replacing, cleaning, and re-lining aging cast iron pipes
- Replacing or rehabilitating asbestos concrete pipe
- Eliminating and reducing low-pressure zones
- Improving system reliability by installing new valves and tying in dead-end mains



To support these efforts, BCWA allocates \$3.8 million annually for pipeline renewal and rehabilitation projects. Over the past decade, nearly 100,000 feet of water main has been improved throughout the system.

2025 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

BRISTOL: GOODING AVENUE AND NAOMI STREET

BCWA completed the removal of approximately 740 linear feet of 8-inch ductile iron and 8-inch cast iron water main and installed approximately 740 linear feet of new 8-inch ductile iron water main, along with associated valves, hydrants, and appurtenances.

This project was undertaken after sections of the existing water main were found to be compromised due to corrosion. Following completion of the work, BCWA expanded the High Service Area to an additional 94 customers.

WARREN: CHILD STREET

BCWA installed approximately 330 linear feet of new 12-inch ductile iron water main, and associated appurtenances, including cutting and capping of old water mains from BCWA's former water treatment facility.

The work on Child Street was completed to remove old and obsolete water system infrastructure from the former water treatment facility, including replacement of an older main within Child Street. This work also served to increase the resilience to the water main which serves the east Warren area.

CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

2026 WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Building upon the successful improvements completed on Child Street in 2025, BCWA will continue its infrastructure renewal efforts in this area for the 2026 construction season.

The project includes:

- Cleaning and lining of approximately 5,600 feet of existing water main
- Installation of 60 feet of new water main
- Eliminating and reducing low-pressure zones
- Replacement of 65 water services
- Installation of new valves and hydrants

Construction activities will take place in the Town of Warren along portions of Child Street (from Barker Avenue to Metacom Avenue), Metacom Avenue (from Child Street north to the dead end), and Kickemuit Road (from Metacom Avenue to Market Street).

These projects are designed to improve system performance and reliability so that our customers can expect a dependable water supply.



CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

LEAD SERVICE LINE IDENTIFICATION AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

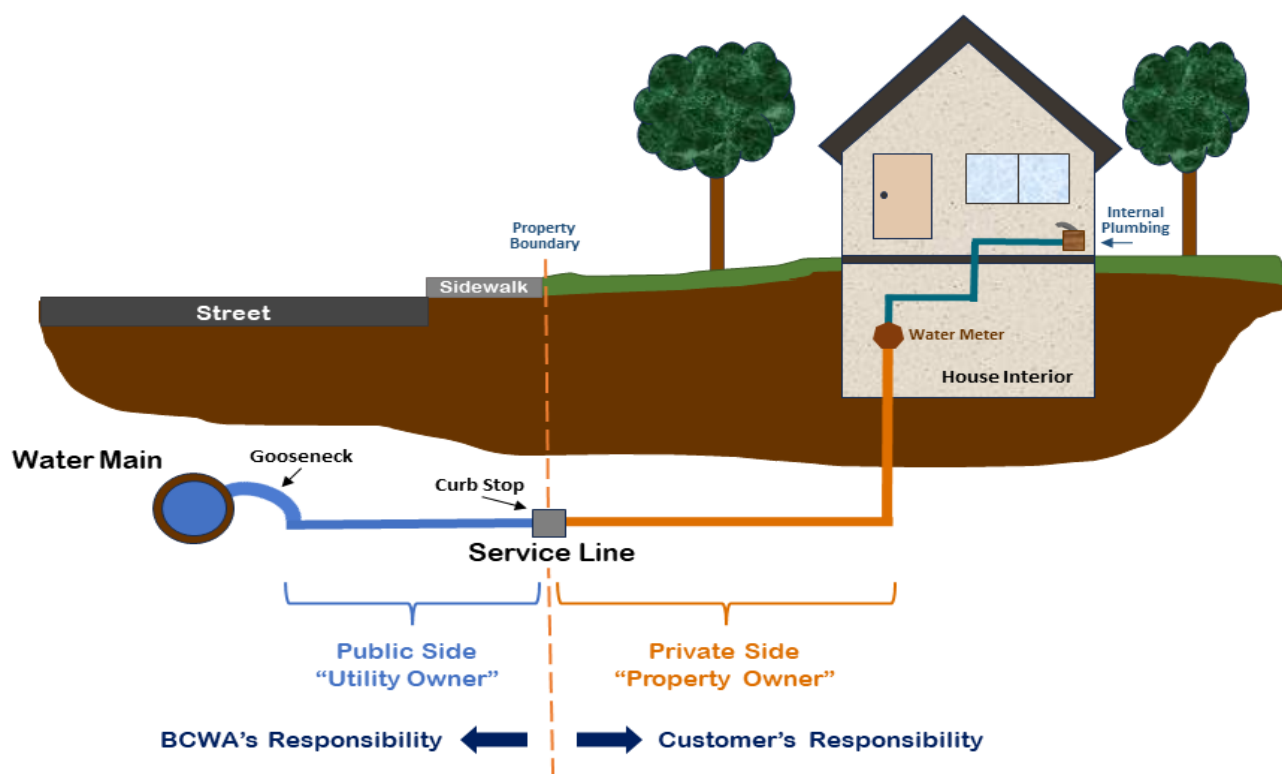
One of the most significant initiatives facing water utilities nationwide is the identification and removal of lead service lines. During the past year, BCWA continued to implement federal and state regulatory requirements associated with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).

For more than a decade, BCWA has proactively replaced public-side lead gooseneck service connections throughout the distribution system. In 2025, BCWA completed replacement of the **remaining 21 public-side lead service connections**, making the Authority's water distribution system **lead-free on the public side**.

Current regulations also require water utilities to develop comprehensive inventories identifying the material composition of service lines on both the public and private sides of every customer connection (please see diagram below).

BCWA successfully completed a system-wide inventory of all water service lines within the district and has identified the material composition of service lines on both the public and private portions wherever information is available.

To assist customers, BCWA maintains an online mapping tool that allows property owners to view available information regarding their service line materials. The Authority continues to work toward identifying private-side service lines for locations where material information remains unknown and encourages customers to participate in the online service line survey located on our website (www.bcwari.com/lead-service-line-survey) to help complete these records.



CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

RESTORING THE ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE OF THE KICKEMUIT RIVER

Following a decade of planning, engineering analyses, and regulatory permitting both the Lower and Upper Kickemuit River Dams were successfully removed. The project restored the Kickemuit River to a natural tidal estuary as it existed over 100 years ago.

This initiative, which divested BCWA from obsolete water system infrastructure was widely supported by environmental groups throughout our state, to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and mitigate flooding. The project received over \$4 million in grant funds, which has covered the costs for the dam removals and ecological restoration work.



A family of bald eagles have returned to the area



A community-based planting project was completed with assistance from Save The Bay and local volunteers in the location of the former Upper Dam

CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

REMOVAL OF THE SHAD FACTORY PIPELINE

With the successful completion of the Kickemuit River Dams, BCWA has begun planning for the removal of the Shad Factory Pipeline, a decommissioned water supply pipeline located within an environmentally sensitive salt marsh along the Palmer River in Swansea, MA and Warren, RI. The Shad Factory Pipeline once transported water from the Shad Factory Pond Reservoir in Rehoboth, MA to the former BCWA water treatment facility on Child Street in Warren. This project's objective is to remove approximately 3,000 feet of above-ground pipeline and further advance BCWA's efforts to eliminate obsolete infrastructure. The project is currently in the design and permitting phase.



FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN YOUR WATER SYSTEM

Divesting ourselves from the obsolete dams, water supply pipelines, and treatment plant facilities, removes the on-going costs and liability associated with maintaining infrastructure that is no longer part of the water supply system. As these projects are completed, BCWA continues to focus on future investments that will strengthen the reliability, resilience, and long-term sustainability of the water system.

Key initiatives include:

- The Pawtucket Water Supply Connection Project which will ensure future water supply reliability and provide increased system redundancy.
- A new Operations and Maintenance Facility to provide BCWA staff with the necessary equipment resources and work environment to effectively operate, maintain and improve the water system.

These investments represent BCWA's ongoing commitment to protecting public health, maintaining critical infrastructure, and ensuring a reliable water supply for future generations.



**BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
WARREN, RHODE ISLAND**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED
FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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CBIZ CPAs P.C.

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Independent Auditors' Report

To The Board of Directors
Bristol County Water Authority
Warren, Rhode Island

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Bristol County Water Authority (Authority), as of and for the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025 (except for the Pension Trust Fund which is as of and for the years ended June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024), and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Authority, as of February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and its cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management's discussion and analysis, pension plan information and other post-employment information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 23, 2026, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CBIZ CPAs P.C.

Providence, RI
June 23, 2026

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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Overview of the Entity:

The Bristol County Water Authority (the Authority) was authorized as a public corporation on May 12, 1981, by an act of the Rhode Island Legislature and was created for purposes of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining water distribution systems in order to provide adequate water supplies to the residents of Bristol County. Bristol County includes the municipalities of Barrington, Bristol and Warren, Rhode Island. In November 1983, the voters of Bristol County approved the establishment of the Authority and, with the appointment of its members, the Authority came into existence on February 28, 1984. The Authority commenced its principal operations on November 25, 1986, with the acquisition of the Bristol County Water Company (Water Company).

Overview of the Financial Statements:

As noted in the Independent Auditors' Report, Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) provides required supplementary information to the audits and should be read in conjunction with it. The purpose of the MD&A is to introduce and highlight the more detailed information provided in the audited financial statements. For example, it will assess the improvement or deterioration of the Authority's financial position and will identify factors that, in management's opinion, affected financial performance during the fiscal year under review.

The financial statements include (1) the statement of net position, (2) the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, (3) the statement of cash flows, (4) the statement of fiduciary net position, (5) the statement of changes in fiduciary net position, and (6) notes to the financial statements.

Financial Highlights – Fiscal Year 2026

- The Authority's net position increased by \$11.5 million or 11.1%.
- During the year, the Authority's operating revenues increased 7.0% to \$19.6 million. Operating expenses decreased from \$12.9 million to \$9.6 million or by 25.6%.
- The Debt Service Ratio increased to 9.29 for FY2026.

Financial Highlights – Fiscal Year 2025

- The Authority's net position increased by \$8.9 million or 9.4%.
- During the year, the Authority's operating revenues increased 6.3% to \$18.3 million. Total expenses decreased from \$13.0 million to \$12.9 million or by 0.8%.
- The Debt Service Ratio increased to 7.87% for FY2025.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Proprietary Funds

The Proprietary Fund Financial Statements of the Authority report information about the Authority using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies. These statements offer short and long-term financial information about its activities. The Statement of Net Position, (Balance Sheet), includes all of the Authority's assets and deferred outflows of resources, and its liabilities and provides information about the nature and amounts of investments in resources (assets) and the obligations to Authority creditors (liabilities). It also provides the basis for computing rate of return, evaluating the net position of the Authority and assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the Authority.

All the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Proprietary Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. This statement measures the success of the Authority's operations over the past year and can be used to determine whether the Authority has successfully recovered all its costs through its user fees and other charges, profitability, and credit worthiness. The final required financial statement is the Statement of Cash Flows. The primary purpose of this statement is to provide information about the Authority's cash receipts and cash payments during the reporting period. The statement reports cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing, and financing activities and provides answers to such questions as where cash come from, what was cash used for, and what was the change in cash balance during the reporting period.

Fiduciary Funds

The Fiduciary Fund financial statements are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties other than the Authority. These funds are not available to fund Authority operations and therefore are not reflected in the Proprietary Fund financial statements. The Authority established an Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust fund in FY2014.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Financial Highlights:

Summary of Net Position

Presented below is the Authority's condensed summary of net position at February 28, 2026 compared to February 28, 2025 and February 29, 2024. The statement of net position presents the assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position of the Authority at the end of the fiscal year. The purpose of the statement of net position is to give the financial statement readers a snapshot of the fiscal condition of the Authority as of a certain point in time. It presents end-of-year data for assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and net position (assets and deferred outflows of resources, minus liabilities and deferred inflows of resources).

SUMMARY OF NET POSITION February 28, 2026, 2025 and 2024

	2026	2025	2024
Current and Other Assets	\$ 53,014,325	\$ 47,151,209	\$ 44,684,003
Capital Assets	<u>95,907,896</u>	<u>96,413,212</u>	<u>94,952,797</u>
Total Assets	<u>148,922,221</u>	<u>143,564,421</u>	<u>139,636,800</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>1,029,108</u>	<u>657,106</u>	<u>1,187,609</u>
Current Liabilities	5,440,326	6,796,815	7,027,050
Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>28,005,028</u>	<u>31,842,462</u>	<u>36,596,918</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>33,445,354</u>	<u>38,639,277</u>	<u>43,623,968</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,276,439</u>	<u>1,840,887</u>	<u>2,350,604</u>
Net Investment in Capital Assets	67,036,481	63,184,236	57,788,012
Restricted	7,195,511	7,868,041	10,875,079
Unrestricted	<u>40,997,544</u>	<u>32,689,086</u>	<u>26,186,746</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>	<u>\$ 103,741,363</u>	<u>\$ 94,849,837</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

2026 Comparative Information

Total assets of the Authority at February 28, 2026 and 2025 were \$148,922,221 and \$143,564,421, respectively, a change of 3.7%. The significant components of current assets are cash, accounts receivable, and funds held by the Authority. The significant components of noncurrent assets are capital assets and funds held by trustees. Capital assets include land, facilities, distribution systems, construction in progress, and equipment. All capital assets except for land and construction in progress are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

Total liabilities of the Authority at February 28, 2026 and 2025 were \$33,445,354 and \$38,639,277, respectively, a change of 13.4%. Current liabilities include accounts payable, accrued liabilities, unearned revenue and current portion of long-term debt. Noncurrent liabilities are primarily made up of the long-term portion of debt and pension and OPEB liabilities.

Deferred outflows of resources relate to the Authority's pension and OPEB liabilities. In 2026, the Authority's deferred outflows increased by \$372,002. Deferred inflows of resources relate to the Authority's deferred bond subsidy and pension and OPEB liabilities. In 2026, the Authority's deferred inflows decreased by \$564,448.

Net position represents the Authority's equity, which is accounted for in three major categories. The first category, net investment in capital assets, represents the Authority's equity in land, buildings and building improvements, construction in progress, and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and related capital debt outstanding. The next net position category is restricted net position; this shows the amounts subject to external restriction. The last category is unrestricted net position; these funds are available to use for any lawful and prudent purpose of the Authority. Unrestricted net position increased by \$8,308,458, or 25.4%, for the fiscal year.

2025 Comparative Information

Total assets of the Authority at February 28, 2025 and 2024 were \$143,564,421 and \$139,636,800, respectively, a change of 2.8%. The significant components of current assets are cash, accounts receivable, and funds held by the Authority. The significant components of noncurrent assets are capital assets and funds held by trustees. Capital assets include land, facilities, distribution systems, construction in progress, and equipment. All capital assets except for land and construction in progress are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

Total liabilities of the Authority at February 28, 2025 and 2024 were \$38,639,277 and \$43,623,968, respectively, a change of 11.4%. Current liabilities include accounts payable, accrued liabilities, unearned revenue and current portion of long-term debt. Noncurrent liabilities are primarily made up of the long-term portion of debt and pension and OPEB liabilities.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

Deferred outflows of resources relate to the Authority's pension and OPEB liabilities. In 2025, the Authority's deferred outflows decreased by \$530,503. Deferred inflows of resources relate to the Authority's deferred bond subsidy and pension and OPEB liabilities. In 2025, the Authority's deferred inflows decreased by \$509,717.

Net position represents the Authority's equity, which is accounted for in three major categories. The first category, net investment in capital assets, represents the Authority's equity in land, buildings and building improvements, construction in progress, and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and related capital debt outstanding. The next net position category is restricted net position; this shows the amounts subject to external restriction. The last category is unrestricted net position; these funds are available to use for any lawful and prudent purpose of the Authority. Unrestricted net position increased by \$6,502,040, or 24.8%, for the fiscal year.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Summary of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

Presented below is the condensed summary of revenues, expenses and changes in net position information for fiscal year ended February 28, 2026 compared to the year ended February 28, 2025 and February 29, 2024. The information reflects the results of operations for the Authority. All revenues and expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis.

SUMMARY OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION For the years ended February 28, 2026, 2025 and 2024

	2026	2025	2024
Revenue			
Operating Revenues	\$ 19,617,256	\$ 18,326,430	\$ 17,247,931
Non-operating Revenues	<u>2,086,970</u>	<u>4,205,676</u>	<u>3,279,269</u>
Total Revenues	<u>21,704,226</u>	<u>22,532,106</u>	<u>20,527,200</u>
Expenses			
Water Operations	3,524,843	6,945,582	6,868,504
Insurance, Taxes & EE Benefits	1,322,580	1,308,687	1,450,497
Depreciation Expense	2,551,916	2,431,338	2,423,975
Customer Service & Accounting	540,707	512,939	631,202
Administration	<u>1,623,206</u>	<u>1,670,190</u>	<u>1,599,382</u>
Total Expenses	<u>9,563,252</u>	<u>12,868,736</u>	<u>12,973,560</u>
Non-Operating Expense	<u>(777,133)</u>	<u>(944,950)</u>	<u>(1,003,776)</u>
Increase in net position before Contributed Capital	<u>11,363,841</u>	<u>8,801,136</u>	<u>6,608,690</u>
Capital Contributions	<u>124,332</u>	<u>90,390</u>	<u>140,349</u>
Changes in Net Position	<u>11,488,173</u>	<u>8,891,526</u>	<u>6,749,039</u>
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>103,741,363</u>	<u>94,849,837</u>	<u>88,100,798</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>	<u>\$ 103,741,363</u>	<u>\$ 94,849,837</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

2026 Comparative Information

The Authority's operating revenues increased by \$1.3 million in 2026 versus an increase of \$1.1 million in 2025. These revenue changes in 2026 and 2025 are reflective of a 3.0% and 5.0% rate increase respectively imposed each year.

Total expenses decreased from \$12.9 million in 2025 to \$9.5 million in 2026. This decrease was caused by the adjustments related to the OPEB and pension plans along with prior year costs associated with the demolition of the water treatment facility tanks and demolition work done on the upper and lower Kickemuit dams that did not recur in 2026.

Overall, the Authority has shown a steady healthy increase in Net Position over the past five years averaging over \$7.4 million per year.

2025 Comparative Information

The Authority's operating revenues increased by \$1.1 million in 2025 versus an increase of \$1.1 million in 2024. These revenue changes in 2025 and 2024 are reflective of a 5.0% and 6.0% rate increase respectively imposed each year.

Total expenses decreased from \$13.0 million in 2024 to \$12.9 million in 2025. This decrease was caused by the adjustments related to the pension plan along with costs associated with the demolition of the water treatment facility tanks and demolition work done on the upper and lower Kickemuit dams. The dam demolition work is covered by grant funds included in Non-Operating Income.

Overall, the Authority has shown a steady healthy increase in Net Position over the past five years averaging over \$5.0 million per year.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Budgetary Highlights:

As required by its By-Laws, the Authority adopts an Operations and Maintenance and a Capital Budget prior to the start of its fiscal year. The budgets remain in effect the entire year and are usually not revised as is the case in many governments. A Fiscal 2026 and 2025 budget comparison and analysis are presented in the interim financial statements; however, they are not reported on nor shown in the audited financial statement section of this report.

	Budget FY2026	Actual 2026	Budget FY2025	Actual 2025	Budget FY2024	Actual 2024
Revenue						
Operating Revenues	\$ 16,978,656	\$ 19,617,256	\$ 16,549,425	\$ 18,326,430	\$ 15,867,055	\$ 17,247,931
Non-operating Revenues	<u>1,529,328</u>	<u>2,086,970</u>	<u>1,464,120</u>	<u>4,205,676</u>	<u>104,004</u>	<u>3,279,269</u>
Total Revenues	<u>18,507,984</u>	<u>21,704,226</u>	<u>18,013,545</u>	<u>22,532,106</u>	<u>15,971,059</u>	<u>20,527,200</u>
Expenses						
Water Operations	5,273,652	3,524,843	5,223,813	6,945,582	7,695,271	6,868,504
Insurance, Taxes & EE Benefits	1,688,188	1,322,580	1,719,140	1,308,687	1,725,987	1,450,497
Depreciation Expense	2,600,400	2,551,916	2,500,008	2,431,338	2,300,004	2,423,975
Customer Service & Accounting	547,007	540,707	533,014	512,939	507,784	631,202
Administration	<u>2,130,696</u>	<u>1,623,206</u>	<u>2,108,261</u>	<u>1,670,190</u>	<u>2,073,602</u>	<u>1,599,382</u>
Total Expenses	<u>12,239,943</u>	<u>9,563,252</u>	<u>12,084,236</u>	<u>12,868,736</u>	<u>14,302,648</u>	<u>12,973,560</u>
Non-Operating Expense	<u>1,824,544</u>	<u>777,133</u>	<u>1,902,340</u>	<u>862,234</u>	<u>1,298,700</u>	<u>944,950</u>
Increase in net position before Contributed Capital	<u>4,443,497</u>	<u>11,363,841</u>	<u>4,026,969</u>	<u>8,801,136</u>	<u>369,711</u>	<u>6,608,690</u>
Capital Contributions	<u>108,000</u>	<u>124,332</u>	<u>108,000</u>	<u>90,390</u>	<u>108,000</u>	<u>140,349</u>
Changes in Net Position	<u>4,551,497</u>	<u>11,488,173</u>	<u>4,134,969</u>	<u>8,891,526</u>	<u>477,711</u>	<u>6,749,039</u>
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>103,741,363</u>	<u>103,741,363</u>	<u>94,849,837</u>	<u>94,849,837</u>	<u>88,100,798</u>	<u>88,100,798</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u>\$ 108,292,860</u>	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>	<u>\$ 98,984,806</u>	<u>\$ 103,741,363</u>	<u>\$ 88,578,509</u>	<u>\$ 94,849,837</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

In 2026 total revenues were 117.3% of budget estimates while total expenses were 78.1% of budget. The ending Net Position was 106.4% of the budget projection. In 2025 total revenues were 125.1% of budget estimates while total expenses were 106.5% of budget. The ending Net Position was 104.8% of the budget projection.

Actual expenses in 2026 were 21.9% lower than budgeted estimates largely due to decreases related to pension and OPEB activity. Revenues in 2026 were higher than budget expectations based upon the 5.0% rate increase in 2025 plus the 3.0% increase in 2026 along with a slight increase in consumption as we return to normal usage.

Actual expenses in 2025 were 6.5% higher than budgeted estimates largely due to a variety of things including water consumption returning to a normal level of usage along with some decreases in administration and employee benefit expenses. Revenues in 2025 were higher than budget expectations based upon the 6.0% rate increase in 2024 plus the 5.0% increase in 2025 offsetting the decreased consumption as we return to normal usage.

Capital Assets

At the end of 2026 and 2025, the Authority had invested \$95.9 million and \$96.4 million, respectively in a broad range of infrastructure including reservoirs, dams, water plants and facilities, maintenance and administration facilities, water lines, vehicles and equipment as shown in:

	2026	2025	2024
Capital Assets:			
Land	\$ 2,020,265	\$ 2,020,265	\$ 2,020,265
Treatment, storage and admin facilities:	10,173,968	10,118,500	9,984,794
Distribution system	112,546,714	111,169,999	104,333,714
Equipment	12,693,741	12,478,100	12,284,597
Construction in progress	<u>1,212,325</u>	<u>921,227</u>	<u>4,192,967</u>
Total Capital Assets	138,647,013	136,708,091	132,816,337
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(42,739,117)</u>	<u>(40,294,879)</u>	<u>(37,863,541)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ 95,907,896</u>	<u>\$ 96,413,212</u>	<u>\$ 94,952,796</u>

During 2026 the following are major capital asset additions or changes:

- \$55 thousand in Treatment, Storage & Admin Facilities which includes a \$26 thousand canopy roof system.
- \$1.4 million in the Distribution System which includes \$1.28 million for Renewals and capital projects.
- \$215 thousand in Equipment which includes \$90 thousand for vehicle replacements and \$78 thousand for security system improvements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

During 2025 the following are major capital asset additions or changes:

- \$134 thousand in Equipment which includes \$110 thousand for a utility truck.
- \$3.6 million in the Distribution System which includes \$3.0 million for Renewals and capital projects.
- \$193 thousand in Treatment, Storage & Admin Facilities which includes \$110 thousand storage containers and canopy roof system.

During 2024 the following are major capital asset additions or changes:

- \$112 thousand in Equipment which includes \$81.4 thousand for a pickup with a dump body.
- \$4.1 million in the Distribution System which includes \$3.8 million for Renewals and capital projects.
- \$225 thousand in Treatment, Storage & Admin Facilities which includes replacing the roof of the administration building.
- \$10 thousand decrease in Construction in Process Phase 1 completion offsetting the projects underway.

In the below, the Authority's Fiscal 2027 Capital Budget estimates spending approximately \$20.95 million for Capital Projects, principally for the construction of a new operations building. Approximately, \$15 million will be paid with project funds from bonds to be issued late summer 2026. The remaining balance will be paid by cash IFR funds and projected cash flow in 2027.

Computer systems /SCADA	\$ 50,000
Facilities	325,000
Supply and distribution	3,580,000
Equipment/meters/vehicles	350,000
	<u>\$ 4,305,000</u>

Long-Term Debt

The table below shows the increase in the Authority's Debt Service Ratio from 7.87 in 2025 to 9.29 in 2026 due to a decrease in debt service offset by the increase in the Revenue Fund balance this year. Our Bond and Loan covenants require that the Authority maintains at least a 1.25 ratio of net revenues available to cover the current debt service for each year. A ratio consistently over 6.50 creates more confidence from lenders meaning lower rates for our current and future borrowing. This is evident in the excellent rates we received on our \$12 million Webster bond (2.88%) subsequent to 2023 and the TD Bank refunding of the 2014A bond to a 5-year bond at a rate of .975% during 2022. The key to this improvement has been building our Revenue & IFR Reserve Funds over the last few years which was offset by the \$12 million bond issue in 2023. (** Note-2024, 2025 and 2026 Net Expenses are net of cash paid to capital projects from operating cash).

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Debt Service Ratio Coverage

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Revenue fund balance	\$ 32,934,349	\$ 26,242,730	\$24,141,601
Revenue collected from operation	21,967,087	19,228,317	16,990,000
Interest income	<u>1,400,770</u>	<u>1,972,862</u>	<u>1,841,125</u>
Total revenue available	56,302,206	47,443,909	42,972,726
Total Operating Expenses, Net	<u>10,801,000</u>	<u>8,834,991</u>	<u>10,327,913</u>
Net Revenues Available	\$ 45,501,206	\$ 38,608,918	\$32,644,813
Debt service requirement	\$ 4,898,563	\$ 4,905,558	\$ 4,901,202
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	9.29	7.87	6.66
Debt Service Required Ratio	1.25	1.25	1.25

The table below shows that the total net Bond/Loan balance decreased by approximately \$4.1 million in 2026 as a result of the principal payments made during 2026.

	<u>2026</u>	Average Coupon Rate	<u>2025</u>	Average Coupon Rate
Bond/Loan:				
2008 Loan	\$ 1,449,000	3.15%	\$ 1,776,000	3.15%
2011 Loan	375,000	2.93%	429,000	2.93%
2014 Loan (RICWFA)	716,509	2.18%	783,533	2.18%
2018 Bond (TD Bank)	1,214,296	3.32%	1,706,247	3.32%
2018 Bond (RIIB)	2,753,700	2.03%	2,922,200	2.03%
2019 Bond (Chase)	11,373,000	1.88%	12,526,000	1.88%
2021 Bond (TD Bank)	0	0.98%	1,355,000	0.98%
2022 Bond (Webster)	<u>10,610,000</u>	2.88%	<u>11,085,000</u>	2.88%
Total Bond / Loan Balance	<u>\$ 28,491,505</u>		<u>\$ 32,582,980</u>	

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget and Rates

The Authority's Board of Directors and management considered many factors when setting the Fiscal 2027 budget, user fees, and charges. Inflation in the Bristol County area is considered to be comparable to the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase. The Authority uses regional average wage increases and wage increases in accordance with its collective bargaining agreement when considering employment cost increases. These indicators were taken into consideration when adopting the Authority budget for Fiscal 2027. However, historical financial data also plays a large part in its formulation.

	Budget FY2027	Actual FY2026
Revenues:		
Operating Revenues	\$ 17,413,293	\$ 19,617,256
Non-Operating Revenues	<u>1,599,288</u>	<u>2,086,970</u>
Total Revenues	19,012,581	21,704,226
Expenses:		
Depreciation Expense	2,600,400	2,551,916
Other Operating Expenses	10,630,648	7,011,336
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>737,988</u>	<u>777,133</u>
Total Expenses	13,969,036	10,340,385
Increase in Net Position before		
Contribution Capital	5,043,545	11,363,841
Capital Contributions	<u>60,000</u>	<u>124,332</u>
Change in Net Position	5,103,545	11,488,173
Net position - Beginning	<u>115,229,536</u>	<u>103,741,363</u>
Net position - Ending	<u>\$ 120,333,081</u>	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>

As shown in the table above, budgeted operating revenues available for recovering operating costs are projected to be about \$17.4 million, a decrease over last year's actual. Although a rate increase of 3.0% has been budgeted and implemented for Fiscal 2027, the Authority is conservatively projecting revenues to be lower than the actual of FY2026 with consumption returning to a more normal level. Historically the demand for water continues to decline. The possible impact of an extremely wet or dry summer, continued conservation efforts of the ratepayers, and other possible economic factors can play a factor in revenue for the year. We anticipate a slight decrease in non-operating expenses due to a decrease in interest expense. These projections will be reviewed for

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

propriety each year and/or when operating changes having a financial impact dictate. Budget expenses for FY2027 are estimated to increase slightly versus the actual expenses of FY2026 due to inflationary pressures on operating cost. The Authority is always making efforts to reduce costs and will continue to do so in Fiscal 2027.

Contacting the Authority's Manager of Finance

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Authority's finances and to demonstrate the Authority's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Bristol County Water Authority's Manager of Finance, P.O. Box 447, Warren, Rhode Island 02885.

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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 41,111,896	\$ 34,567,572
Accounts receivable, less allowance of \$55,007 and \$617,051 in 2026 and 2025		
Billed	1,663,287	1,452,135
Unbilled	<u>2,189,359</u>	<u>2,020,144</u>
Total accounts receivable	3,852,646	3,472,279
Grants receivable	313,403	713,118
Accrued investment income	122,534	128,215
Prepaid items	108,776	103,722
Inventory and other assets	<u>309,559</u>	<u>298,262</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>45,818,814</u>	<u>39,283,168</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Restricted Assets		
Funds held by trustee	7,195,511	7,868,041
Non-depreciable capital assets	3,232,590	2,941,492
Depreciable capital assets	<u>92,675,306</u>	<u>93,471,720</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>103,103,407</u>	<u>104,281,253</u>
Total Assets	<u>148,922,221</u>	<u>143,564,421</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Pension related outflows	50,000	102,785
OPEB related outflows	<u>979,108</u>	<u>554,321</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>1,029,108</u>	<u>657,106</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 149,951,329</u>	<u>\$ 144,221,527</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)
FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 438,579	\$ 272,243
Other payables	2,404	2,404
Accrued expenses	463,596	437,109
Customer deposits, net	453,867	441,148
State water protection escrow	704,195	703,191
Retainage payable	241,187	494,297
Accrued interest expense	324,992	354,948
Long-term debt due within one year	<u>2,811,506</u>	<u>4,091,475</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>5,440,326</u>	<u>6,796,815</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Net pension obligation	51,279	208,843
Net other post employment benefit liability	2,273,750	3,142,114
Long-term debt due after one year	<u>25,679,999</u>	<u>28,491,505</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>28,005,028</u>	<u>31,842,462</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>33,445,354</u>	<u>38,639,277</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Deferred bond subsidy	138,723	151,699
Pension related inflows	98,027	11,691
OPEB related inflows	<u>1,039,689</u>	<u>1,677,497</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,276,439</u>	<u>1,840,887</u>
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	67,036,481	63,184,236
Restricted	7,195,511	7,868,041
Unrestricted	<u>40,997,544</u>	<u>32,689,086</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>	<u>\$ 103,741,363</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position	<u>\$ 149,951,329</u>	<u>\$ 144,221,527</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Operating Revenues		
Water	\$ 18,554,527	\$ 17,829,601
Fire Services	402,175	389,731
Other	<u>660,554</u>	<u>107,098</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>19,617,256</u>	<u>18,326,430</u>
Operating Expenses		
Operations	5,388,130	8,889,989
Engineering and administrative	1,623,206	1,547,409
Depreciation	<u>2,551,916</u>	<u>2,431,338</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>9,563,252</u>	<u>12,868,736</u>
Operating Income	<u>10,054,004</u>	<u>5,457,694</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)		
Investment income	1,773,567	1,972,862
Interest expense	(777,133)	(862,234)
Grant income	<u>313,403</u>	<u>2,232,814</u>
Net Non-Operating Revenues	1,309,837	3,343,442
Increase in Net Position before Capital Contributions	<u>11,363,841</u>	<u>8,801,136</u>
Capital Contributions	<u>124,332</u>	<u>90,390</u>
Increase in Net Position	11,488,173	8,891,526
Net Position at March 1	<u>103,741,363</u>	<u>94,849,837</u>
Net Position at February 28	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>	<u>\$ 103,741,363</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash received from customers	\$ 19,250,612	\$ 18,056,448
Cash paid to employees	(2,579,942)	(4,108,955)
Cash paid to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(6,204,324)</u>	<u>(7,362,071)</u>
Net Cash Provided from Operating Activities	<u>10,466,346</u>	<u>6,585,422</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Interest income	1,773,567	1,972,862
Grant revenue	<u>713,118</u>	<u>2,853,923</u>
Net Cash Provided from Investing Activities	<u>2,486,685</u>	<u>4,826,785</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,299,710)	(3,813,624)
Capital contributions	124,332	90,390
Transfers from trustee revenue and debt service accounts	678,211	3,032,838
Payments on bonds and note payable	(4,104,451)	(4,026,590)
Interest payments	<u>(807,089)</u>	<u>(891,621)</u>
Net Cash used for Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(6,408,707)</u>	<u>(5,608,607)</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>6,544,324</u>	<u>5,803,600</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - March 1	<u>34,567,572</u>	<u>28,763,972</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - February 28	<u>\$ 41,111,896</u>	<u>\$ 34,567,572</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
Operating income	\$ 10,054,004	\$ 5,457,694
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	2,551,916	2,431,338
Change in customer extension deposits		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Increase (decrease) in accounts receivable	(380,367)	(284,716)
Increase (decrease) in inventory and other assets	(16,351)	(32,837)
Increase (decrease) in deferred outflows of resources	(372,002)	530,503
(Decrease) increase in other liability	0	(149,880)
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	206,546	(581,496)
(Decrease) increase in net pension liability	(157,564)	(275,625)
(Decrease) increase in other post employment liability	(868,364)	(12,494)
(Decrease) increase in deferred inflows of resources	(551,472)	(497,065)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 10,466,346</u>	<u>\$ 6,585,422</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

(Except Pension Trust Fund, which is as of June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024)

	<u>OPEB and Pension Trust Fund</u>	
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 186,716	\$ 77,230
Investments, at fair value		
Fixed Income	1,631,954	1,739,219
Equity	<u>4,429,617</u>	<u>3,702,546</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,248,287</u>	<u>5,518,995</u>
Net Position		
Restricted for pension	3,923,001	3,596,237
Restricted for other post-employment benefits	<u>2,325,286</u>	<u>1,922,758</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 6,248,287</u>	<u>\$ 5,518,995</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

(Except Pension Trust Fund, which is as of June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024)

	<u>OPEB and Pension Trust Fund</u>	
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Additions		
Contributions		
Employer contributions	\$ 407,550	\$ 407,954
Total Contributions	<u>407,550</u>	<u>407,954</u>
Investment Income		
Net investment income	<u>676,123</u>	<u>602,924</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>676,123</u>	<u>602,924</u>
Total Additions	<u>1,083,673</u>	<u>1,010,878</u>
Deductions		
Administration fees	16,043	13,398
Service benefits payments	<u>338,338</u>	<u>785,883</u>
Total Deductions	<u>354,381</u>	<u>799,281</u>
Change in Net Position	729,292	211,597
Net Position - March 1	<u>5,518,995</u>	<u>5,307,398</u>
Net Position - February 28	<u>\$ 6,248,287</u>	<u>\$ 5,518,995</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ORGANIZATION

REPORTING ENTITY

The Bristol County Water Authority (the Authority) was authorized as a public corporation on May 12, 1981, by an act of the Rhode Island Legislature and was created for purposes of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining water distribution systems in order to provide adequate water supplies to the residents of Bristol County. Bristol County includes the municipalities of Barrington, Bristol and Warren, Rhode Island. In November 1983, the voters of Bristol County approved the establishment of the Authority and, with the appointment of its members, the Authority came into existence on February 28, 1984. The Authority commenced its principal operations on November 25, 1986, with the acquisition of the Bristol County Water Company (Water Company).

The accounting methods and procedures adopted by the Authority conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) for governments as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) and specifically applicable to enterprise funds and follow the uniform system of accounts prescribed by regulatory bodies having jurisdiction over its activities. The more significant of the Authority’s accounting policies are described below.

REPORTING ENTITY

In evaluating how to define the Authority, for financial reporting purposes, management has applied the entity definition criteria of GASB in considering all potential component units. The decision to include a potential component unit in the reporting entity is made by applying the criteria set forth in GASB Statement No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus*. Under GASB Statement No. 61, a legally separate entity is required to be included as a component unit if it is fiscally dependent upon the primary government and there is a financial benefit or burden relationship present. The primary government is financially accountable if it appoints the voting majority of the organizations governing board and (1) it is able to impose its will on that organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the primary government. A potential component unit has a financial benefit or burden relationship with the primary government if, for example, any one of the following conditions exists:

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

- a) The primary government is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources.
- b) The primary government is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the obligation to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization.
- c) The primary government is obligated in some manner for the debt of the organization.

Based upon the application of the criteria, it was determined there were no component units to be reported.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds each of which is considered to be separate accounting entities. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts which constitute its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures/expenses. Funds are organized into two major categories: proprietary and fiduciary.

The funds of the financial reporting entity are described below:

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary funds are used to account for business-like activities provided to the general public. These activities are financed primarily by user charges and the measurement of financial activity focuses on net income measurement similar to the private sector. The operations of the Authority are accounted for on a Proprietary Fund Type (Enterprise Fund) basis. Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other uses. The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the Authority is determined by its measurement focus. The transactions of the Authority's Proprietary Fund are accounted for on a flow of economic resources management focus, also known as the accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operations are included on the statement of net position.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Proprietary Funds (Continued)

The statement of net position presents information on the Authority's assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows. Differences between these amounts are reported as net position. Over time, increases and decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating. Net position is segregated into three components: net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted net position.

Proprietary fund revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis. Revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned and become measurable; expenses are recognized in the period incurred, if measurable. Operating revenues consist of customer charges for usage and services. All other revenues are considered non-operating sources of revenue.

Fiduciary Fund

Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust (OPEB) and Pension Trust funds are used to account for resources legally held in trust for the payment of benefits. The OPEB Trust Fund accumulates resources for future retiree health and insurance benefits for eligible retirees.

OPEB and Pension trust fund financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Contributions are recognized when due. Investment income is recognized when earned and expenses (benefits and administration) are recognized when they are due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

Use of Resources

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available, it is the Authority's policy to use restricted resources first.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cash and Cash Equivalents - Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash (held by trustee) include highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased. Restricted cash has been classified as noncurrent as it primarily represents unspent bond proceeds restricted for future capital spending.

Marketable Securities - Marketable securities included in funds held by trustee are stated at fair value.

Receivables - Revenues include amounts billed to customers on a monthly or quarterly cycle basis and unbilled amounts based on estimated usage from the date of the latest meter reading to the end of the Authority's fiscal year. The allowance for doubtful accounts for February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025 was \$55,007 and \$617,051, respectively.

Revenue Recognition - Usage revenues are based on rates established by the Authority. Revenues from sales of water are recorded on the basis of consumption by customers based on meter readings taken on a cycle basis. Revenues are stated net of discounts and any related bad debts.

Materials and Supplies Inventory - Materials and supplies inventory is stated at the lower of cost (average cost method) or market.

Capital Assets - Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated remaining useful lives of the applicable assets. The capitalization threshold is any individual item with a total cost equal to or greater than \$5,000. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expenses as incurred. Major renewals or betterments are capitalized and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Equipment	5 years
Land improvements	5-45 years
Buildings and storage facilities	10-75 years
Distribution system	40-100 years

Construction in Progress - Construction in progress consists of the capital projects' design, planning and construction costs. Upon completing the project and finalizing the financial transaction, the construction in progress is transferred into the completed project capital asset account. Once transferred, the Authority will start to depreciate the completed capital project.

Capital Contributions - Capital contributions consist of property, plant, and equipment paid for by customers for water installations. Once the installation is complete, the property, plant, and equipment transfer to the Authority.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Long-Lived Assets Impairment - The Authority reviews the carrying value of its long-lived assets to ensure that any impairment issues are identified and appropriately reflected in the financial statements. Factors involved in this review include the market value of the assets, business conditions, future plans for asset use, and the expected future cash flows generated from the assets. Should the expected cash flows be less than the carrying value, an impairment loss would be recognized to reduce the carrying value. No impairment losses were recognized in the 2026 and 2025 financial statements.

Pensions/Other Post-Employment Benefits - For purposes of measuring the retirement and OPEB liability, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources - In addition to assets, the statement of financial position can report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate section represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until that later date. At February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, there were \$1,029,108 and \$657,106 in deferred outflows respectively, relating to pension and OPEB related outflows.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position can report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate section represents the acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and therefore will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until a later date. At February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, there were \$1,276,439 and \$1,840,887, respectively in deferred inflows relating to subsidies, pension and OPEB inflows.

Compensated Absences - Employees are granted vacation and sick leave in varying amounts based on years of service with the Authority. At the termination of service, an employee is paid for accumulated unused vacation leave and sick leave. Sick leave payments are based on age and years of service for both union and non-union employees. The accrued vacation and sick leave is reported on the Statement of Net Position as accrued expenses under liabilities.

Long-term Debt - Long-term debt is reported as a liability in the Statement of Net Position. Bond premiums are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium.

Income Taxes - The Authority is exempt from Federal and State income taxes.

Regulatory - The Authority sets their own rates and have a public rate hike hearing for the ratepayers to ask questions and express opinions, however the decision is ultimately that of the Board.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Reclassifications - Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform with the presentation in the current year financial statements. The reclasses had no affect on prior year net position or results of operations.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 3 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The carrying value of deposits, money market accounts and petty cash funds reported on the Statement of Net Position as “cash and cash equivalents” are as follows:

Description	2026	2025
Petty cash	\$ 751	\$ 798
Money market accounts	40,441,071	33,884,350
Deposits with financial institutions	<u>670,074</u>	<u>682,424</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 41,111,896</u>	<u>\$ 34,567,572</u>

The carrying amount of the Authority’s deposits at February 28, 2026 was \$41,111,896 and the bank balance was \$41,257,939. The carrying amount of the Authority’s deposits at February 28, 2025 was \$34,567,572 and the bank balance was \$34,653,010.

Custodial Credit Risk - Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Authority will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of February 28, 2026 and 2025, the authority’s funds were Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured, under a collateralization agreement or uninsured as follows.

	2026	2025
	<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>
Insured (Federal depository insurance funds)	\$ 500,000	\$ 509,621
Collateralized	566,868	509,039
Uninsured	<u>40,191,071</u>	<u>33,634,350</u>
Total Bank Balance	<u>\$ 41,257,939</u>	<u>\$ 34,653,010</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

In accordance with the Authority's investment policy, permitted investments include government obligations, bonds, notes or other investments wholly-owned by the United States of America, obligations issued by any state or any public agencies or municipalities which are rated in either of the two highest rating categories by Moody or Standard & Poor, commercial paper under the laws of any state of the United States of America rated A-1 by Moody or P-1 by Standard & Poor, investments in money market account or other fund invested exclusively of obligations described above.

At February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, the Authority had the following investments classified as funds held by trustee:

Description	Maturity	Interest Rate	Fair Value	Rating
U.S. Bank NA				
Money market accounts	3/1/2026	0.2%	<u>\$ 7,195,511</u>	Aa1, AA-

Description	Maturity	Interest Rate	Fair Value	Rating
U.S. Bank NA				
Money market accounts	3/1/2025	0.2%	<u>\$ 7,868,041</u>	Aa1, AA-

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Custodial Credit Risk - Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned to it. The Authority does not have a deposit or investment policy for custodial credit risk.

Interest Rate Risk - It is the policy of the Authority to limit the length of its investment maturities in order to manage the exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing changing rates.

Credit Risk - Government Money Market is not a rated security, as the fund invests in short-term obligations issued by the U.S. Treasury and invests in repurchase agreements and other instruments collateralized or secured by U.S. Treasury obligations. The U.S. Treasury does not directly or indirectly insure or guarantee the performance of the fund. Treasury obligations have historically involved minimal risk of loss if held to maturity. However, fluctuations in market interest rates may cause the value of Treasury obligations in the Fund's portfolio to fluctuate.

Concentration of Credit Risk - The Authority does not have a formal policy that limits the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. The U.S. Bank NA Commercial Paper represents 100% of the Authority's investments.

For the purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Authority considers only cash balances in its operating cash accounts as cash. Cash and investment funds held by trustee are not considered cash equivalents due to restrictions on the use of the funds.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Pension trust fund and OPEB trust fund investments had carrying amounts at fiscal year-end were as follows:

	2026	2025
Pension (as of June 30, 2025 and 2024)	\$ 3,923,001	\$ 3,596,237
OPEB	<u>2,325,286</u>	<u>1,922,758</u>
	<u>\$ 6,248,287</u>	<u>\$ 5,518,995</u>

Investments are stated at fair value which is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Authority follows the guidance for fair value measurements and disclosures in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*.

The Plan categorizes their fair market value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. According to the GASB 72 fair value hierarchy provides the following definition for the three levels of input data for determining the fair value of an asset or liability:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

The Plan has the following recurring fair value measurements as of February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025:

	OPEB			
	Fair Value Measurements			
	Quoted Prices in			
	February 28, 2026	Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments by Fair Value Level				
Mutual Funds				
Fixed Income	\$ 748,388	\$ 748,388	\$ 0	\$ 0
Equity	<u>1,390,182</u>	<u>1,390,182</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Investments Measured at Fair Value Level	<u>\$ 2,138,570</u>	<u>\$ 2,138,570</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
	Pension			
	Fair Value Measurements			
	Quoted Prices in			
	June 30, 2025	Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments by Fair Value Level				
Mutual Funds				
Fixed Income	\$ 883,566	\$ 883,566	\$ 0	\$ 0
Equity	<u>3,039,435</u>	<u>3,039,435</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Investments Measured at Fair Value Level	<u>\$ 3,923,001</u>	<u>\$ 3,923,001</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

	OPEB			
	Fair Value Measurements			
	Quoted Prices in			
	Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
February 28, 2025				
Investments by Fair Value Level				
Mutual Funds				
Fixed Income	\$ 766,811	\$ 766,811	\$ 0	\$ 0
Equity	<u>1,132,307</u>	<u>1,132,307</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Investments Measured at Fair Value Level	<u>\$ 1,899,118</u>	<u>\$ 1,899,118</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
	Pension			
	Fair Value Measurements			
	Quoted Prices in			
	Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
June 30, 2024				
Investments by Fair Value Level				
Mutual Funds				
Fixed Income	\$ 972,408	\$ 972,408	\$ 0	\$ 0
Equity	<u>2,570,239</u>	<u>2,570,239</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Investments Measured at Fair Value Level	<u>\$ 3,542,647</u>	<u>\$ 3,542,647</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 5 – FUNDS HELD BY TRUSTEE (RESTRICTED NET POSITION)

Pursuant to the Bristol County Water Authority Bond Resolutions (Bond Resolutions) adopted November 13, 1986, and as amended, certain restricted funds the Authority is required to maintain can be used only for the purposes specified in the Bond Resolution. Furthermore, the Authority is required to establish water rates so net revenues, as defined in the Bond Resolution, shall equal at least the required debt service ratio of 1.25 during the fiscal year.

The assets of these funds are pledged as security for the bonds. Restricted assets at fiscal year-end are as follows:

Restricted For	2026	2025
Debt service fund	\$ 1,380,922	\$ 1,281,314
Operations and maintenance reserve fund	1,750,000	1,750,000
Debt service reserve fund 2022A	915,224	880,445
Debt service reserve fund 2021A	592	741,178
Debt service reserve fund 2019A	1,612,664	1,551,381
Debt service reserve fund 2018A	548,044	527,217
Debt service reserve fund 2018B	314,235	302,293
Debt service reserve fund 2014A	111,871	107,620
Debt service reserve fund 2011	85,024	81,793
Debt service reserve fund 2008	473,675	455,675
Project Fund 2022A	<u>3,260</u>	<u>189,125</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,195,511</u>	<u>\$ 7,868,041</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 5 – FUNDS HELD BY TRUSTEE (RESTRICTED NET POSITION) (CONTINUED)

The funds held by the trustee are invested in cash and long and short-term securities which meet the requirements of the Bond Resolution for permitted investments. These investments include money market accounts. These funds are generally collateralized with securities held by the trustee's trust department and are generally uninsured and unregistered securities held by the trustee's trust department as agent for the Authority. The fair value of investments at fiscal year ends were as follows:

	2026	2025
Money market funds	\$ 7,195,511	\$ 7,868,341
Total	<u>\$ 7,195,511</u>	<u>\$ 7,868,341</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Capital asset activity during the year ended February 28, 2026 was as follows:

	Balance at March 1, 2025	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Balance at February 28, 2026
Non-Depreciable					
Land	\$ 2,020,265	\$ 0	\$ 0	0	\$ 2,020,265
Construction in progress	<u>921,227</u>	<u>291,098</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,212,325</u>
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	2,941,492	291,098	0	0	3,232,590
Depreciable					
Treatment, storage and admin facilities	10,118,500	55,468	0	0	10,173,968
Distribution system	111,169,999	1,376,715	0	0	112,546,714
Equipment	<u>12,478,100</u>	<u>329,163</u>	<u>113,522</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,693,741</u>
Depreciable Capital Assets	133,766,599	1,761,346	113,522	0	135,414,423
Total Capital Assets	136,708,091	2,052,444	113,522	0	138,647,013
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(40,294,879)</u>	<u>(2,551,916)</u>	<u>(107,678)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(42,739,117)</u>
Net Capital Assets	\$ 96,413,212	\$ (499,472)	\$ 5,844	\$ 0	\$ 95,907,896

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Capital asset activity during the year ended February 28, 2025, was as follows:

	Balance at March 1, 2024	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Balance at February 28, 2025
Non-Depreciable					
Land	\$ 2,020,265	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	\$ 2,020,265
Construction in progress	4,192,967	3,564,545	0	(6,836,285)	921,227
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	6,213,232	3,564,545	0	(6,836,285)	2,941,492
Depreciable					
Treatment, storage and admin facilities	9,984,795	133,705	0	0	10,118,500
Distribution system	104,333,714	0	0	6,836,285	111,169,999
Equipment	12,284,596	193,504	0	0	12,478,100
Depreciable Capital Assets	126,603,105	327,209	0	0	133,766,599
Total Capital Assets	132,816,337	3,891,754	0	0	136,708,091
Accumulated depreciation	(37,863,541)	(2,431,338)	0	0	(40,294,879)
Net Capital Assets	\$ 94,952,796	\$ 1,460,416	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 96,413,212

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The Authority issues revenue bonds and applies for loans to support various projects. The following is a summary of the Bond and Loan activity for the fiscal year ends were as follows:

	Balance March 1, 2025	Increases	Decreases	Principal Forgiveness	Outstanding Balance February 28, 2026	Balance Due in 2027	Interest Paid in 2026
Bonds Payable- Direct Borrowing							
General Revenue Bond, Series 2018A	\$ 1,706,247	\$ 0	\$ 491,951	\$ 0	\$ 1,214,296	\$ 508,769	\$ 48,551
General Revenue Bond, Series 2019A	12,526,000	0	1,153,000	0	11,373,000	1,174,000	217,839
General Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2021A	1,355,000	0	1,355,000	0	0	0	11,433
General Revenue Bond, Series 2022A	11,085,000	0	475,000	0	10,610,000	490,000	306,708
Total Bonds Payable	<u>\$ 26,672,247</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 3,474,951</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 23,197,296</u>	<u>\$ 2,172,769</u>	<u>\$ 584,531</u>
Loans Payable - Direct Borrowing							
Drinking Water Revolving Bond, Series 2008A	1,776,000	0	327,000	0	1,449,000	340,000	54,680
Drinking Water SRF - Direct Loan, Series 2011	429,000	0	54,000	0	375,000	56,000	16,300
Safe Drinking Water Program, Series 2014	783,533	0	67,024	12,326	716,509	69,537	25,955
Drinking Water SRF, Series 2018	2,922,200	0	168,500	0	2,753,700	173,200	95,667
Total Loans Payable	<u>5,910,733</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>616,524</u>	<u>12,326</u>	<u>5,294,209</u>	<u>638,737</u>	<u>192,602</u>
Total Debt	<u>\$ 32,582,980</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 4,091,475</u>	<u>\$ 12,326</u>	<u>\$ 28,491,505</u>	<u>\$ 2,811,506</u>	<u>\$ 777,133</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

	Balance March 1, 2024	Increases	Decreases	Principal Forgiveness	Outstanding Balance February 28, 2025	Balance Due in 2026	Interest Paid in 2025
Bonds Payable- Direct Borrowing							
General Revenue Bond, Series 2018A	\$ 2,181,737	\$ 0	\$ 475,490	\$ 0	\$ 1,706,247	\$ 491,950	\$ 64,854
General Revenue Bond, Series 2019A	13,659,000	0	1,133,000	0	12,526,000	1,153,000	238,676
General Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2021A	2,700,000	0	1,345,000	0	1,355,000	1,355,000	24,454
General Revenue Bond, Series 2022A	11,550,000	0	465,000	0	11,085,000	475,000	320,364
Total Bonds Payable	<u>\$ 30,090,737</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 3,418,490</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 26,672,247</u>	<u>\$ 3,474,950</u>	<u>\$ 648,348</u>
Loans Payable- Direct Borrowing							
Drinking Water Revolving Bond, Series 2008A	2,090,000	0	314,000	0	1,776,000	327,000	67,427
Drinking Water SRF - Direct Loan, Series 2011	481,000	0	52,000	0	429,000	54,000	18,328
Safe Drinking Water Program, Series 2014	848,881	0	65,348	12,326	783,533	67,025	27,881
Drinking Water SRF, Series 2018	3,086,300	0	164,100	0	2,922,200	168,500	100,250
Total Loans Payable	<u>6,506,181</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>595,448</u>	<u>12,326</u>	<u>5,910,733</u>	<u>616,525</u>	<u>213,886</u>
Total Debt	<u>\$ 36,596,918</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 4,013,938</u>	<u>\$ 12,326</u>	<u>\$ 32,582,980</u>	<u>\$ 4,091,475</u>	<u>\$ 862,234</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

BONDS PAYABLE

In June 2018, the Authority issued 2018 Series A General Revenue Bond (the “2018A Bonds”) with a face value of \$4,600,000. The net proceeds of approximately \$4,535,000 (after bond issue costs) of which \$460,000 was placed into a Debt Service Reserve Fund, was used to complete capital improvements. Principal and interest on the 2018A bonds is paid on a monthly basis on the first. Principal and interest payments on the 2018A Bonds outstanding at February 28, 2026 is \$491,951 and \$48,551, respectively with an outstanding principal balance of \$1,214,296.

In September 2019, the Authority issued a 2019 Series A General Revenue Bond (the “2019A Bonds”) with a face value of \$18,000,000. The net proceeds of approximately \$17,935,000 of which \$1,382,113 was placed into a Debt Service Reserve Fund, was used for the repairs and improvements of the water main that suffered a major break in FY 2019. Interest on the 2019A Bond is paid semiannually on March 1 and September 1. Principal payments are made annually on September 1. Principal and interest payments as of February 28, 2026 are \$1,153,000 and \$217,839 respectively with an outstanding principal balance of \$11,373,000.

In January 2021, the Authority issued 2021 Series A General Revenue Refunding Bonds (the “2021A Bonds”) with a face value of \$6,660,000. The net proceeds of \$6,510,000 refinanced 2014B bond. Interest on the 2021A Bond is paid semiannually on January 15 and July 15. Principal payments are made annually on January 15. Principal and interest payments as of February 28, 2026 are \$1,355,000 and \$11,433, respectively, with an outstanding principal balance of \$0.

In March 2022, the Authority issued 2022 Series A General Revenue Bond (the “2022A Bond”) with a face value of \$12,000,000. The net proceeds of approximately \$11,151,000 (after bond issuance costs), of which \$791,232 was placed into a Debt Service Reserve Fund, was used to complete capital improvement. Interest is paid semiannually on April 1 and October 1. Principal payments are made annually on April 1. Principal and interest payments as of February 28, 2026, are \$475,000 and \$306,708, respectively, with an outstanding principal balance of \$10,610,000.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

The annual debt service requirements of the general long-term bonds payable as of February 28, 2026, are as follows:

Fiscal Years Ended February 28,	Bonds from Direct Borrowings		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2027	\$ 2,172,769	\$ 538,847	\$ 2,711,616
2028	2,227,162	485,734	2,712,896
2029	1,916,365	434,791	2,351,156
2030	1,775,000	396,172	2,171,172
2031	1,812,000	357,942	2,169,942
2032-2036	8,284,000	1,185,342	9,469,342
2037-2041	3,475,000	482,000	3,957,000
2042-2043	<u>1,535,000</u>	<u>44,568</u>	<u>1,579,568</u>
	<u>\$ 23,197,296</u>	<u>\$ 3,925,396</u>	<u>\$ 27,122,692</u>

The Authority's outstanding notes from direct borrowings relate to business-type activities of \$23,197,296 are secured by the Authority's pledge of the proceeds of the bonds, revenues, securities, receivables, sale of Authority's real property, exclusive of monies collected as water quality protection charges, and other amounts in all funds and accounts established by or pursuant to the General Bond Resolutions, except the General Fund and the Rebate Fund.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

LOANS PAYABLE

In June 2008, the Authority obtained a twenty-one year (21), \$5,500,000 loan from Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. There were no drawdowns in the Fiscal Year. Interest on the loan payable is paid semi-annually on September 1 and March 1. Principal payments are made annually on September 1. Principal and interest payments outstanding under the loan agreement as of February 28, 2026 are \$327,000 and \$54,680, respectively with an outstanding principal balance of \$1,449,000.

In October 2011, the Authority obtained a twenty-year (20), \$1,000,000 loan from Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. There were no drawdowns in the Fiscal Year. Interest on the loan payable is paid semi-annually on September 1 and March 1. Principal payments are made annually on September 1. Principal and interest payments outstanding under the loan agreement as of February 28, 2026 are \$54,000 and \$16,300 respectively with an outstanding principal balance of \$375,000.

In August 2014, the Authority obtained a twenty-year (21), \$1,643,232 loan from Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank of which there were no drawdowns in the Fiscal Year. This loan includes principal forgiveness of \$266,540 resulting in a net direct loan of \$1,376,692. Interest on the loan payable is paid semi-annually on September 1 and March 1. Principal payments are made annually on September 1. Net Principal and interest payments outstanding under the loan agreement as of February 28, 2026 are \$67,024 and \$25,955 respectively with an outstanding principal balance of \$716,509. This Debt also had \$12,326 in loan forgiveness in 2026.

In November 2018, the Authority obtained a twenty-year (20), \$3,850,000 loan from Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank of which a total of \$3,200,816 was drawn down as of February 28, 2021. This loan includes principal forgiveness of \$295,500 resulting in a net direct loan of \$3,554,500. Interest on the loan payable is paid semi-annually on March 1 and September 1. Principal payments are made annually on September 1. Principal and interest payments outstanding under the loan agreement as of February 28, 2026 are \$168,500 and \$95,667 respectively with an outstanding principal balance of \$2,753,700.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

LOANS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

The annual debt service requirements of the loans payable as of February 28, 2026, are as follows:

Years Ended February 28,	Principal	Interest & Fees	Total
2027	\$ 638,737	\$ 192,556	\$ 831,293
2028	660,413	169,486	829,899
2029	686,226	135,226	821,452
2030	716,739	119,260	835,999
2031	340,553	91,638	432,191
2032-2036	1,504,042	281,124	1,785,166
2037-2039	<u>747,499</u>	<u>52,234</u>	<u>799,733</u>
	<u>\$ 5,294,209</u>	<u>\$ 1,041,524</u>	<u>\$ 6,335,733</u>

NOTE 8 – LINE OF CREDIT

The Authority maintains a loan agreement (Agreement) with Washington Trust Bank. Such Agreement includes a revolving line of credit with maximum available borrowings of \$150,000. Interest is payable monthly at the adjusted term at the 1st of the month plus 2.61% (6.278% at February 28, 2026). At February 28, 2026 and 2025, the outstanding balance on the line was \$0 and \$0, respectively.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN

PLAN DESCRIPTION

Plan Administration

The Authority administers the Pension Plan (Plan) for employees of the Authority, a single employer defined benefit pension plan that provides pensions for employees of the Authority who were hired prior to September 1, 2012. The pension plan is closed to new entrants.

Benefits Provided

The Plan for employees of the Authority provides retirement, disability, and death benefits. Retirement benefits for plan members are calculated at 1.85% of the member's final 5-year average salary times the member's years of service to a maximum of 25 years plus 0.7 percent of the member's final 5-year average salary times the member's years of service in excess of 25 years. Members are eligible to retire at age 65, or at 62 with 20 years of service, at age 61 with 19 years of service or at 64 with 17 years of service. All plan members are eligible for disability benefits after 10 years of service. Disability retirement benefits are calculated as 1.15% of the members final 5-year average salary times the member's years of service. Death benefits are payable to the surviving spouse of a member who dies at after 10 years of service. A plan member who leaves the Authority after 5 years of service is vested in their benefit earned to date of termination.

Plan Membership

At June 30, 2025, pension plan membership consisted of the following:

Inactive plan members or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	9
Inactive plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	3
Active plan members	<u>4</u>
Total	<u><u>16</u></u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Contributions

The Authority establishes contribution rates based on an actuarially determined rate recommended by an independent actuary. The actuarially determined rate is the estimated amount necessary to finance the costs of benefits expected to be earned by plan members during the year with an additional amount to finance any actuarial gains or losses over the compensation weighted average future working life of active members. For the year ended June 30, 2025 the actuarially determined contribution was \$71,129 and the actual contribution was \$125,000. For the year ended June 30, 2024 the actuarially determined contribution was \$112,111 and the actual contribution was \$160,000.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The Plan's statement of fiduciary net position and statement of change in fiduciary net position are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles that apply to governmental accounting for defined benefit plans. These are included in this financial statement in fiduciary net position as outlined in the Table of Contents. Employer contributions are recognized when made, because there are no required due dates for contributions. Other additions are recognized when due. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the Plan document. Plan expenses, other than benefits and refunds are recognized on the accrual basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Plan Expenses

Certain expenses are paid from the assets of the Plan and are recorded as administrative expenses on the financial statements. These expenses include benefit payment processing fees and other administrative expenses.

Fair Value of Investments

Investments are reported at fair value. Securities traded on a national or international exchange are valued at the last reported sales price at current exchange rates.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the actuarial values at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

INVESTMENTS

Investment Policy

The pension plan's policy in regard to the allocation of invested assets is established and may be amended by the Authority. It is the policy of the Authority board to pursue an investment strategy that reduces risk through the prudent diversification of the portfolio across a broad selection of distinct asset classes. The pension plan's investment policy discourages the use of cash equivalents, except for liquidity purposes, and aims to refrain from dramatically shifting asset class allocations over short time spans.

Rate of Return

For the year ended June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024 the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expenses, was 11.91% and 11.42%, respectively. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

NET PENSION LIABILITY OF THE AUTHORITY

The components of the net pension liability of the Authority at June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024, were as follows:

	June 30, 2025
Total pension liability	\$ 3,974,280
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(3,923,001)</u>
BCWA's net pension liability	<u>\$ 51,279</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	98.7%
	June 30, 2024
Total pension liability	\$ 3,805,080
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(3,596,237)</u>
BCWA's net pension liability	<u>\$ 208,843</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	94.5%

Actuarial assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2025, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.00 percent
Salary increases	3.00 percent, compounded annually
Investment rate of return/Discount Rate	7.00 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.00 percent
Salary increases	3.00 percent, compounded annually
Investment rate of return/Discount Rate	7.50 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

NET PENSION LIABILITY OF THE AUTHORITY (CONTINUED)

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table for Males or Females, as appropriate, with adjustments for future mortality improvement using Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2021. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2025 (see the discussion of the pension plan's investment policy) are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Weighted Real Rate of Return
Stocks and equity mutual funds	70%	6.2%	4.06%
Fixed income mutual funds	23%	2.6%	0.60%
Cash	7%	1.1%	0.00%
Total	100%		5.76%
		Investment Expense	-1.00%
		Inflation	2.00%
		Total Calculated Rate	6.76%
		Long-Term Rate of Return Assumption	7.00%
		Inflation	2.00%
		Salary Increase Assumption	3.00%

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

NET PENSION LIABILITY OF THE AUTHORITY (CONTINUED)

Net Pension Liability

	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (a) - (b)
Balance as of 7/01/2024	\$ 3,805,080	\$ 3,596,237	\$ 208,843
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	38,838	0	38,838
Interest on total pension liability	280,010	0	280,010
Differences between expected and actual experience	(37,996)	0	(37,996)
Changes in assumptions	109,261	0	109,261
Contributions - employer	0	125,000	(125,000)
Net investment income	0	422,677	(422,677)
Benefit payments	<u>(220,913)</u>	<u>(220,913)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Changes	<u>169,200</u>	<u>326,764</u>	<u>(157,564)</u>
Balance as of 6/30/2025	<u>\$ 3,974,280</u>	<u>\$ 3,923,001</u>	<u>\$ 51,279</u>
	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (a) - (b)
Balance as of 7/01/2023	\$ 4,177,330	\$ 3,692,862	\$ 484,468
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	38,111	0	38,111
Interest on total pension liability	290,722	0	290,722
Differences between expected and actual experience	594	0	594
Changes in assumptions	(23,382)	0	(23,382)
Contributions - employer	0	160,000	(160,000)
Net investment income	0	421,670	(421,670)
Benefit payments	<u>(678,295)</u>	<u>(678,295)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Changes	<u>(372,250)</u>	<u>(96,625)</u>	<u>(275,625)</u>
Balance as of 6/30/2024	<u>\$ 3,805,080</u>	<u>\$ 3,596,237</u>	<u>\$ 208,843</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

NET PENSION LIABILITY OF THE AUTHORITY (CONTINUED)

Discount rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability as of June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024 was 7.00 percent and 7.50 percent, respectively. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan participant contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that Authority contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the participant rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the net pension liability of the Authority, calculated using the discount rate, as well as what the Authority's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount	1% Increase
6/30/2025	6.00%	Rate (7.00%)	8.00%
Plan's Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 295,371	\$ 51,279	\$ (166,930)
	1% Decrease	Current Discount	1% Increase
6/30/2024	6.50%	Rate (7.50%)	8.50%
Plan's Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 446,394	\$ 208,843	\$ (5,074)

Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

For the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, the Authority recognized pension expense of \$56,557 and \$90,085, respectively. At February 28, 2026, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

NET PENSION LIABILITY OF THE AUTHORITY (CONTINUED)

Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Contribution subsequent to measurement date	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
Difference between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	<u>0</u>	<u>98,027</u>
Total deferred outflows/(inflows)	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 98,027</u>
Net deferred outflows/deferred infows		<u>\$ (48,027)</u>

An amount of \$50,000 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from the Authority's contributions in fiscal year 2026 subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent period. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Years Ended February 28</u>	
2027	\$ 88,079
2028	(90,654)
2029	(64,140)
2030	<u>(31,312)</u>
	<u>\$ (98,027)</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

NOTE 10 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES***PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES***

For the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2039, through agreement with the towns of Bristol County, the Authority will make no PILOT payments to the Towns and the Authority will not charge the Towns of Bristol County for public fire protection.

LITIGATION

The Authority is subject to litigation arising from its normal business operations. In the opinion of management, and legal counsel, the ultimate disposition of these matters is not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Authority's financial position or results of operations.

COMMITMENTS

As of February 28, 2026, and 2025 the Authority had entered into various construction contracts and had commitments of approximately \$1,902,568 and \$2,260,950, respectively, related to these contracts.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 11 – NET POSITION

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. The net position amounts at February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025 were as follows:

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Net Investment in Capital Assets		
Net capital assets in service	\$ 95,907,896	\$ 96,413,212
Less: bonds and notes payable	(28,491,505)	(32,582,980)
Less: other capital related liabilities	<u>(379,910)</u>	<u>(645,996)</u>
Total Net Investment in Capital Assets	67,036,481	63,184,236
Restricted		
Restricted funds held by trustee	<u>7,195,511</u>	<u>7,868,041</u>
Total Restricted	7,195,511	7,868,041
Unrestricted	<u>40,997,544</u>	<u>32,689,086</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 115,229,536</u>	<u>\$ 103,741,363</u>

NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Net investment in capital assets reflects the portion of net position associated with non-liquid capital assets, less outstanding capital assets related debt. The net investment in capital assets also includes cash or cash equivalents restricted for the acquisition of capital assets or debt service.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 11 – NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

RESTRICTED

This category represents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributions, or laws and regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

UNRESTRICTED

This category represents the residual amount of net position not included in the net investment in capital assets or the restricted categories highlighted above.

NOTE 12 – MAJOR SUPPLIER

The Authority's water purchases from one supplier for the years ended February 28, 2026 and 2025 were approximately 20% and 15%, respectively, of the Authority's operations expense.

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The cost of post-employment health care benefits, like the cost of pension benefits, generally should be associated with the periods in which the cost occurs, rather than in future years when it will be paid. In adopting the requirements of GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*, the Authority recognizes the cost of post-employment healthcare and life insurance in the year when the employee services are rendered, reports the accumulated liability from prior years, and provides information useful in assessing potential demands on the Authority's future cash flows.

The Authority's OPEB Plan is a single employer defined benefit postretirement health and life insurance program. The Authority provides post-employment benefits to eligible retirees in accordance with the various labor contracts and personnel policies. As of March 1, 2025, 21 active employees were participating in the Plan. An actuarial consultant, The Angell Pension Group, Inc., was hired to determine the Authority's actuarial valuation of the post-retirement benefits that are offered to current and future retirees as of February 28, 2010, which was the first actuarial valuation that the Authority had in determining its OPEB obligation. The actuary, as of February 28, 2026, has updated the actuarial valuation. The plan does not issue a stand-alone report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

In fiscal year 2014, the Authority established an OPEB trust fund to fund future OPEB liabilities. The OPEB trust fund financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Contributions are recognized when due, pursuant to formal budgetary commitments and contractual requirements. Investment income is recognized when earned and expenses (benefits and administration) are recognized when they are due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

FUNDING POLICY

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Authority are established and may be amended by the Authority, subject to applicable labor contracts. Contributions are recognized when due on a pay-as-you-go basis, pursuant to formal budgetary commitments and contractual requirements.

BENEFIT PROVISIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Eligible retirees receive medical and dental insurance coverage under individual or individual/spouse plans. Retirees are required to contribute to the cost of health insurance at a co-pay rate of 20%. No health coverage is available to a retiree whose spouse has similar insurance coverage available. If the participant retires earlier than age 65, or his/her spouse is under the age of 65, the Plan will reimburse the participant for full medical and dental coverage outside of the Plan under a health insurance plan that provides equivalent coverage that the Bristol County Water Authority's active health plan would have covered. At age 65, the participants enter in the Authority's Plan 65 medical coverage.

Surviving spousal coverage ends upon the death of a retired member.

Eligible retirees are covered under a \$50,000 life insurance policy until age 65. The benefit is then reduced to \$25,000 until age 70, when the benefit ends. As of December 1, 2012, retirees who have reached age 70 will be entitled to a \$500 stipend per year for the next five years.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES COVERED

As of March 1, 2025 (date of the last actuarial valuation) membership data was as follows:

Active Employees	Inactive or Beneficiaries Receiving Benefits	Total
21	30	51

ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The accompanying schedules of employer contributions present trend information about the amounts contributed to the Plan by employers in comparison to the Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC). The ADC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost for each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years. Projections of benefits are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits in force at the valuation date and the pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations on the pattern of cost sharing between the employer and plan members in the future. Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Consistent with that perspective, actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets. The annual OPEB cost was determined as part of the actuarial valuation. Additional information and assumptions used as of the last actuarial valuation are summarized below:

Actuarial Methods:

Measurement Date: March 1, 2025 for OPEB expense and February 28, 2026 for Net OPEB Liability

Actuarial Cost Method: Costs have been computed in accordance with the Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method. The service cost is the sum of the service costs for all participants. For a current participant, the individual service cost is (a) the present value of future benefits as of the participant's entry age divided by (b) the present value of future compensation as of the participant's entry age multiplied by (c) current compensation. For other than a current active participant, the service cost equal \$0.

The accrued liability is the sum of the individual accrued liabilities for all participants. The individual accrued liability is equal to (d) the present value of future benefits less (e) the service cost accrual rate multiplies by (f) the present value of future compensation.

Asset-Valuation Method: For purposes of determining the unfunded actuarial liability, the actuarial value of assets is equal to the fair market value.

Census Information: Census data as of March 1, 2025 and premium information as of March 1, 2025 were used to calculate the OPEB Expense. Census data and premium information as of March 1, 2025 were used to calculate the Total OPEB Liability as of March 1, 2025

Actuarial Assumptions:

Discount rate: 5.49% in 2026, 4.77% in 2025

Investment Rate of Return: 6.75%

Salary Scale: 3.00%

Healthy Mortality: PubG.H-2010 Employee and Healthy Annuitant with Scale MP-2021 generational improvements (Male/Female)

Disabled Mortality: PubG.H-2010 Disabled Annuitant with Scale MP-2021 generational improvements (Male/Female)

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Health Care Cost Trend Rates:

Medical Costs:	Starting at 6.0% grading down using the Getzen model to an ultimate rate of 4.00%
Participation:	100% of eligible future retirees are assumed to elect medical coverage under Plan
Marital Status:	80% of future retirees are assumed to be married and elect family medical coverage. Female spouses are assumed to be 3 years younger than males.
Retirement Rates:	Ranging from 5% at age 55 to 100% at age 70
Aging Assumption:	Dental claims costs are assumed to increase by 3.00% per year of age up to age 70 Medical claim costs are assumed to increase range from: from 3.0% at <70 to 0.0% at 90+

INVESTMENT POLICY AND RATE OF RETURN

The Water Authority's policy in regard to the allocation of invested assets is established and may be amended by the committee by a majority vote of its members.

For the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025 the annual money-weighted rate of return on investment, net of investment expense, was 12.7% and 11.2%, respectively. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENT POLICY AND RATE OF RETURN (CONTINUED)

The following was the Authority's adopted asset allocation policy as of February 28, 2026:

Asset Class	Asset Allocation
Cash and Receivables	0.0%
Cash and Equivalents	8.0%
Mutual Funds - Fixed Income	32.2%
Mutual Funds - Equity	<u>59.8%</u>
Total	<u>100.00%</u>

Projected Rate of Return*: 6.75%

*The projected rate of return was estimated by the plan sponsor.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY

	Total OPEB Liability	Increase (Decrease) Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net OPEB Liability
Balance at March 1, 2025	\$ 5,064,872	\$ 1,922,758	\$ 3,142,114
Service cost	136,600	0	136,600
Interest on Total OPEB liability	239,994	0	239,994
Differences between actual and expected experience	(490,154)	0	(490,154)
Changes in assumptions	(234,851)	0	(234,851)
Benefit payments, including refunds	(117,425)	(117,425)	0
Trust administrative expenses	0	(16,043)	16,043
Contributions - employer	0	282,550	(282,550)
Net investment income	0	253,446	(253,446)
Net changes	(465,836)	402,528	(868,364)
Balances at February 28, 2026	\$ 4,599,036	\$ 2,325,286	\$ 2,273,750

	Total OPEB Liability	Increase (Decrease) Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net OPEB Liability
Balance at March 1, 2024	\$ 4,769,144	\$ 1,614,536	\$ 3,154,608
Service cost	168,852	0	168,852
Interest on Total OPEB liability	230,856	0	230,856
Differences between actual and expected experience	3,608	0	3,608
Benefit payments, including refunds	(107,588)	(107,588)	0
Trust administrative expenses	0	(13,398)	13,398
Contributions - employer	0	247,954	(247,954)
Net investment income	0	181,254	(181,254)
Net changes	295,728	308,222	(12,494)
Balances at February 28, 2025	\$ 5,064,872	\$ 1,922,758	\$ 3,142,114

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE DISCOUNT RATE

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the Authority, as well as what the Authority's net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

	Impact of 1% Change in Discount Rate		
	1% Decrease (4.49%)	Current Discount Rate (5.49%)	1% Increase (6.49%)
February 28, 2026			
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 2,819,006	\$ 2,273,750	\$ 1,814,958
	Impact of 1% Change in Discount Rate		
	1% Decrease (3.70%)	Current Discount Rate (4.70%)	1% Increase (5.70%)
February 28, 2025			
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 3,799,786	\$ 3,142,114	\$ 2,627,908

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the Authority, as well as what the Authority's net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

	Impact of 1% Change in Healthcare Trend Rate		
	1% Decrease (5.5% decreasing to 3.00%)	Current Trend Rate (6.5% decreasing to 4.00%)	1% Increase (7.5% decreasing to 5.00%)
February 28, 2026			
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 1,680,768	\$ 2,273,750	\$ 3,016,445
	Impact of 1% Change in Healthcare Trend Rate		
	1% Decrease (5.5% decreasing to 3.00%)	Current Trend Rate (6.5% decreasing to 4.00%)	1% Increase (7.5% decreasing to 5.00%)
February 28, 2025			
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 2,475,857	\$ 3,142,114	\$ 3,997,207

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

NET OPEB LIABILITY

The components of the net OPEB liability of the Authority at February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025 were as follows:

February 28, 2026	
Total OPEB liability	\$ 4,599,036
Plans fiduciary net position	<u>(2,325,286)</u>
Authority's net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 2,273,750</u>
Plan net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	50.6%
February 28, 2025	
Total OPEB liability	\$ 5,064,872
Plans fiduciary net position	<u>(1,922,758)</u>
Authority's net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 3,142,114</u>
Plan net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	38.0%

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 13 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

OPEB EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB

For the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, the Authority recognized pension expense of \$227,508 and \$129,433, respectively. For the year ended February 28, 2026 the Authority reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 204,689	\$ 319,562
Changes in assumptions	620,683	720,127
Difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	<u>153,736</u>	<u>0</u>
Total deferred outflows/(inflows)	<u>\$ 979,108</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,689</u>
Net deferred outflows/deferred inflows		<u>\$ (60,581)</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Years Ended February 29	
2027	\$ (15,335)
2028	(109,962)
2029	(95,851)
2030	8,294
2031	143,908
Thereafter	<u>8,365</u>
	<u>\$ (60,581)</u>

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 14 – DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The Authority offers its employees “The Bristol County Water Authority 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan” (the Plan) created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The Plan, available to all Authority employees hired after September 1, 2012, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency. The Authority's Board of Directors is responsible for establishing or amending the Plan's provisions and establishing or amending contribution requirements. The defined contribution Plan is currently administered by Security Benefits.

The Authority is obligated to remit to the administrator an amount equal to 5% of each employee's prior year's base rate compensation on an annual basis. If an employee contributes 5% or more of their base rate compensation, the Authority will also match up to 3% of base employee compensation. The Authority's contribution totaled \$291,304 and \$263,896 for the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, respectively. Employees are allowed to make contributions to the Plan up to, but not exceeding, the lesser of 33 1/3% of their individual compensation or \$18,000 (\$24,000 if age 50 or older). Employee contributions to the Plan for the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025 were \$252,128 and \$244,065, respectively. The employees pick and manage their selection of a broad range of funds as offered by Security Benefits.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 15 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT TRUST FUNDS (OPEB)

GAAP requires that all pension and Other Postemployment Trust Funds (OPEB) be combined and presented in one column in the Fiduciary Funds financial statements and that the individual financial statements for each trust fund plan are reported in the notes to the financial statements. Provided below are the individual financial statements for the pension and OPEB plan that are included in the Fiduciary Funds as Pension and Other Postemployment Benefits Trust funds, comparatively.

	OPEB Trust Fund		Pension Trust Fund (as of June 30)			Total	
	2026	2025	2025	2024	2026	2025	2025
Assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 186,716	\$ 23,640	\$ 0	\$ 53,590	\$ 186,716	\$ 77,230	
Investments, at fair value							
Fixed Income	748,388	766,811	883,566	972,408	1,631,954	1,739,219	
Equity	1,390,182	1,132,307	3,039,435	2,570,239	4,429,617	3,702,546	
Total Assets	<u>2,325,286</u>	<u>1,922,758</u>	<u>3,923,001</u>	<u>3,596,237</u>	<u>6,248,287</u>	<u>5,518,995</u>	
Net Position							
Restricted for pension	0	0	3,923,001	3,596,237	3,923,001	3,596,237	
Restricted for other post-employment benefits	<u>2,325,286</u>	<u>1,922,758</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,325,286</u>	<u>1,922,758</u>	
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,325,286</u>	<u>\$ 1,922,758</u>	<u>\$ 3,923,001</u>	<u>\$ 3,596,237</u>	<u>\$ 6,248,287</u>	<u>\$ 5,518,995</u>	

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NOTE 15 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT TRUST FUNDS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

	OPEB Trust Fund		Pension Trust Fund (as of June 30)			Total
	2026	2025	2025	2024	2026	2025
Additions						
Contributions						
Employer contributions	\$ 282,550	\$ 247,954	\$ 125,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 407,550	\$ 407,954
Total Contributions	<u>282,550</u>	<u>247,954</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>407,550</u>	<u>407,954</u>
Investment Income						
Net investment income	253,446	181,254	422,677	421,670	676,123	602,924
Total Investment Income	<u>253,446</u>	<u>181,254</u>	<u>422,677</u>	<u>421,670</u>	<u>676,123</u>	<u>602,924</u>
Total Additions	<u>535,996</u>	<u>429,208</u>	<u>547,677</u>	<u>581,670</u>	<u>1,083,673</u>	<u>1,010,878</u>
Deductions						
Administration fees	16,043	13,398	0	0	16,043	13,398
Service benefits payments	117,425	107,588	220,913	678,295	338,338	785,883
Total Deductions	<u>133,468</u>	<u>120,986</u>	<u>220,913</u>	<u>678,295</u>	<u>354,381</u>	<u>799,281</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>402,528</u>	<u>308,222</u>	<u>326,764</u>	<u>(96,625)</u>	<u>729,292</u>	<u>211,597</u>
Net Position - March 1	<u>1,922,758</u>	<u>1,614,536</u>	<u>3,596,237</u>	<u>3,692,862</u>	<u>5,518,995</u>	<u>5,307,398</u>
Net Position - February 28	<u>\$ 2,325,286</u>	<u>\$ 1,922,758</u>	<u>\$ 3,923,001</u>	<u>\$ 3,596,237</u>	<u>\$ 6,248,287</u>	<u>\$ 5,518,995</u>

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE AUTHORITY'S NET POSITION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

MEASURED AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

Fiscal Years Ended June 30,	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Pension Liability										
Service cost	\$ 38,838	\$ 38,111	\$ 42,839	\$ 42,839	\$ 42,825	\$ 50,344	\$ 84,412	\$ 79,150	\$ 104,910	\$ 164,052
Interest	280,010	290,722	304,311	297,541	330,077	370,531	398,672	400,373	429,481	473,937
Differences between expected and actual experience	(37,996)	594	64,539	158,559	268,235	46,960	(53,738)	104,028	(1,073)	(52,783)
Changes of assumptions	109,261	(23,382)	(147,042)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefit payments, including refunds of participant contribu	(220,913)	(678,295)	(203,920)	(613,413)	(1,536,533)	(462,851)	(1,078,149)	(144,836)	(1,646,500)	(591,117)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	169,200	(372,250)	60,727	(114,474)	(895,396)	4,984	(648,803)	438,715	(1,113,182)	(5,911)
Total Pension Liability - Beginning	3,805,080	4,177,330	4,116,603	4,231,077	5,126,473	5,121,489	5,770,292	5,331,577	6,444,759	6,450,670
Total Pension Liability - Ending	\$ 3,974,280	\$ 3,805,080	\$ 4,177,330	\$ 4,116,603	\$ 4,231,077	\$ 5,126,473	\$ 5,121,489	\$ 5,770,292	\$ 5,331,577	\$ 6,444,759
Pension Fiduciary Net Position										
Contributions - employer	\$ 125,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 223,150	\$ 100,000	\$ 278,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 409,000	\$ 467,000	\$ 582,000	\$ 350,000
Net investment income	422,677	421,670	380,300	(540,851)	1,124,757	103,907	205,023	413,208	494,351	(190,089)
Benefit payments, including refunds of participant contribu	(220,913)	(678,295)	(203,920)	(613,413)	(1,536,533)	(462,851)	(1,078,149)	(144,836)	(1,646,500)	(591,117)
Administrative expense	0	0	0	0	0	(7,800)	(8,300)	(8,300)	(8,150)	(6,420)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	326,764	(96,625)	399,530	(1,054,264)	(133,776)	(41,744)	(472,426)	727,072	(578,299)	(437,626)
Pension Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	3,596,237	3,692,862	3,293,332	4,347,596	4,481,372	4,523,116	4,995,542	4,268,470	4,846,769	5,284,395
Pension Fiduciary Net Position - End	\$ 3,923,001	\$ 3,596,237	\$ 3,692,862	\$ 3,293,332	\$ 4,347,596	\$ 4,481,372	\$ 4,523,116	\$ 4,995,542	\$ 4,268,470	\$ 4,846,769
BCWA's Net Pension Liability (Asset) - Ending	\$ 51,279	\$ 208,843	\$ 484,468	\$ 823,271	\$ (116,519)	\$ 645,101	\$ 598,373	\$ 774,750	\$ 1,063,107	\$ 1,597,990

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE AUTHORITY'S NET POSITION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS (CONTINUED)

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS MEASURED AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Pension Liability	\$ 3,974,280	\$ 3,805,080	\$ 4,177,330	\$ 4,116,603	\$ 4,231,077	\$ 5,126,473	\$ 5,121,489	\$ 5,770,292	\$ 5,331,577	\$ 6,444,759
Plan Fiduciary Net Position	(3,923,001)	(3,596,237)	(3,692,862)	(3,293,332)	(4,347,596)	4,481,372	4,523,116	4,995,542	4,268,470	4,846,769
BCWA's Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 51,279	\$ 208,843	\$ 484,468	\$ 823,271	\$ (116,519)	\$ 645,101	\$ 598,373	\$ 774,750	\$ 1,063,107	\$ 1,597,990
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	98.71%	94.51%	88.40%	80.00%	102.75%	87.42%	88.32%	86.57%	80.06%	75.20%
Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 399,237	\$ 476,094	\$ 462,185	\$ 503,778	\$ 603,323	\$ 858,466	\$ 1,078,697	\$ 1,231,521	\$ 1,180,179	\$ 1,450,870
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	12.84%	43.87%	104.82%	163.42%	-19.31%	75.15%	55.47%	62.91%	90.08%	110.14%

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF AUTHORITY'S CONTRIBUTIONS

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
MEASURED AT JUNE 30, 2025

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 71,129	\$ 112,111	\$ 176,088	\$ 26,353	\$ 213,045	\$ 249,122	\$ 326,836	\$ 368,310	\$ 342,076	\$ 272,873
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>125,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>223,150</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>278,000</u>	<u>325,000</u>	<u>409,000</u>	<u>467,000</u>	<u>582,000</u>	<u>350,000</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ <u>(53,871)</u>	\$ <u>(47,889)</u>	\$ <u>(47,062)</u>	\$ <u>(73,647)</u>	\$ <u>(64,955)</u>	\$ <u>(75,878)</u>	\$ <u>(82,164)</u>	\$ <u>(98,690)</u>	\$ <u>(239,924)</u>	\$ <u>(77,127)</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 399,237	\$ 476,094	\$ 462,185	\$ 503,778	\$ 606,323	\$ 858,466	\$ 1,078,697	\$ 1,231,521	\$ 1,180,179	\$ 1,450,870
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	31.31%	33.61%	48.28%	19.85%	45.85%	37.86%	37.92%	37.92%	49.31%	24.12%

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
MEASURED AT JUNE 30, 2025

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	11.91%	11.42%	11.51%	-13.22%	29.20%	2.90%	5.76%	9.21%	12.30%	-3.13%

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF PENSION RELATED NOTES

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS MEASURED AT JUNE 30, 2025

Notes to the Schedule:

Valuation Date:

Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of July 1, 2024

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Method
Asset Method	Market Value of Assets
Discount rate	7.00%
Expected long-term rate of return	7.00%
Retirement age	Normal retirement age 65
Normal form	Life annuity
Assumed payment form and valuation	Lump sum valued at 5% discount rate post retirement and unisex mortality
Annual pay increases	3.00%, compounded annually
Inflation	2.00%
Mortality Rates:	
Healthy	PubG-2010 mortality table with generational improvements from 2010 base on the MP-2021 mortality improvement scale.
Disabled	PubG-2010 mortality table with generational improvements from 2010 base on the MP-2021 mortality improvement scale.
Lump sum	2024 Applicable mortality table per IRC 417e
Retirement rates	All participants are assumed to retire at the later of age 65 and attained age

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY* LAST NINE FISCAL YEARS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28,

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total OPEB Liability									
Service cost	\$ 136,600	\$ 168,852	\$ 174,528	\$ 247,342	\$ 370,624	\$ 407,835	\$ 306,682	\$ 255,435	\$ 260,346
Interest on net OPEB liability and service cost	239,994	230,856	217,690	171,670	145,085	136,415	158,169	149,024	139,890
Differences between actual and expected experience	(490,154)	3,608	(84,534)	(67,987)	(508,521)	(132,232)	49,737	(71,160)	3,036
Changes of assumptions	(234,851)	0	77,438	(774,394)	(702,926)	(261,922)	966,809	28,267	321,58
Benefit payments, including refunds	(117,425)	(107,588)	(102,657)	(101,620)	(89,624)	(81,163)	(87,887)	(83,087)	(128,500)
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	(465,836)	295,728	282,465	(524,989)	(785,362)	68,933	1,393,510	278,479	306,930
Total OPEB liability - Beginning	5,064,872	4,769,144	4,486,679	5,011,668	5,797,030	5,728,097	4,334,588	4,056,109	3,749,179
Total OPEB liability - Ending	\$ 4,599,036	\$ 5,064,872	\$ 4,769,144	\$ 4,486,679	\$ 5,011,668	\$ 5,797,030	\$ 5,728,098	\$ 4,334,588	\$ 4,056,109
OPEB Fiduciary Net Position									
Benefit payments, including refunds	\$ (117,425)	\$ (107,588)	\$ (102,657)	\$ (101,620)	\$ (89,624)	\$ (81,163)	\$ (87,887)	\$ (83,087)	\$ (128,500)
Trust administrative expenses	(16,043)	(13,398)	(10,030)	(9,026)	(8,811)	0	0	0	0
Contributions - employer	282,550	247,954	244,309	217,416	230,184	221,163	181,664	149,362	230,922
Net investment income	253,446	181,254	203,380	(82,833)	48,932	156,735	18,822	9,168	64,572
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	402,528	308,222	335,002	23,937	180,681	296,735	112,599	75,443	166,994
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	1,922,758	1,614,536	1,279,534	1,255,597	1,074,916	778,181	665,582	590,139	423,145
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending	\$ 2,325,286	\$ 1,922,758	\$ 1,614,536	\$ 1,279,534	\$ 1,255,597	\$ 1,074,916	\$ 778,181	\$ 665,582	\$ 590,139
Plan's Net OPEB Liability - Ending	\$ 2,273,750	\$ 3,142,114	\$ 3,154,608	\$ 3,207,145	\$ 3,756,071	\$ 4,722,114	\$ 4,949,917	\$ 3,669,006	\$ 3,465,970
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of Total OPEB Liability	50.56%	37.96%	33.85%	28.52%	25.05%	18.54%	13.59%	15.36%	14.55%
Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 2,057,661	\$ 2,134,949	\$ 2,250,251	\$ 2,209,790	\$ 2,183,885	\$ 2,192,977	\$ 2,663,763	\$ 2,592,000	\$ 2,516,888
Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	110.50%	147.18%	106.89%	112.30%	138.47%	172.09%	185.82%	141.55%	137.71%

*This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, OPEB plans should present information for those years for which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS*
LAST NINE FISCAL YEARS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28,

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	12.69%	10.80%	15.12%	-6.33%	4.29%	18.48%	2.64%	1.47%	13.61%

*This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, OPEB plans should present information for those years for which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS SCHEDULE OF OPEB RELATED NOTES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Actuarial Methods:

Measurement Date: March 1, 2025 for OPEB expense and February 28, 2026 for Net OPEB Liability

Actuarial Cost Method:

Costs have been computed in accordance with the Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method. The service cost is the sum of the service costs for all participants. For a current participant, the individual service cost is (a) the present value of future benefits as of the participant's entry age divided by (b) the present value of future compensation as of the participant's entry age multiplied by (c) current compensation. For other than a current active participant, the service cost equal \$0.

The accrued liability is the sum of the individual accrued liabilities for all participants. The individual accrued liability is equal to (d) the present value of future benefits less (e) the service cost accrual rate multiplies by (f) the present value of future compensation.

Asset-Valuation Method:

For purposes of determining the unfunded actuarial liability, the actuarial value of assets is equal to the fair market value.

Census Information:

Census data as of March 1, 2025 and premium information as of March 1, 2025 were used to calculate the OPEB Expense. Census data and premium information as of March 1, 2025 were used to calculate the Total OPEB Liability as of March 1, 2025

Actuarial Assumptions:

Discount rate: 5.49% in 2026, 4.77% in 2025

Investment Rate of Return: 6.75%

Salary Scale: 3.00%

Healthy Mortality: PubG.H-2010 Employee and Healthy Annuitant with Scale MP-2021 generational improvements (Male/Female)

Disabled Mortality: PubG.H-2010 Disabled Annuitant with Scale MP-2021 generational improvements (Male/Female)

Health Care Cost Trend Rates:

Medical Costs: Starting at 6.0% grading down using the Getzen model to an ultimate rate of 4.00%

Participation: 100% of eligible future retirees are assumed to elect medical coverage under Plan

Marital Status: 80% of future retirees are assumed to be married and elect family medical coverage. Female spouses are assumed to be 3 years younger than males.

Retirement Rates: Ranging from 5% at age 55 to 100% at age 70

Aging Assumption: Dental claims costs are assumed to increase by 3.00% per year of age up to age 70
Medical claim costs are assumed to increase range from:
from 3.0% at <70 to 0.0% at 90+

See independent auditors' report.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS* LAST NINE FISCAL YEARS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28,

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Actuarial determined contribution	\$ 310,226	\$ 376,802	\$ 386,045	\$ 455,474	\$ 597,742	\$ 511,960	\$ 511,960	\$ 449,833	\$ 448,047
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>282,550</u>	<u>247,954</u>	<u>244,309</u>	<u>217,416</u>	<u>230,184</u>	<u>230,922</u>	<u>230,922</u>	<u>149,362</u>	<u>230,922</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ 27,676</u>	<u>\$ 128,848</u>	<u>\$ 141,736</u>	<u>\$ 238,058</u>	<u>\$ 367,558</u>	<u>\$ 281,038</u>	<u>\$ 281,038</u>	<u>\$ 300,471</u>	<u>\$ 217,125</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 2,057,661	\$ 2,134,949	\$ 2,250,251	\$ 2,209,790	\$ 2,183,885	\$ 2,192,977	\$ 2,663,763	\$ 2,592,000	\$ 2,516,888
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	13.73%	11.61%	8.28%	7.61%	8.49%	5.76%	9.17%	5.76%	9.17%

*This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, OPEB plans should present information for those years for which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND TRANSFERS FOR FUNDS HELD BY BCWA AND TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026

	BCWA Funds				Trustee Funds		
	Debt Service		Operations and Maintenance		Operations and Maintenance		Revenue Funds
	Project Funds	Reserve Funds	Fund	Reserve Fund	Funds	Funds	Total
Funds Held with BCWA and Trustee Per Bank at March 1, 2025	\$ 187,234	\$ 4,649,493	\$ 1,281,315	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 32,934,349	\$ 41,752,391
Receipts:							
Collections from operations	0	0	0	0	0	19,900,000	19,900,000
Interest income	2,381	181,972	44,372	67,924	28,854	1,400,770	1,726,273
Transfers:							
To (from) operating cash accounts	0	(768,170)	0	0	146,000	(4,088,649)	(4,710,819)
(To) from other funds	0	0	4,953,798	(67,924)	(28,854)	(10,801,000)	(5,943,980)
Disbursements:							
Project expenditures	(188,322)	0	0	0	0	0	(188,322)
Payment on principal and accrued interest on Authority's notes	0	0	(4,898,563)	0	0	0	(4,898,563)
Funds Held with BCWA and Trustee Per Bank at February 28, 2026	\$ 1,293	\$ 4,063,295	\$ 1,380,922	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,096,000	\$ 39,345,470	47,636,980
Change in Accrued Interest						(398)	
Total funds held by trustee at February 28, 2026							<u>\$ 47,636,582</u>
Cash and cash equivalents held by trustees							\$ 40,441,071
Investment assets held by trustees							<u>7,195,511</u>
							<u>\$ 47,636,582</u>

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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

NON-CAPITALIZED FEES PAID TO CONSULTANTS

YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Current Operations

Legal	\$ 169,073
Engineering	0
Auditing	41,000
Accounting, financial, and computer consulting	<u>39,751</u>

Total	<u>\$ 249,824</u>
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BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

DEBT SERVICE FUNDS REQUIREMENT CALCULATION

(SECTION 603 – GENERAL BOND RESOLUTION)

YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Revenue fund balance per bank at March 1, 2025	\$ 32,934,349
Revenue collected from operations	19,900,000
Transfer to operating cash accounts for operations and maintenance expenses	(10,801,000)
Operating cash used for capital projects	2,067,087
Interest Income	<u>1,400,770</u>
Net revenue available for debt service requirement	<u>\$ 45,501,206</u>
Debt service requirement	\$ 4,898,563
Computed ratio	9.29
Required ratio	1.25

In accordance with Section 603 of the General Bond Resolution, the ratio of the net revenue available for debt service requirements must be equal to or greater than 1.25. The computed ratio for the year ended February 28, 2026 is 9.29

See independent auditors' report.

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CBIZ CPAs P.C.

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Providence, RI 02903

P: 401.600.4500

**Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial
Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

To The Board of Directors
Bristol County Water Authority
Warren, Rhode Island

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the business-type activities and aggregate remaining fund information of the Bristol County Water Authority (Authority), as of and for the year ended February 28, 2026, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 23, 2026.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

CBIZ CPAs P.C.

Providence, RI
June 23, 2026



BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

WEBSITE

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ADDRESS

Bristol County Water Authority
450 Child Street
Warren, RI 02885

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Tri-Town Monthly Report

Summary of Notable Activities and Reports from the August 27, 2026, BCWA Monthly Meeting

For detailed information on any of these subjects presented herein, please go to the BCWA website at www.bcwari.com or contact the BCWA. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

1. Annual Financial Audit: A presentation of the annual financial audit was made by our auditors, CBIZ CPAs. The results are a so-called “clean audit,” i.e. CBIZ was able to complete an independent audit using US Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) which indicates that the BCWA financial representations, statements, management and accounting practices are in proper order. A copy of the audit is available in the BCWA's Annual Report (available at www.bcwari.com or on request). A copy of the presentation is also available on the BCWA website.

2. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project

- a. As reported previously, RIDOT has a road resurfacing project on Pawtucket Avenue that shares the same route as the BCWA proposed water lines leading to the connection with the Pawtucket system. Coordinating these two projects could have an impact on the costs for this 3,700-foot section of BCWA pipe and RIDOT resurfacing project. The Executive Director contacted RIDOT to attempt to properly sequence these projects so that the BCWA does not have to later repave the proposed RIDOT paving. The RIDOT rejected our request.

At its last meeting, the BCWA Board expressed “significant concern” about RIDOT’s decision to move forward with their road project while we have a water project that will subsequently reopen that same road. The Executive Director sent a letter to RIDOT requesting re-consideration and outlining the BCWA Board’s concerns. RIDOT again rejected our request, this time citing concerns based on their “historical” experiences with “multiple municipal projects have colored this decision more than any lack of confidence in Bristol Water”. We are very disappointed in this rejection for coordination of the project since having both agencies working together could have resulted in monetary savings for both.

- b. A RIDEM wetlands permit for the Ten-Mile River bridge crossing was issued.

3. Phase II Plant Buildings Demolition: A.A. Wrecking Co. Inc. was awarded a contract in June. An asbestos removal plan has been approved by RIDOH. A pre-construction meeting was held in August. Demolition on the main building is expected to start soon. Regarding the smaller “Old Station” building, action was taken on this by the Board noted in section 4 of this report.

4. Shad Factory Pipeline Project:

- a. Pare Corporation has begun permit application filing for this project.

Summary – August 27, 2026, BCWA Board of Directors Meeting

5. Board Actions

- a. **Operations Building Design:** Based on discussions at a Properties Committee meeting, the Board approved modifications to the proposed design of the building. The primary changes include downsizing the width of the overhead doors and for the design team to review adding a drive-thru bay without increasing the size of the building.
- b. **Public Request for Proposals for the Old Station Building:** (Small brick building on Child St) – There appears to be renewed interest in the reuse of the Old Station Building. After considerable discussion weighing the potential benefits and drawbacks of re-issuing a Request for Proposals for the use/reuse of this building, the Board approved the development of a new RFP to be presented to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.
- c. **Disposition of BCWA Swansea Property:** Over the last year, the BCWA Properties Committee has been reviewing the BCWA property holdings. At the same time, discussions were held with Swansea Water District (SWD) officials about BCWA property which includes the Warren Reservoir in Swansea. This property also includes the dam that creates the Warren Reservoir which regulates flow to the former Kickemuit Reservoir on Child Street in Warren. There is presently no use of this property or the impounded water by the BCWA. Recently, a letter was received from the SWD making an offer to acquire the BCWA property. The Board approved an offer with conditions which will be presented to the SWD.

6. Water System Improvements

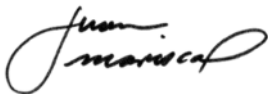
- a. **Emergency Repair** — A water main break occurred at the corner of Fales and Clifton Roads during the month. BCWA crews responded and quickly made the necessary repairs to the pipe.
- b. **Capital Improvement Projects**
 - **Child Street & Metacom Avenue, Warren** — Work is on-going on this project. Cleaning of the water line on Metacom between Child Street and Kickemuit will be started soon.
 - **Gooding Avenue/Naomi Drive, Bristol** — Milling and overlayment of these streets affected by the project was completed.
- c. **Lead Service Line Replacement Program** – With assistance from RIDOH and its contractor, “the “120 Water and Rural Water Association” water utilities continues to perform outreach activity to address potential private lead water services.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting —At BCWA Offices 450 Child Street, Warren.

- 5:00PM, Thursday September 24, 2026, Monthly Board Meeting

As noted herein, this is a summary. For detailed information on the BCWA activities, please go to the BCWA website at www.bcwari.com or contact the BCWA. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the BCWA website.

Respectfully submitted,



Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 29, 2026

at 7:00 PM

Town Hall - 10 Court Street, Bristol Rhode Island

Written comments may be submitted to the Historic District Commission via regular mail addressed to:

Historic District Commission, Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol RI 02809 or via email to ntoth@bristolri.gov

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was promptly recited afterwards.

In attendance: Lima, Allen, Church, Millard, Bergenholtz, Page, and Camara

Also in attendance: Town Solicitor Teitz, and Toth

Absent: Ponder

2. Staff Report

2A. Staff Report

3. Review of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

3A. Review of minutes of the June 4, 2026 meeting.

Chairperson Allen's corrections were as follows: Page 16, under "5B", 2nd paragraph down, first paragraph should read "Member Bergenholtz stated that" not "Member Bergenholtz state"; and on page 38, under "5H", the 3rd paragraph, the beginning of the sentence should read "Chairperson Allen asked" not "Chairperson Allen aside". With no other correction or comments from any other Commission Members, a motion was made.

2

Motion made by Member Lima to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2026 meeting as amended; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Lima, Page, Allen, Millard, Church, Bergenholtz, and Camara

Opposed: None

Motion carries

4. **Application Reviews**

4A. 26-83: 61 Court St, Caitlin Frumerie Discuss and act on addition of wood fence to property along rear of driveway.

Sebastian Wordell and Caitlin Frumerie were present.

Ms. Frumerie and Mr. Wordell presented the application to the Commission. The Commission then discussed the same. Member Church asked Ms. Frumerie to indicate on the photograph provided where the fence was to be located. Ms. Frumerie approached Member Church and showed her the location of the fence. Ms. Frumerie stated there would be a small gate that would look exactly like the picket fence. Chairperson Allen asked if it was going to be all pressure treated wood. Ms. Frumerie said yes and she was going to paint it.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. With no one coming forward, he asked for a motion.

Motion made by Member Church to approve application #26-83 as presented for the installation of a pressure treated picket fence to be located in the back yard as shown in the diagram of Item 1 on Page 58; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Church, Page, Allen, Millard, Lima, Camara, and Bergenholtz

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 10

Project Monitor: Susan Church

Nick advised Ms. Frumerie that the permit would be issued through online portal and to post it in the front of the house where visible.

4B. 26-62: 15 Church St, Deborah Appleyard Discuss and act on permanent removal of shutters.

Member Bergenholtz recused.

Deb Appleyard present.

Ms. Appleyard presented the application, and the Commission had a discussion thereafter. Chairperson Allen asked if there was any proof that the shutters were not historic to the home. Ms. Appleyard stated Nate Bergenholtz was going to speak on that point, but that other houses in the area that were federal style didn't have shutters on them.

Chairperson Allen asked if anyone else on the Commission had any questions.

Ms. Appleyard stated that the shutters were not working shutters. Member Church asked if the shutters were wide enough to close and asked about the hardware. She asked Ms. Appleyard if she removed the hardware would she be willing to store it. Ms. Appleyard said she didn't know if there was any hardware there. Member Church said she noticed hinges in the photographs. Ms. Appleyard said it was done by a handyman rather quickly because it was windy and there were pieces flying around and they needed to be removed. Member Church asked Ms. Appleyard if she understood what Member Church was referring to and Ms. Appleyard said she did, but that she wasn't sure if all of it was there or not. Member Church asked if the shutters had been removed already and Ms. Appleyard said yes. Member Page stated the hardware was there the day before the meeting. Ms. Appleyard said she hadn't climbed up onto the house to remove the shutters herself.

Member Lima said that Ms. Appleyard had removed the shutters before she came to the Commission meeting. Ms. Appleyard said that the shutters were removed by a

handyman because there were pieces falling off and she was concerned that someone passing on the street was going to get hurt. Member Lima asked what was done with the shutters after they were removed and Ms. Appleyard wasn't sure. Chairperson Allen said if something like that were to happen again, Ms. Appleyard should get a hold of Nick before proceeding.

Nick stated he was aware of it and went out to the property during the process of the shutters being removed and had noted it in the Staff Report. He advised the Commission that the approval that was given administratively was for the removal and repair of the shutters as that was Ms. Appleyard's original intention. Nick stated that, as the applicant said earlier, the applicant didn't believe it made sense to replace them. He said it was approved to remove and replace, but in the process of doing so, the contractor couldn't repair them once they were down. Ms. Appleyard said the shutters weren't in any condition to repair and replace them. Nick stated that was her original intent and Ms. Appleyard said yes.

Chairperson Allen asked Nick if he felt the shutters weren't able to be repaired. Nick said a few were in okay shape and a few were in really rough shape. He stated that as the contractor was loading them in his truck, the shutters were coming apart. Nick said it was about 50/50, some were salvageable and some were not.

Member Millard said it was her understanding that shutters were more of a Victorian feature on houses. She said people with earlier houses in Town had shutters because they liked them. Member Millard felt it was a Victorian feature and was okay with Ms. Appleyard not having shutters.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application.

Nate Bergenholtz came up to speak. Mr. Bergenholtz stated that according to Timberlane's Old House Journal for federal style houses around the same time period, shutters were present in some and absent in others. He said they were mostly present in warmer, wet climates in the south. Mr. Bergenholtz said that Antique's Home Magazine stated that federal home exterior shutters were

only seen in rural houses with prime examples that had shutters which folded into the interior of the window jams. He stated when Ms. Appleyard's home was built in 1807, Bristol was not considered rural and was a busy seaport. Mr. Bergenholtz said many federal homes in Town didn't have shutters and gave examples. He asked the Commission to grant Ms. Appleyard's petition to keep the shutters off the house.

Chairperson Allen asked Attorney Teitz if the Commission needed a standard and Attorney Teitz said yes. Attorney Teitz said that the Commission was finding that the shutters were not an original character feature, so it was not violating Standard 5. He stated the Commission would be in conformance with Standard 5 because the feature, i.e. the shutters, that were being removed was not an original feature to the home.

Motion made by Alternate Member Camara to approve application #26-62 as presented with a finding of fact that research showed that the shutters were not original to the house; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Camara, Page, Allen, Lima, Church, and Millard

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 5

Project Monitor: (Not indicated)

4C. 26-67: 99 Bradford St, Carl Pearson Discuss and act on continued door.

Carl Pearson was present.

Mr. Pearson presented the application to the Commission. The Commission then discussed the same. Chairperson Allen asked Mr. Pearson if the door was going to be a custom door and Mr. Pearson said yes. Member Bergenholtz said the door was very nice and appropriate.

With no further questions or comments, a motion was made.

Motion made by Member Church to approve application #26-67 as presented on Exhibit 1; Seconded by Alternate Member Camara.

Voting Yea: Church, Camara, Bergenholtz, Page, Millard, Lima, and Allen

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 9

Project Monitor: John Allen

Chairperson Allen asked Mr. Pearson to put the certificate in the front where visible when it was ready.

4D. 26-53: 224 Hope St, Gregory Leonetti Discuss and act on bulkhead, changes to stairs if not approved at site visit, windows.

Nick advised the Commission that Mr. Leonetti requested a continuance.

Motion made by Member Lima to continue application #26-53 to the August meeting; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Lima, Page, Camara, Bergenholtz, Millard, Church, and Allen

Opposed: None

Motion carries

4E. 26-74: 570 Hope St, BWRSD Discuss and act on replacement of door in kind.

Nick advised the Commission that School Department requested a continuance.

Motion made by Member Lima to continue application #26-74 to the August meeting; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Lima, Page, Camara, Bergenholtz, Millard, Church, and Allen

Opposed: None

Motion carries

4F. 26-72: 142 High St, Nina Murphy & Bart Ferris

Discuss and act on installation of Solar Panels.

Bart Farris, Nina Murphy, and Mike Soldon(?) of NEC Solar, were present.

Mr. Ferris and Mr. Soldon presented the application. The Commission had a discussion thereafter. Chairperson Allen asked if the solar panels were going to power both the brick house and the back house. Mr. Ferris said it would power the back house which would give them credits which would be sold back and then they get credits for the front house which would provide more power to the front house. Member Church asked where all of the mechanics were going to be located. Mr. Soldon said they were planning to install everything to the right of the bulkhead. He said 2 of the boxes would be located there and there would be a conduit which would go up to the roof surface which would be located on the north side of the building which would be against a fence line with 10-15ft arborvitaes. Mr. Soldon approached Member Church to show her the location on the plan.

Chairperson Allen asked if anyone else had any questions or comments. He then asked for a motion.

Motion made by Member Bergenholtz to approve application #26-72 as presented. If the mechanical components become obsolete or inoperable it is to be removed within 1 year; Seconded by Member Lima.

Voting Yea: Bergenholtz, Lima, Church, Millard, Allen, Page, and Camara

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 9

Project Monitor: Ory Lima

4G. 26-76: 250 Metacom Ave, Mount Hope Farm Discuss and act on replacement of garage door with barn door.

Brenda Turchetta and Jon Feinstein were present.

Ms. Turchetta presented the application to the Commission. The Commission then had a discussion regarding the application. Chairperson Allen asked the Commission members if anyone had any comments or questions. Alternate Member Camara asked Ms. Turchetta if the design of the proposed barn door was reminiscent of the style that would have been on the barn at that time. Ms. Turchetta wasn't sure but felt it was more appropriate for the barn. Alternate Member Camara stated the picture in the packet was of the existing door on the barn and Ms. Turchetta said yes. Mr. Feinstein said the existing door wasn't in keeping with the barn and it wasn't efficient from an energy point of view. He stated it would also allow for light to come into the room in the winter months when the door is closed. Mr. Feinstein stated they tried to find a wooden door that would look appropriate as they had spent a lot of money to restore the barn and replacing the door would be the final touch.

Member Bergenholtz asked if they were going to drop the transom that was on the top. Ms. Turchetta spoke with FT Construction and the measurements allowed for the transom to stay. Member Bergenholtz said the arch looked a little busy and suggested the New Orleans style door. Member Church asked if it was natural wood and Ms. Turchetta said yes, western red cedar.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. With no one coming forward, Chairperson Allen asked for a motion.

Motion made by Alternate Member Camara to approve application #26-76 as presented; Seconded by Page.

Voting Yea: Camara, Page, Allen, Church, Bergenholtz, Millard, and Lima

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 9

Project Monitor: Chris Ponder

Nick asked the applicants that the green sheet would be available online.

4H. 26-79: 301 Hope St, Eli Dunn Discuss and act on painting of sign on side of building.

Eli Dunn was present.

Mr. Dunn presented the application, and the Commission had a discussion thereafter. Chairperson Allen asked if there was any concern regarding the size of the mural. Nick advised Mr. Dunn to run it by zoning to make sure the dimensions were okay with zoning. Mr. Dunn stated he would work within the constraints of zoning. Attorney Teitz said the constraint may be 8sq.ft. and Mr. Dunn's proposed mural was much larger. He said Mr. Dunn could apply for relief. Nick said if the Commission was just approving the design, then they could approve it based on zoning. Attorney Teitz stated it could be subject to zoning approval.

Mr. Dunn asked Nick what the zoning process was. Nick advised Mr. Dunn to speak with Ed Tanner as he could help him with the application process. Nick said if it needed to go before the Zoning Board, it would be a similar process to the HDC.

Chairperson Allen asked the Commission members if anyone else had any other questions or comments. Attorney Teitz advised the Commission to make it clear that: 1) they were approving it, but it was subject to zoning; and 2) if a smaller sized mural was approved by zoning, then that would also be approved by the Commission and Mr. Dunn wouldn't have to come back. Attorney Teitz said if, for any reason, the mural was to be larger, then Mr. Dunn would have to come back for the Commission's approval.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. No one came forward, so a motion was made.

Motion made by Member Lima to approve application #26-79 for the installation painting of a sign/mural as presented, subject to the approval of the Zoning Board regarding the dimensions. If the Zoning Board approves a smaller sign/mural, the Commission also approves of the same. If the Zoning Board, for whatever reason, approves or requires a larger sign, then application will have to return to the Commission for further approval; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Lima, Page, Camara, Church, Millard, Allen, and Bergenholtz

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 9 and 10

Project Monitor: Ory Lima

4I. 26-80: 799 Hope St, Bristol Garden Club Discuss and act on installation of information kiosk signage at Thomas Park.

Lucy Perkin was present.

Ms. Perkin presented the application to the Commission, and the Commission discussed the same. Chairperson Allen asked Ms. Perkin to tell the Commission about the story boards. Ms. Perkin said it was a collaboration with Bill Buzza to design the story boards. They did a tremendous amount of research for Mrs. Perry's story board, as well as for the garden club story board.

Chairperson Allen asked the Commission members if anyone had any questions or comments. Alternate Member Camara asked Ms. Perkin if the story boards were roughly the same size as the other story boards existing in the Town. Ms. Perkin said they were designed to mirror the style and design of the other story boards in the Town. Member Lima asked where the story boards would be located. Ms. Perkin said the boards would be located in Mrs. Perry's garden to the left of the rain catch.

Chairperson Allen stated the Commission has had some reluctance to continue to approve story boards as there seemed to be a lot of them in the Town, but those were going to be in a good location. Member Bergenholtz agreed with Chairperson Allen. Chairperson Allen said that Johnson & Wales had their story boards printed on 2 sides so when one side wore out, they just flipped it over and used the other side. He suggested to Ms. Perkin that it might be something to consider doing for the club's boards.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. With no one coming forward, Chairperson Allen asked for a motion.

Motion made by Member Church to approve application #26-80 for the installation of 2 story boards as presented; Seconded by Alternate Member Camara.

Voting Yea: Church, Camara, Bergenholtz, Allen, Lima, Millard, and Page

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 10

Project Monitor: Robert Page

4J. 26-81: 1200 Hope St, Infinity 1217 LLC Discuss and act on construction of well house, change of previously approved siding materials for carriage houses.

No one present.

Motion made by Member Lima to continue application #26-81 to the August meeting; Seconded by Chairperson Allen.

Voting Yea: Lima, Allen, Millard, Bergenholtz, Church, Page, and Camara

Opposed: None

Motion carries

4K. 26-82: 8 Constitution St, John Marshall Discuss and act on replacement of denied sliding glass door with window on rear of garage.

Attorney Alfred R. Rego, Jr., John Marshall, and Peter Dwyer were present.

Attorney Rego presented the application to the Commission. The Commission then had a discussion. Attorney Rego approached the Commission and presents a mock-up to the members. Member Church asked Attorney Rego what the dimensions were that they were requesting. Chairperson Allen stated for clarification the slider doors were going to be taken out and 2 double hung windows were going to be put in. Attorney Rego said that was correct.

Attorney Teitz asked if they had a plan or the dimensions of the windows that would be installed. Mr. Marshall said no one would be able to walk out through the window. Attorney Teitz asked Mr. Marshall if he had a plan showing what it would look like with the window. Mr. Marshall said only what was in the packet. Attorney Teitz said that the dimension of the windows was going to be the exact dimension of the sliding glass door. Mr. Marshall said that was correct.

Member Church said the object was to recreate a window that was appropriate for the period. Attorney Rego said there wasn't a window there, so they weren't recreating anything. Member Church stated to create an opening to let in light that would be appropriate to the period and scale of the building. Mr. Marshall stated his main concern was that his neighbor didn't want him to go on her property and Member Church stated that was immaterial.

Member Lima clarified that Mr. Marshall was going to have 2 8 pane windows that would fill the space. Attorney Rego stated it would fill the upper portion of the space, and the bottom will be siding. Member Church said nothing gave them any dimensions of the windows, i.e., how high or wide the windows were going to be. Member Lima said it wasn't going to be any bigger than the existing sliding glass door. Attorney Rego agreed and said it wasn't going to be any bigger in width, but half the height as the bottom was going to be siding. Member

Lima advised Attorney Rego they needed to amend the application to include the dimensions of the window for the record. Attorney Rego said it would be filled in. Mr. Marshall stated it was going to be a 2ft high knee wall and 6ft wide. Member Lima advised them to put it in writing and give the information to Nick so it could be put on the record. Member Church stated it should be on the record before the Commission voted on it. Member Lima didn't want to have the applicant come back again.

Chairperson Allen asked Mr. Marshall for a cut sheet showing the size of the window. Mr. Marshall stated he would drop it off to Nick the following day. Member Bergenholtz asked to clarify if it was a total of 4 lights and not 8 lights. Mr. Marshall said that was correct. Attorney Rego stated it was 4ft high and 6ft wide. Chairperson Allen said it would be better for the Commission to have a cut sheet of the windows. Mr. Marshall stated he would bring it in the following day.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. No one came forward to speak, so a motion was made.

Motion made by Alternate Member Camara to approve application #26-82 for the removal of the sliding glass door at the rear of the garage and to be replaced with a window and 2ft high knee wall as presented subject to the appropriate cut sheet with dimensions for the window being submitted; Seconded by Member Lima.

Voting Yea: Camara, Lima, Millard, Church, Allen, Page, and Bergenholtz

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 9

Project Monitor: Ben Bergenholtz

4L. 26-54: 244 Metacom Ave, Andrew Broten Discuss and act on demolition of stone structure based on recommendations from RIHPHC.

Mr. Broten was present.

Nick advised the Commission that the application would need to be continued pending receiving advice from RIHPC. He said the RIHPC had visited the site, conducted a walk through, and were now looking into the history of the structure. Nick stated that they were now waiting to hear back from RIHPC.

Attorney Teitz suggested continuing the application to the September meeting, so it didn't get lost.

Motion made by Member Lima to continue application #26-54 to the September meeting; Seconded by Member Church.

Voting Yea: Lima, Church, Bergenholtz, Millard, Allen, Camara, and Page

Opposed: None

Motion carries

4M. 26-84: 244 Metacom Ave, Andrew Broten Discuss and act on addition of multi-sport court area with fences and lighting on property, previously presented as HDC-25-65.

Mr. Broten was present.

Mr. Broten presented the application to the Commission. The Commission then discussed the same. Member Bergenholtz asked if the Commission had approved the lighting at the last meeting. Mr. Broten stated the lighting was approved over a year ago. Nick said the Commission had approved the project pending the receipt of the lighting specifications and Mr. Broten had changed his mind on a few things, so the Commission hadn't received that information originally. He stated the Commission hadn't seen the lighting specifications, but Mr. Broten had provided it at this time. Member Bergenholtz stated the Commission hadn't approved it. Nick said the Commission had approved everything else but the lighting at the previous meeting.

Member Bergenholtz asked if it was an LED light or a cold light, a blue or warm light? Mr. Broten stated it was an LED 120-watt fixture but didn't see the color of the light. He said if the Commission wanted a specific

warmth, he could change the color of LED. Member Bergenholtz said the Commission had approved 2700 lumens for exterior lights which was a warm light. Alternate Member Camara said there was a 120-watt and a 240-watt and asked which one Mr. Broten was proposing. Mr. Broten stated it was the 120-watt option. Chairperson Allen asked Mr. Broten how many lights he was asking for and Mr. Broten said just 1.

Member Millard asked Mr. Broten where the light was going to be located. Mr. Broten stated it was going to be located opposite from the hoop on the 60ft side of the court. Alternate Member Camara asked if it had a solar panel. Mr. Broten said it did have a solar panel, and it was also connected to electricity if the solar panel wasn't working. Alternate Member Camara asked Mr. Broten which option (A, B, or C) proposed was the one that he wanted. Mr. Broten stated he wanted option A as the location of the light would be furthest from any property line. Member Millard asked which side of the house it was on. Mr. Broten said it would be located on the north side of the house. Member Bergenholtz asked if the light would be seen when it was on. Mr. Broten said it could be seen from Metacom Avenue when it was lit, but when it was off, no one could see it unless they were to come into the yard and specifically look for it. Member Bergenholtz stated he didn't want it looking like a prison yard. Mr. Broten said it wouldn't be lit at 10pm, only when the court was being used.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Matthew White came forward to speak.

Mr. White voiced his concerns about the size of the court, and the lighting not being overly bright and affecting the neighbors. Mr. Broten answered Mr. White's questions. Mr. White wanted to clarify that Mr. Broten was no longer moving forward with the outdoor kitchen, pool house, and fire pit projects. Nick advised Mr. White that the HDC's approval was an upper limit and if Mr. Broten was reducing or changing things, Mr. Broten would have to appear before the Commission again. Nick stated if Mr. Broten wasn't changing anything, then that would be a conversation with the Project Monitor. He stated there was a conversation to change the mudroom around which would come back before the Commission. Mr. White said that nothing else has been approved on the

project because Mr. Broten has taken it off the table for now. Nick said that Mr. Broten was able to do what he had been approved for, but if Mr. Broten wasn't doing segments, he wouldn't have to come back for them. If Mr. Broten was doing the pool but not the pool house, that wouldn't require any additional approval by the Commission. Nick advised Mr. White that any changes to original plan would have to come back to the Commission.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone else in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. No one else came forward to speak, so a motion was made.

Motion made by Alternate Member Camara to approve application #26-84 re-approval to include the LED light fixture; Seconded by Member Page.

Voting Yea: Page, Camara, Lima, Bergenholtz, Allen, Church, and Millard

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 9 and 10

Project Monitor: Robert Page

4N. 26-33: 145 High St, Danny Ferreira Discuss and act on demolition of garage, rehabilitation of home and construction of addition, additional site work.

David Sisson and Danny Ferreira were present.

Mr. Sisson presented the application to the Commission. A discussion commenced between the Commission and Mr. Sisson. Member Bergenholtz asked if the dormers had been scaled back as it was one of his concerns and Mr. Sisson said they were scaled back. Mr. Sisson said it was now a doghouse style dormer. Member Church asked how many units there were and Mr. Sisson said it would be 2 units. Member Bergenholtz said it was everything that the Commission had asked for.

Chairperson Allen said that the main house would have a wood exterior and the addition would have a Hardie board

exterior. Mr. Sisson said that was correct. Chairperson Allen asked which doors would be the JELD-WEN doors and Mr. Sisson said the doors would be used in all locations except for the front door as it could be salvaged. Chairperson Allen stated that if the front door couldn't be restored, they would have to come back. Mr. Sisson said it was his goal to restore it.

Member Lima asked where the second residence would be. Mr. Sisson said it would be located above the garage. Member Lima asked if the garage and the main house would be attached. Mr. Sisson stated it would be attached by a breezeway.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Neighbors, Lenny Pansa, Greg Carleu, Sebastian Wordell, Nina Murphy, June Veraguard, and Cindy Fanning spoke against the project. Their concerns consisted of the massing, setbacks, possible addition of an ADU in the future, and parking issues.

Attorney Teitz addressed Mr. Carleu's request that it be approved with the condition that there be no additional mass added in the future. He said by the very nature of the approval, the Commission was approving what's currently presented to them. There was no way to condition whatever may happen in the future. Attorney Teitz said someone would have to come back before the Commission and obtain the appropriate approvals. He stated there was no way to condition something now and say "never again" as everyone always had the right to come back before the Commission.

Attorney Teitz also addressed Mr. Carleu's question about what happens with the existing Commission approval on the property if the back part of the property is split off and sold to someone else. Attorney Teitz if someone wanted to do anything, even if there's an approval for a separate lot and they wanted to build something on it, they would have to come before the Commission to get approval before doing so. He said the existing approval and plan didn't go away. Attorney Teitz said the subdivision itself might need the Commission's approval.

Vincent Pacifico, a registered architect, reviewed the applicant's submission and looked at the design issue he was facing. Mr. Pacifico suggested a book for Mr.

Ferreira that talked about the New England connected farmhouse. He said showed examples of how to add small additions, so it wasn't a big, long box. Mr. Pacifico said that Mr. Ferreira could pull it in from the property line and just wanted to make that suggestion to him.

Chairperson Allen stated at the last meeting there was somewhat of a consensus from the Commission that they wanted to see the house more linear and he wanted to make sure that's what everyone still wanted. Member Lima asked Attorney Teitz if he could stake out the site and the Commission could do a site visit. Member Bergenholtz said it was suggested at the last meeting as well. Attorney Teitz stated if the majority of the Commission wanted it, it could be something the Commission required. Member Page stated he didn't need it. Member Bergenholtz said he was prepared to vote. Member Lima said she would like to see it. Alternate Member Camara stated he didn't need to see it. Member Millard wanted to see it.

Member Millard suggested to Mr. Ferreira that he move the garage out and away and also move the addition a little bit away from the house. She referred to Mr. Pacifico's earlier suggestion of referring to the book examples. She said if the addition was moved a bit in from the property line maybe it would be more appealing to the neighbors.

Member Church asked if any consideration had been given to move the house to the south. Mr. Ferreira said that had not been considered and it was not in the plans. Member Church asked about the dimension from east to west of each of the buildings. Mr. Sisson said for the existing structures that were less than 3ft from the property line, they were going to be shortening the total length because the existing 10-car garage was very long. He said if you add the existing house, addition, and 10-car garage, it was longer than what was being proposed.

Chairperson Allen said the Commission was asking was what was the depth of the original house plus the addition. Mr. Sisson stated the existing house was approximately 28½ ft deep and the addition was about another 21ft. He said they were proposing taking the existing house at about 28.6ft, putting on a breezeway of about 7ft, adding an addition roughly or slightly smaller than the existing addition of about 21ft putting another breezeway of about 10ft and then the garage at 28ft. Mr. Sisson said they

lengthened it by about 45ft. Chairperson Allen stated that was almost double of the existing home. Member Bergenholtz said that wasn't including the garage, and Mr. Sisson said that wasn't including the 10-car garage. Mr. Ferreira said the garage was approximately 120ft in length. Mr. Sisson said the garage was 3ft from the property line.

Member Millard said it was her understanding that the 10-car garage was not going to be used. She asked Mr. Ferreira if he was keeping the garage and Mr. Ferreira said no. Nick said the application for total demolition of the garage. Mr. Ferreira said they would be reducing the amount of building on that side yard setback substantially. He said the surrounding properties were all within the property setbacks as well.

Mr. Sisson said in terms of lot coverage, they were reducing the footprint by approximately 1,000sq.ft. in the current proposal from what was existing on the site. Member Millard asked if that included the garage and Mr. Sisson said yes. Member Millard asked how that was relevant to what was actually happening. Mr. Ferreira said it was a building he could put back up in its existing location in the exact form as a 10-car garage. He was trying hard to satisfy everyone but continued to get pushback. Mr. Ferreira advised the Commission that the property was on the market to be sold. He said it was going to go to someone who wanted it as a single-family home or a single-family home with an additional unit. Mr. Ferreira had a local family interested in it and the only way they could get it was to have the multi-family use on the site, and he would like the property to go to that family. If that didn't get approved, then it might go to another bidder from Connecticut. He wanted to keep it local.

Mr. Ferreira said he could stake out the site, if necessary, but wanted to get a definitive answer from the Commission. Member Bergenholtz asked Mr. Ferreira if he was going to be doing the build out. Mr. Ferreira said he was trying to sell it as a package deal and then he would be involved with the build. He wanted it done right and good for everyone and the Town.

Member Lima asked, in terms of the property line, was the distance between one house and the other going to be decreased? Mr. Ferreira said he would be moving away

from Mr. Pansa's property line. He would be improving the side yard setback. He stated he could break up the massing by facing the garage forward, but he showed that at the last meeting and no one liked it.

Member Lima said in terms of the 10-car garage, the new garage wasn't going to extend that far west, and Mr. Sisson said it wasn't even close. Member Lima said the cinder blocks would come down and there would be a grass space and Mr. Ferreira said yes. Mr. Sisson, while looking at the site plan, said on the drawing everything was stopping about 15ft before where the existing 10-car garage started. He said the length of the 10-car garage was about the length of the entire structure they were proposing which included the existing home.

Member Lima said the location of the proposed breezeway is where the previous part that fell into itself was located and Mr. Sisson said that was the location of the 1st breezeway. Mr. Sisson said it was designed with 2 breezeways to break up the mass of the house.

Chairperson Allen asked if anyone else wanted to speak.

Cindy Fanning came up and expressed her concern about whether there was going to be enough parking for everyone that would be living on the property. Nick said that was a zoning issue and of no relevance to the Commission. Mr. Ferreira stated there was a 2-car garage for the single-family home and 1 space for the other unit. He said the Town only requires him to provide 2 spaces for the main house and 1 for the ADU, essentially 1 per bedroom. Mr. Ferreira was providing 4 parking spaces on the site plus the remaining portion of the driveway.

Mr. Wordell came back up and asked why Mr. Ferreira kept calling the other unit an ADU. Mr. Ferreira said it was not; it was a single-family. Mr. Wordell said that's what Mr. Ferreira called it, an ADU. Nick said that it was a zoning matter and not relevant to the Commission. Mr. Ferreira said that he wanted it as a multi-family because he didn't know who was going to be taking over the property and didn't want to have any restrictions on how the property is rented out. He said it would be over 16,000sqft. Mr. Ferreira said per zoning they were allowed 3 full units plus an ADU. He stated the people that most of the people that viewed the home wanted to keep it as a single-family so it may not be an issue.

However, the way Mr. Ferreira was trying to have it done as he wanted to sell it to the people he knew who were Bristolians, they didn't want the restrictions so they could do what they wanted with the property. He stated they would be living on the site.

Chairperson Allen asked for a motion. He asked if the Commission should do the motion for the demolition first. Attorney Teitz said to do the new build motion first and then the demolition motion second.

Motion made by Page to approve application #26-33 for the remodeling of the existing home and proposed addition as presented. Finding of fact as to Standard #6 the restoration of the front building is based on the deterioration including the removal of the collapsed section. Finding of fact as to Standards #9 and #10, the addition will fill for the section that collapsed and the new addition beyond that going to the west. Further, the minutes of the June 4, 2026 meeting regarding this application are hereby incorporated by reference; Seconded by Member Bergenholtz.

Voting Yea: Bergenholtz, Page, Millard, Lima, Church, and Camara

Opposed: Allen

Motion carries 6 to 1.

Secretary of Interior Standards: 6, 9, and 10

Project Monitor: Ben Bergenholtz

Motion made by Page to approve application #26-33 as to the demolition of the original 10-car garage to the rear west of the property using case concrete block structure which has collapsed, and it is appropriate at this time to remove the remaining corner of the structure. Finding of fact that placement of the 10-car garage was not a contributing factor to the district and the garage does not show on any historic surveys; Seconded by Bergenholtz.

Voting Yea: Bergenholtz, Page, Millard, Lima, Church, Allen, and Camara

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 5

Project Monitor: Ben Bergenholtz

Mr. Ferreira said he would salvage what he could of the concrete bricks and save them for the Historic Society. He would also put out a posting for the rest of the salvaged bricks so if anyone else wanted them, they could go by and get them.

Nick advised Mr. Ferreira that the green sheet would be available online and to post it in the front where visible.

40. 25-12: 125 Hope St, Nancy DiPrete Laurienzo Discuss and act on demolition of existing structure and replacement.

Alfred R. Rego, Jr., Madeline Melchert, and Greg Spiess were present.

Mr. Spiess presented the application to the Commission. A discussion by the Commission then followed. Chairperson Allen asked how much less glass window surface there was on the new design as opposed to the previous design. Mr. Spiess said the window size has been reduced approximately 20% than what was previously shown as they tried to look for what was appropriate. He stated the biggest impact was to get rid of the vertical alignment. Chairperson Allen remembered that most of the ones on the previous rendering were glass doors or large windows. Chairperson Allen said the new renderings were a vast improvement. Member Bergenholtz agreed with Chairperson Allen.

Chairperson Allen asked if anyone else had comments. Member Page said it was good. Alternate Member Camara also said it was good. Member Millard liked it as well. Member Church liked the new design.

Chairperson Allen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. No one came forward, so a motion was made.

Attorney Teitz stated that the Commission needed to make the motion in 2 parts. First one is for the new construction, and the second motion is for the demolition.

Motion made by Alternate Member Camara to approve application #25-12 for the construction of new house and garage as presented. The minutes of previous meetings with regard to this application on multiple dates are hereby incorporate by reference; Seconded by Member Bergenholtz.

Voting Yea: Camara, Bergenholtz, Allen, Lima, Church, Millard, and Page

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: 2, 3, 9, and 10

Project Monitor: Robert Page

Motion made by Alternate Member Camara for application #25-12 for the demolition of the existing structure. Findings of fact based on the Commission's site visit of the property, the flood velocity codes, and the determination of Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission (RIHPC) that it is not feasible to restore the property based on the condition of the property and its setting within the velocity flood zone. The decision letter of RIHPC is also incorporated by reference herein; Seconded by Member Lima.

Voting Yea: Camara, Bergenholtz, Allen, Lima, Church, Millard, and Page

Opposed: None

Motion carries

Secretary of Interior Standards: (standard # wasn't stated, if applicable)

Project Monitor: Robert Page

5. Concept Review

6. Monitor Reports & Project Updates

Alternate Member Camara, regarding 248 Hope Street, the sky light placement was not clearly visible from street as it was on the back portion, not the main portion of the house. He said he was waiting for final dimensions on the dome versus the flat and once he had that, he would offer a decision. Chairperson Allen said it was not visible from street at all. Alternate Member Camara said someone would have to really approach the property from a certain angle to see it. He didn't believe it was visible to someone casually going by. Chairperson Allen stated it needed to be documented that it's not visible from the street as the person who did the flat one did so because it was visible from the street. Alternate Member Camara said the drawing stated the height of the dome was 2½ inches, but he was waiting for clarification. Chairperson Allen asked if that was something that was delegated to the Project Monitor and Alternate Member Camara said yes.

Chairperson Allen wanted to share that Nick did an excellent job with the reference letter on Peggy Frederick's house. If she didn't win after that, no one would and thanked Nick for his efforts.

7. HDC Coordinator Reports & Project Updates

8. HDC Coordinator Approvals

9. Other Business

Nick asked the Commission about their thoughts about reducing the length of the agendas. He said there were discussions in the past about putting a limit, but his concern was if a number limit was placed, then it might create a problem of a backlog. Nick said with the standard's guide which he hoped could be presented to the Commission in a completed form at the August meeting as Arnold's section done and Nick's part will be completed soon. He is hoping potentially they can add a few common things to the administrative approvals. Nick suggested that sheds, as long as they're under the footprint size, i.e., 64sqft. could be approved administratively. He said if it's a 200sqft shed, then it would be treated

like an outbuilding, and the applicant would have to come before the Commission. Member Bergenholtz thought that was a great idea. He was also interested in how the standards guide could be applied to the new applications. Nick was hoping to send it directly to the applicants.

Member Church stated making sure the applications were complete and including a materials list, dimensions, elevations, location, etc., was important. Nick said he would try to put something together to address the common issues.

Member Bergenholtz asked if he could address the letter the Commission received today about that particular property at 224 Hope Street. Attorney Teitz said it wasn't appropriate as it was continued to another meeting and the owner wasn't present. He didn't think it was appropriate to address it in the absence of the owner. He said it could be put on as part of the agenda for next meeting and if the owner isn't present at the next meeting, the Commission could still address it then.

Member Bergenholtz said he was supposed to be at the meeting this evening. Nick stated the owner did notify him that he couldn't get a babysitter. Member Bergenholtz stated he has been disturbed by the situation. Attorney Teitz said to put it on the agenda for the next meeting as separate item to discuss and act on whether the applicant appeared or not.

Alternate Member Camara asked if there was a reason why the Commission meeting started at 7 and not earlier. Nick said it was the standard time for Town meetings. Attorney Teitz said an earlier start could be done but recommended against it and to just keep it, unless there was a specific reason to start a meeting earlier on a particular day.

10. **Adjourned at 9:05PM**

**Bristol Fire Department
Board of Engineers Meeting
August 31, 2026**

A Quorum was established, Call to order, Attendance, Minutes & Agenda Approval, Next Regular Business Meeting.

The quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by Chief Michael DeMello at 1900 hours.

Attendance

- ☐ Chief of the Department Michael DeMello
- ☐ Deputy Chief of Admin. Safety & Training Stephen Knapman,
- ☐ Deputy Chief of Operations Adam Medeiros Hydraulion
- ☐ Assistant Chief Dennis Cabral Ever Ready
- ☐ Assistant Chief Luis Medeiros Defiance
- ☒ ~~Assistant Chief Zachary Rivers~~ ~~Dreadnaught~~
- ☐ EMS Captain Brad Palmer Div. of EMS
- ☐ Board Clerk Lou Mascola
- ☐ Captain Justin Ursini Dreadnaught Station

2026 SEP -2 AM 10:24

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

A motion made by Assistant Chief Dennis Cabral and seconded by Deputy Chief Adam Medeiros to approve the Agenda for August 31, 2026.

A motion made by Assistant Chief Dennis Cabral and seconded by EMS Captain Brad Palmer to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2026 meeting.

Both motions were unanimously approved by the board 6-0.

Next scheduled meeting is Monday October 5, 2026 @ 7:00 PM. or at the call of the Chief of the Department

Meeting Agenda

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from the following : Tiverton Fire Department, Girls Scouts, Bristol Theatre Group, and Sansone Funeral Home .

Reports from the Members of the Board of Fire Engineers

Deputy Chief of Safety, Training , and Administration Stephen Knapman

- Firefighter II will be starting at the end of September 2026.
All applications are required by Friday September 4th.
- The 1021 Fire Officer Course will be held Mid to Late Fall. An interest form was distributed earlier this summer with classes, people could indicate which course they were interested in.
- The department will have a Standardized Course and Training for all new drivers.

Deputy Chief of Operations Adam Medeiros

- Reported an issue with the Mobile Radio.
- The Burn Trailer was recently serviced, however, the "dead Man switch" is currently out of service.
- Chief DeMello discussed the burn trailer is reaching the end of its useful life, and is looking at the feasibility of construction of a permanent structure.
- Chief DeMello is retiring the hand tub trailer in the very near future.

Assistant Chief Dennis Cabral

- Had no issues, or reports for this meeting.

Assistant Chief Luis Medeiros

- Reported that the Halligan Tool from Engine 3 is missing after the Meadow Lane fire.
- Requested (1) pager for a member of the Defiance Station.

Captain Brad Palmer from the Division of EMS

- EMS Fall Orientation is in progress.
- Discussed with the board, some improvements with trauma calls as some responders obtain more experience.
- EMS will be offering Mass Casualty Training in the near future.

Captain Justin Ursini Dreadnaught Station

- Announced that the Dreadnaught Annual Banquet will be held on November 24th at the Bristol Yacht Club.

- There will be marine training on September 14th, the training curriculum is in progress. Some materials will need to be procured prior.

Chief of the Department Michael A. DeMello

- Reported that Engine 1 & Truck 6 have new portables.
- The invoice for the airpacks has been received. The airpacks will be arriving shortly.
- The new air bags for Truck 6 have arrived.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss at this meeting.

New Business

- Review the department's SOG's and report any omissions, grammar or spelling errors to Chief DeMello.
- Chief DeMello stated that the Christmas Festival at Unity Park, and the Annual Christmas Lighting will have details including Fire Police.
- The Last Night Concert & Fireworks on September 5th. Engine 3 will have the fireworks detail along with an EMS Detail. The detail will also include a Fire Police Detail.
- This year's Porch Fest will be held on September 20th, in the event of rain, it will be held on the 27th.
- The Annual Old Timer's Clam Boil will be held on September 25th, noon, in the apparatus bay of the Hydes.

Company, Department & Town Events for September - October - November 2026

September

5	Last Night Concert & Fireworks
20	Porch Fest 2026 (Rain Date 27th)
25	BFD Old Timer's Clamboil

October

4	Bristol Fire Department Blood Drive 0900-1430, HQ
18	Ever Ready Clam Boil
25	Defiance Clam Boil

November

6 **Hydes Annual Turkey Roll**
7 **Dreadnaught Surf & Turf**
24 **Dreadnaught Annual Banquet**

For The Good of the Department

- Chief DeMello thanks the members for their quick response and performance at the Meadow Lane fire on August 31st.

Calls for Service Year to Date:

Fires	29
EMS	2217
Public Service	297
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>296</u>
Total	2839

Closing & Adjournment

Without any further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1946 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Mascola

Lou Mascola

Clerk, of the Board of Engineers

Bristol Fire Department

Bristol, Rhode Island 02809



Town of Bristol, RI

Tax Assessor / Collectors Office

10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809 (401)253-7000

Memorandum

To: THE HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL
 From: Kristopher Leadem, Tax Assessor/Collector
 Date: September 1, 2026
 Subject: Agenda item for 9/16/2026 meeting

1-Abatements to 2026 RP Tax Roll:	Total abatement: \$1,132.32
Abatement to 2025 Sewer Roll:	Total abatement: \$939.33
Abatement to 2024 Sewer Roll:	Total abatement: \$916.98
Abatement to 2023 Sewer Roll:	Total abatement: \$882.98
Abatement to 2022 Sewer Roll:	Total abatement: \$882.98
Abatement to 2021 Sewer Roll:	Total abatement: \$873.98
Abatement to 2020 Sewer Roll:	Total abatement: \$832.98

Respectfully,

Kristopher Leadem

Kristopher Leadem

Tax Assessor/Collector

	DATE: September 16 2026						
ABATEMENTS							
		TYPE	YEAR	RATE			
ACCOUNT#	NAME				AMOUNT	REASON FOR ADDITION	
03-1985-90	CHARPENTIER	RE	26	\$ 9.94	\$ 754.32	removed homestead in error	
50-0013-83	JACOBUS	RE	26	\$ 9.94	\$ 378.00	adj for unfin attic	
15-1159-00	OLIVEIRA	RE	25	SU	\$ 939.33	assessed for sewer use and sewer assessment in error	
15-1159-00	OLIVEIRA	RE	24	SU	\$ 916.98	assessed for sewer use and sewer assessment in error	
15-1159-00	OLIVEIRA	RE	23	SU	\$ 882.98	assessed for sewer use and sewer assessment in error	
15-1159-00	OLIVEIRA	RE	22	SU	\$ 882.98	assessed for sewer use and sewer assessment in error	
15-1159-00	OLIVEIRA	RE	21	SU	\$ 873.98	assessed for sewer use and sewer assessment in error	
15-1159-00	OLIVEIRA	RE	20	SU	\$ 832.98	assessed for sewer use and sewer assessment in error	
	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY ABATEMENTS				\$ 6,461.55		
ADDITIONS							
	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY ADDITIONS				\$ -		

Resolution No. 2026-7-29-F1

State of Rhode Island
Town of Bristol

Town Council
Resolution

Resolved:

Whereas, Chapter 16-Sec 148 states that Accessible Disabled parking restrictions shall be made by resolution of the town council; provided however, that no such resolution shall be adopted at the meeting at which it is introduced but shall, rather, be referred to a subsequent regular or special meeting at least seven days thereafter for a vote; and

Whereas, a petition for an on-street accessible parking designation was submitted by Maria Semeraro-Bellanca, 43 Bayview Avenue, Unit #2F Bristol, RI; and

Whereas, the Chief of Police and Director of Public Works have reviewed the request and recommends the approval of said Disabled Parking Designation at 43 Bayview Avenue, Bristol, RI; and

Whereas, the Town of Bristol desires to establish accessible disabled parking designation by Resolution of the Town Council, and may be amended from time to time by authority of same; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. the appropriate traffic control signs and notices designating the Accessible Disabled parking spaces established herein are hereby authorized to be erected; and
2. This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Adopted: July 29, 2026

ATTEST:


Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

Resolution No. 2026-08-I9-F1

State of Rhode Island
Town of Bristol

Town Council
Resolution

Resolved:

Whereas, Chapter 16-Sec 148 states that Accessible Disabled parking restrictions shall be made by resolution of the town council; provided however, that no such resolution shall be adopted at the meeting at which it is introduced but shall, rather, be referred to a subsequent regular or special meeting at least seven days thereafter for a vote; and

Whereas, a petition for removal of an on-street accessible parking designation was submitted by Gregory Pastore, 44 Church Street, Bristol, RI; and

Whereas, the Chief of Police and Director of Public Works have reviewed the request and recommends the approval of removal of Disabled Parking Designation; and

Whereas, the Town of Bristol desires to remove an accessible disabled parking designation by Resolution of the Town Council, and may be amended from time to time by authority of same; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. the appropriate traffic control signs and notices designating the Accessible Disabled parking spaces established herein are hereby authorized to be removed; and
2. This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

AUG 19 2026

Adopted: _____

ATTEST:



Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk



Town of Little Compton
Town Hall
P.O. Box 226
Little Compton, RI 02837

TOWN OF LITTLE COMPTON, RHODE ISLAND

REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES FACING THE TOWN OF LITTLE COMPTON IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ADDRESS THESE OBSTACLES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LITTLE COMPTON TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS: The Rhode Island Low and Moderate Income Housing Act (RIGL Chapter 45-53) seeks to expand affordable housing opportunities across the State; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Little Compton has long supported the goal of ensuring access to safe, high-quality housing for residents of all incomes; and

WHEREAS: Little Compton faces extraordinary barriers to the development of affordable housing, including extremely limited availability of developable land due to open space preservation, exceptionally high land acquisition costs, and the absence of municipal water and sewer infrastructure that restrict density and increase development costs; and

WHEREAS: As a result of these constraints, Little Compton has the lowest percentage of affordable housing in the State of Rhode Island, at just 0.65 percent; and

WHEREAS: Little Compton is experiencing significant demographic changes, including an increasing aging population and a declining population of children under the age of 18, trends that threaten the long-term viability of the Town's K-8 public school and alter the fabric of the community; and

WHEREAS: Little Compton also has the third highest median single-family home price in the State of Rhode Island, further contributing to the prohibitive cost of developing affordable housing in the community; and

WHEREAS: These conditions make affordable housing projects financially prohibitive and significantly more challenging than in municipalities with access to public utilities, lower land costs, greater density, public transportation, and other urban resources; and

WHEREAS: The Little Compton Housing Trust has its first five LMIH projects in pre-development and will be applying for grant funds; and

WHEREAS: Little Compton will be unable to compete for grant funding if decisions are based primarily on per-unit cost comparisons with municipalities possessing lower land costs and public utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: The State's newly enacted Non-Owner-Occupied Property Tax will be levied on property owners in Little Compton to a far greater extent than in most other Rhode Island communities, with Little Compton's estimated tax liability to be in excess of four million dollars annually, ranking fifth highest in the State; and

WHEREAS: The Town seeks recognition of its significant contribution to this new tax meant to support the development of low- and moderate-income housing (LMIH), and partnership with the State to support the Town's efforts to meet its statutory housing goals within the constraints of local conditions; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LITTLE COMPTON, RHODE ISLAND AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Town of Little Compton respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Executive Office of Housing recognize the Town's unique development limitations, including high land costs, limited land availability, the absence of municipal water and sewer systems, and the Town's rural character, which together create significant obstacles to the development of affordable housing and result in higher per-unit costs than in other communities.

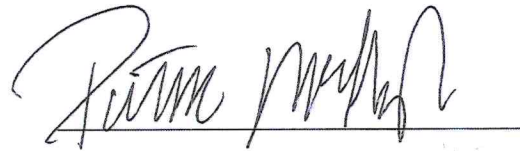
SECTION 2: The Town further requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly support Little Compton's efforts to create much-needed low- and moderate-income housing by encouraging the Executive Office of Housing to approve the Town's applications for grant monies to fund LMIH projects. The Town asks that the Executive Office of Housing recognize Little Compton's limitations and allow higher per-unit costs for Little Compton in its scoring parameters, such that the Town's applications are scored favorably.

SECTION 3: The Town Clerk is directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, Little Compton's legislative delegation, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, the Executive Director of Rhode Island Housing and the Secretary of Housing.

SECTION 4: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by the Little Compton Town Council.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Talbot.

Adopted this 20th day of August, 2026 by the Little Compton Town Council.



Patrick McHugh, Town Council President

Attest:



Heather J. Cook, CMC, Town Clerk

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
TOWN OF GLOCESTER
RESOLUTION # 2026-11**



**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
RELIEVE CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE UNFUNDED MANDATE TO PREPARE
EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR PRIVATELY OWNED DAMS, AND TO END
THE PENALIZING OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR OWNER NONCOMPLIANCE**

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-19-9(a) requires that an emergency action plan be prepared for each significant-hazard and high-hazard dam **by the city or town in which the dam lies**, without regard to who owns it; and

WHEREAS, most such dams in the Town of Glocester are privately owned, and the Town has no title to them, no right of entry upon them, and no access to the engineering records necessary to prepare a competent plan; and

WHEREAS, such a plan requires a dam breach analysis, downstream inundation mapping, and the services of a licensed engineer, at a cost that may reach tens of thousands of dollars per dam, together with the annual updates required by § 46-19-9(c); and

WHEREAS, the statute appropriates nothing, affording the Town only a right under subsection (d) to bill the owner after the work is paid for out of municipal revenues, and to sue if the owner does not remit — leaving the Town to advance the funds, bear the cost of collection, and absorb the loss entirely where an owner is unknown, insolvent, or dissolved; and

WHEREAS, subsection (f), added in 2022, permits the Department of Environmental Management to assess an administrative penalty against a municipality for noncompliance, while imposing no corresponding penalty upon the dam owner who withholds access, withholds records, or refuses to pay, and affording the municipality no defense grounded in any of those circumstances; and

WHEREAS, such a penalty would be paid from the property taxes of Glocester residents, punishing them for the conduct of a private party they do not control, transferring public money from one government to another, and reducing the very revenues from which the plan would be funded; and

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-13-7 defines a state mandate to include state action compelling local expenditures that are not reimbursed, and the General Assembly has appropriated no funds for the costs imposed by § 46-19-9; and

Stephanie C. Westgate, Councilor

ATTEST:

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk



STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

August 24, 2026

Pyrotecnico
Anthony Collins, Northeast Account Executive
PO Box 466
Jaffrey, NH 03452

Re: Bid# 1095 – Fireworks Display Bristol Parks & Recreation

Dear Mr. Collins,

We are pleased to inform you that Pyrotecnico has been awarded Bid# 1095 – Fireworks Display Bristol Parks & Recreation, with the price not to exceed \$18,000.00.

Please contact Parks and Recreation Director Warren Rensehausen for next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Contente", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven Contente
Town Administrator

CC: Carl Carulli, Treasurer
The Honorable Town Council
Warren Rensehausen, CPRP, Parks and Recreation Director



NO-KNOCK REGISTRATION

The No-Knock Registry has been established under Richmond Town Code of Ordinance Chapter 5.20.070 and is a voluntary Program that helps protect the safety and privacy of residents by reducing un-announced visits to your home.

Required Information



Complete Address



Name and Signature of lawful owner and/or occupant

Owners/Occupants of residences may register for the No-Knock Registry by submitting a request form available in the Town Clerk's Office. This registry shall be made available to licensed solicitors and law enforcement.

More Info : >>>>>>>>

Call 401-539-9000 x 9 or email
twnclerk@richmondri.gov

From: Kendra Tanguay <twnclerk@richmondri.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 8:32 AM
To: Lillian Frye <lfrye@lincolnri.org>
Subject: Please Blast -- Richmond No-Knock Ordinance

Item (CA) GG2.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Lincoln. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Good morning Lilly,

Can you please blast this out to the association with the attachment?

Good morning, all,

At the July 21st Town Council Meeting, the Richmond Town Council voted to approve amendments to Town Ordinance 5.20 entitled "Hawkers, Peddlers and Door to Door Salespersons", adding section 5.20.070 entitled "Door-to-door Commercial Solicitation: Regulation of Door-to-door Commercial Solicitation". This ordinance defines commercial solicitation and establishes a No-Knock Registry that residents may sign up for to prohibit door-to-door commercial solicitation. Residents complete an application provided by the Town Clerk's Office that is updated quarterly and sent to any door-to-door salesperson who holds a license within the Town of Richmond. You can find further details regarding this ordinance here:

[Richmond RI - ClerkBase](#)

It was requested by Council that this Ordinance Amendment be sent to the other 38 Cities and Towns to be made aware of the steps Richmond has taken to ensure the peace of mind for

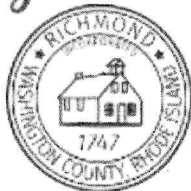
residents who do not wish to have commercial solicitation at their homes. Attached is the flyer that was posted on social media, as well as within the Town Hall and on the Town of Richmond's website with information on how to sign up.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thanks!

Kendra Tanguay

Town Clerk
5 Richmond Townhouse Road
Wyoming, RI 02898
401-539-9000 x 9
twnclerk@richmondri.gov



Town Hall hours will change as of MONDAY, JUNE 29th.

The new schedule will be:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Tuesday: 8:30am - 6:00pm

CLOSED: Friday, Saturday & Sunday



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
1 Capital Way
Cranston, RI 02910

phone 401-272-5600 fax 401-331-4511
claconnect.com

August 26, 2026

Members of the Town Council
Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

We are engaged to audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bristol, Rhode Island as of and for the year ended June 30, 2026. Professional standards require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit. We will contact you to schedule a meeting to discuss this information since a two-way dialogue can provide valuable information for the audit process.

Our responsibility under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*

Financial statements, internal control, and compliance

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS); the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards require us to be independent of the entity and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. Those standards also require that we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. As part of our audit, we will:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement or a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify during the audit that are required to be communicated under U.S. GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial

statements, including the amounts and disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.
- Form and express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- Plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.
- Perform, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, tests of the entity's compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. However, the objective of our tests is not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Provide a report (which does not include an opinion) on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements, as required by *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over compliance. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identify during the audit that are required to be communicated.
- Plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the applicable compliance requirements occurred. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. Material noncompliance can arise from fraud or error and is considered

material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report.

- Perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.
- Consider internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.
- Perform tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the “OMB Compliance Supplement” for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the entity’s major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the entity’s compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance. While our audit will provide a reasonable basis for our opinion, it will not provide a legal determination on the entity’s compliance with those requirements.
- Provide a report on internal control over compliance related to major programs and express an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.
- Communicate significant matters related to the financial statement audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.
- Communicate matters required by law, regulation, agreement, or other external requirements.
- Communicate circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors’ report.

Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole

Our responsibility for the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) accompanying the financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the SEFA in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the SEFA is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We will make certain inquiries of management and evaluate the form, content, and methods of preparing the SEFA to determine whether the SEFA complies with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and

the SEFA is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We will compare and reconcile the SEFA to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Because we were engaged to report on the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, our responsibility for other supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We will make certain inquiries of management and evaluate the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine whether the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We will compare and reconcile the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Required supplementary information

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we will make certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We will compare the RSI for consistency with management's responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Other information included in annual reports

It is our understanding that our auditors' report will be included in your annual report which is comprised of annual comprehensive financial report and that your annual report will be issued by March 31, 2026. Management is responsible for the preparation of other information included in your annual report and for providing such information to us in a timely manner, and if possible, prior to the date of our auditors' report. Our responsibility for other information included in your annual report does not extend beyond the financial information identified in our opinions on the financial statements. We have no responsibility for determining whether such other information is properly stated and do not have an obligation to perform any procedures to corroborate other information contained in your annual report. We are required by professional standards to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements because the credibility of the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon may be undermined by material inconsistencies between the audited financial statements and other information. If management refuses to correct a material misstatement of the other information, professional standards require us to communicate the matter to you. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Planned scope and timing of the audit

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit of the financial statements will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. We will generally communicate our significant findings at the conclusion of the audit. However, some matters may be communicated sooner, particularly if significant difficulties are encountered during the audit where assistance is needed to overcome the difficulties or if the difficulties may lead to a modified opinion. We will also communicate any internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards.

Although our audit planning has not been concluded and modifications may be made, we have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Management override of controls

As a result of unexpected events, changes in conditions, or the audit evidence obtained from the results of audit procedures performed, we may need to modify the overall audit strategy and audit plan and, thereby, the resulting planned nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures, based on the revised consideration of assessed risks.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately September 21, 2026 and issue our report on approximately December 31, 2026.

Other planning matters

Recognizing the importance of two-way communication, we encourage you to provide us with information you consider relevant to the audit. This may include, but is not limited to, the following items:

- Your views about the following matters:
 - The appropriate person(s) in the entity's governance structure with whom we should communicate.
 - The allocation of responsibilities between those charged with governance and management.
 - The entity's objectives and strategies and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
 - Matters you believe warrant particular attention during the audit and any areas for which you request additional procedures to be undertaken.

- Significant communications between the entity and regulators.
- Other matters you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements.
- The attitudes, awareness, and actions of those charged with governance concerning (a) the entity's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control, and (b) the detection or the possibility of fraud.
- The actions of those charged with governance in response to developments in law, accounting standards, corporate governance practices, and other related matters, and the effects of such developments on, for example, the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial statements, including the following:
 - The relevance, reliability, comparability, and understandability of the information presented in the financial statements.
 - Whether all required information has been included in the financial statements, and whether such information has been appropriately classified, aggregated or disaggregated, and presented.
- The actions of those charged with governance in response to previous communications with the auditor.
- Your understanding of the risks of fraud and the controls in place to prevent and detect fraud, including your views on the following matters:
 - The “tone at the top” conveyed by management.
 - The risk that the entity’s financial statements or schedule of expenditures of federal awards might be materially misstated due to fraud.
 - Programs and controls that the entity has established to mitigate identified fraud risks or that otherwise help to prevent, deter, and detect fraud.
 - How and how often you review the entity’s policies on fraud prevention and detection.
 - If a fraud hotline is in place, how it is monitored and how you are notified of allegations or concerns.
 - How you exercise oversight of management’s processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud and the programs and controls management has established to mitigate those risks.
 - The risks of fraud at the entity, including any specific fraud risks the entity has identified or account balances, classes of transactions, or disclosures for which a risk of fraud may be likely to exist.
 - Examples of fraud-related discussions management has had with you.

- Any actual or suspected fraud affecting the entity or its federal award programs that you are aware of, including measures taken to address the fraud.
 - Any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud (e.g., received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others) that you are aware of.
 - Any knowledge of possible or actual policy violations or abuses of broad programs and controls occurring during the period being audited or the subsequent period.
 - Any accounting policies or procedures applied to smooth earnings, meet debt covenants, minimize taxes, or achieve budget, bonus, or other financial targets that you are aware of; and whether you are aware of any accounting policies that you consider aggressive.
- How you oversee the entity's (1) compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, (2) policies relative to the prevention of noncompliance and illegal acts, and (3) use of directives (for example, a code of ethics) and periodic representations obtained from management-level employees about compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
 - Whether you are aware of any noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, including measures taken to address the noncompliance.
 - If the entity uses a service organization, your knowledge of any fraud, noncompliance, or uncorrected misstatements affecting the entity's financial statements or federal award programs reported by the service organization or otherwise known to you.

* * *

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Town Council and management of Town of Bristol, Rhode Island and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

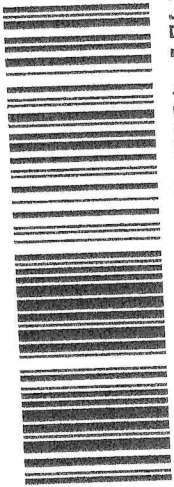
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Stephen Gross, CPA

Stephen Gross, CPA
 Principal
 401-330-2752
 Stephen.Gross@CLAconnect.com

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MELISSA CORDEIRO, TOWN CLERK
10 COURT STREET, BRISTOL, RI 02809

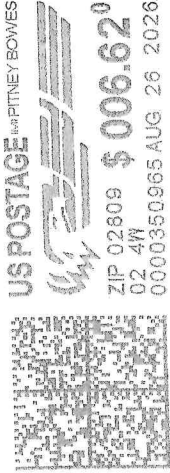
CERTIFIED MAIL



91 7199 9991 7033 3614 1963

Rhode Island Department of Environmental
Management
Freshwater Wetlands Program
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

91 7199 9991 7033 3614 1963



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TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

TOWN COUNCIL

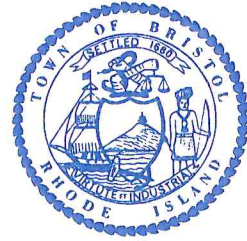
Nathan T. Calouro, *Chairman*

Mary A. Parella, *Vice Chairwoman*

Antonio A. Teixeira

Timothy E. Sweeney

Aaron J. Ley



Council Clerk
Melissa Cordeiro

August 26, 2026

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Freshwater Wetlands Program
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Wetland Application No. 25-0032 (IA-6915)

Applicant: Geoffrey Vicente, 11 Waterview Lane, Warren, RI 02885

Property: Tilbury Drive – Assessor's Plat 153, Lot 439, Bristol, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Wencek:

At its regular meeting held on August 19, 2026, the Bristol Town Council reviewed the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Notice concerning the above-referenced application to alter freshwater wetlands on property located on Tilbury Drive, Assessor's Plat 153, Lot 439, in Bristol.

The Town Council also reviewed the August 19, 2026 memorandum prepared by Diane M. Williamson, Director of the Town of Bristol Department of Community Development, regarding the proposed project and its potential impacts. *(attached)*

The Town of Bristol is an abutter to the subject property through its ownership of three adjacent wetland parcels that were recently preserved for their environmental and open-space value. Given the significant potential impacts to these protected wetlands, surrounding properties, existing drainage conditions, and the Town's preserved open-space holdings, the Town Council has **serious concerns** regarding the proposed project. Following its review, the Town Council voted to formally submit the following comments and **significant concerns** to RIDEM and respectfully requests that they be carefully and fully evaluated as part of its review of Wetland Application No. 25-0032:

1. Extent of Wetlands on the Property

The subject property is an undeveloped, nonconforming single lot of record containing approximately 6,835 square feet of lot area. Based upon the wetland flagging shown on the submitted plan, almost the entire lot consists of wetlands.

Given the extent of wetlands on this relatively small parcel, the Town Council is concerned about the impacts the proposed filling, grading, clearing, excavation, construction, and associated disturbance may have on the existing wetland and its functions and values.

2. Proposed Foundation and Groundwater Conditions

The proposed foundation is shown as being within the water table, with a foundation drain discharging to a splash pad behind the proposed dwelling.

Although the submitted plan does not identify this as a sump pump, based upon the proposed foundation elevation and groundwater table, it appears that a sump pump may be required. The Town is concerned about the potential for the continuous discharge of groundwater from the site and the resulting impacts on the surrounding wetland system and neighborhood drainage conditions.

3. Existing Drainage and Flooding Conditions

According to the Town's GIS drainage mapping, there is no drainage infrastructure in Tilbury Drive north of Leahy Drive and no drainage in Wapping Drive to the west, north of Leahy Drive. Drainage infrastructure in Basswood Drive to the east terminates approximately 160 feet south of the subject property.

Stormwater runoff within this area is therefore primarily overland.

The Town has been called to this neighborhood on several occasions over the years to address existing drainage and flooding conditions. The Town's engineering consultant has also identified several challenges associated with extending drainage infrastructure into this area.

The existing wetlands provide an important function by helping to retain and store overland stormwater flow. The Town Council is concerned that alteration of these wetlands, combined with the additional impervious surface associated with the proposed development and potential groundwater discharge from a sump pump, could exacerbate existing flooding and drainage problems within the surrounding neighborhood.

The Council respectfully requests that RIDEM carefully evaluate the project's potential impacts on the wetlands' ability to retain, store, meter, and slow floodwaters and stormwater runoff.

4. Groundwater Recharge and Private Wells

The Town's GIS mapping for the Bristol County Water Authority indicates that several areas within this neighborhood do not have public water service, including Tilbury Drive and Belvedere Drive, as well as portions of Opechee Drive, Sefton Drive, and Basswood Drive.

As a result, many homes within this neighborhood rely upon private wells.

The existing wetlands provide groundwater recharge that assists in maintaining groundwater supplies within an area where public water is not universally available. The Town Council therefore requests that RIDEM carefully consider whether the proposed wetland alteration could adversely affect the wetland's groundwater recharge function or the groundwater resources relied upon by surrounding properties.

5. Overall Wetland Functions and Values

In light of the existing conditions described above, the Town Council has concerns regarding the cumulative effect of the proposed alteration on the functions and values provided by the freshwater wetlands, particularly:

- Protection of property from flooding and flood flows through the retention, storage, metering, or slowing of stormwater;
- Provision and maintenance of surface water and groundwater supplies through groundwater recharge;
- Protection and maintenance of water quality; and
- The potential effect of additional impervious area and groundwater discharge on existing drainage and flooding conditions within the surrounding neighborhood.

Accordingly, the Bristol Town Council respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management give careful consideration to these concerns in its review of **Wetland Application No. 25-0032 (IA-6915)** and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on the existing wetland functions and values and on surrounding properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding this application. Please include this correspondence as part of the official record for Wetland Application No. 25-0032.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Cordeiro

Town Clerk/ Clerk to the Town Council



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
bristolri.gov
401-253-7000

August 19, 2026

TO: Town Council
Steven Contente, Town Administrator

FROM: Diane M. Williamson, Director

RE: **Notice of Significant Alteration of Wetlands –
Permit Application - RIDEM 25-0032
Tilbury Drive – Plat 153, Lot 439**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane", is written diagonally across the right side of the letter.

The above notice is provided by the RIDEM to inform individuals and agencies about the application to alter wetlands and to provide an opportunity for comments or concerns to be submitted. It is noted that the Town is also an abutter to this site with the ownership of 3 other wetlands parcels adjacent to this property that were recently preserved.

Based on the information submitted with the notice (Erosion Control and Drainage Plan, by Site Engineering dated 9/12/24 as revised 4/10/26), and in review of information in our records, I offer the following for the Town Council's consideration in replying to the notice.

1. This property is an undeveloped nonconforming single lot of record containing approximately 6,835 square feet of lot area.
2. The wetland flagging shown on the plan indicate that almost the entire lot consists of wetlands.
3. The proposed foundation is shown as being in the water table with a foundation drain that discharges to a splash pad behind the proposed dwelling. It does not indicate that this is a "sump pump" but based on the foundation elevation and the ground water table, it appears that a sump pump will be required. Sump pumps in the water table pump constantly.
4. In review of the Town's GIS drainage map, there is no drainage in Tilbury Drive (north of Leahy Drive), no drainage in Wapping Drive to the west (north of Leahy Drive), and

drainage in Basswood to the east ends approximately 160' to the south of this property. Stormwater runoff in this area is overland. Over the years, the Town has been called out several times to try and address the existing drainage and flooding conditions in this neighborhood; however, our engineering consultant has identified several challenges to extending drainage into this area. The existing wetlands help to store the overland stormwater flow. With the alteration of the wetlands and the additional impervious area and sump pump water that this site will discharge, there are concerns about exacerbating existing flooding problems in this neighborhood.

5. In review of the Town's GIS map layer for Bristol County Water Authority, there are several areas without public water availability, including Tilbury and Belvedere Drives and sections of Opechee, Sefton and Basswood Drives. Many homes in this neighborhood rely on private wells. The wetlands help to serve as a recharge for maintaining groundwater supplies which is needed in this area without public water.
6. It is noted, just for your information, that the applicant did request a variance in April 2026 to move the house closer to the street which would have allowed a larger dwelling (30' x 30') within the area proposed for disturbance. This variance was denied and the current proposal now shows a proposed footprint of 30' x 20'.

It is my recommendation that the Town Council provide these comments and concerns to the RIDEM regarding this wetland permit application.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE TOWN OF BRISTOL
(TOWN HALL)
AND
UNITED STEELWORKERS
AFL-CIO, CLC
ON BEHALF OF LOCAL 14845-4
JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2029

AGREEMENT

This agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of July 1, 2026, between the Town of Bristol, Rhode Island (hereinafter referred to as "the Town") and the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO, CLC (hereinafter referred to as the "Union"), on behalf of Local Union Number 14845.

WITNESSTH

It being the mutual desire of the parties to continue to promote cooperation and harmony and to formulate rules to govern the relationship between the Town and the Union, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I: RECOGNITION

Section 1. The Town recognizes the Union as the exclusive representative of all senior clerks and secretaries of the Bristol Town Hall (including the position of Bookkeeper), except the confidential secretary to the town Administrator. The Town and the Union shall recognize and adhere to all State Labor Laws, Rules and Regulations.

Section 2. The provisions of this Agreement shall be evidence of the mutual desire of the parties to continue to promote cooperation and harmony and to formulate rules to govern the relationship between the Town and the Union for the duration hereof, or until changed by mutual consent in writing.

Section 3. The Town agrees to negotiate with only the Union, with respect to the aforementioned employees.

Section 4. Both the Town and the Union have the right to their own counsel and to act as a group or individual member, or to have a designated representative, professional or lay, whether or not a member. Each party will provide the other with a list of officers and representatives and will keep such a list up to date.

Section 5. The Union agrees to supply the Town with an up-to-date list of members and their respective dates of hire, which shall be attached to this Agreement.

Section 6. All employees covered by this Agreement shall have all the rights under this Agreement upon the completion of the probationary period. The probationary period shall be six (6) months for employees hired after July 1, 1998.

Section 7. The Town agrees to deduct from the wages of such employees in accordance with the expressed terms of a signed authorization to do so, the monthly membership dues of the Union. Such deductions shall be prorated equally over each pay period and shall, immediately following said deductions, be forwarded to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the United Steelworkers AFL-CIO, CLC, 60 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.

Section 8. A check-off list setting forth the name and amount of dues deducted shall accompany the deductions to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and a copy of said check-off list shall be forwarded to the Sub-District Office of the Union, 9 Industrial Road Suite 104 Milford, Massachusetts 01757.

Section 9. The Union recognizes that the Town and its representatives have the right to expect a full day's work for a full day's pay within the limits defined in this Agreement, and within the regulations established by law. The Town recognizes the right of the Union in its efforts to obtain improved conditions of work and improved work schedules in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The Union recognizes that the Town has the right to expect all employees covered by this Agreement to perform their duties in an efficient manner and to arrive to work on time.

Section 10. Discrimination-General. The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied equally to all employees subject to this Agreement without discrimination as to age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, military affiliation, or political affiliation. The Union shall share equally with The Town the responsibility for applying these provisions of this Section 10.

Section 11. The Town agrees that during working hours, employees who are Union representatives, not exceeding three (3) in number, shall be allowed a reasonable period of time to:

- A) Conduct Union activities
- B) Post Union notices,
- C) Investigate and process grievances, and
- D) Distribute Union literature.
- E) The Union may conduct a new hire orientation not to exceed thirty (30) minutes.

The Town further agrees that employees who are Union representatives, not to exceed four (4) in number, shall be allowed time off with pay to attend labor agreement negotiation meetings which are held during the normal business hours of operation.

Section 12. This Agreement shall become effective as of July 1, 202~~6~~ and shall remain in effect to and including June 30, 202~~7~~

ARTICLE II: HOURS OF WORK

Section 1: The workday shall consist of eight (8.0) hours, Monday through Friday, inclusive, normally 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with one hour for lunch, provided, however, that normal business hours for employees assigned to the municipal court shall be set to coincide with the court session. Employees shall be paid for eight hours per day.

Section 2. a) All employees shall be considered salaried employees with a guaranteed annual wage.

- b) Time and one-half of an employee's hourly rate of pay shall be paid in wages for all hours in excess of forty (40.0) hours in any work week: or, at the employee's discretion, by written notice to the employee's Department Head, the employee may take an equal amount of compensatory time off which must be approved by the employees Department Head and used within sixty (60) days of being earned or shall be forfeited.
- c) Any employee called back to work shall be guaranteed a minimum of two (2) hours pay at time and one-half of his or her hourly rate of pay.
- d) If an employee is required to cover a higher pay classification, the employee shall be paid at the higher rate of pay retroactive to the first day of such coverage.
- e) Employees shall not work out of their department without mutual agreement between the Town and Union.

ARTICLE III: HOLIDAYS

Section 1. a) Holidays for employees covered by the Agreement:

New Year's Day
 Martin Luther King Day
 Presidents Day
 Memorial Day
 Independence Day
 Juneteenth
 Victory Day
 Labor Day
 Columbus Day
 Veteran's Day
 Thanksgiving Day
 Friday after Thanksgiving Day
 Christmas Day

- b) In addition to Article III, Section 1 (a) on the following days employees shall work from 8:00 a.m. to noon:

Good Friday
 July 3rd
 Christmas Eve

- c) When a holiday in Article III, Section 1 (a) occurs on a Saturday, that holiday will be observed on the Friday before, when the holiday falls on Sunday it will be observed on the following Monday.

- d) When a holiday in Article III, Section 1 (b) occurs on a Saturday or Sunday that holiday shall be foregone and not treated as a Floating Holiday.
- e) Employees shall not work on a Local, State or National Election Day; limited to one election per year. Should no election be held in a given year, then no day off from work is earned for that year.

Section 2. Employees will also receive four (4) personal days per year. These days shall be used within two years of the date earned or shall be forfeited.

It is not intended that employees receive any additional pay for holidays not worked, only that their time off on such days shall not cause a reduction in normal pay for the period during which the holiday occurs.

ARTICLE IV: VACATION

Section 1. a) The following is the paid vacation schedule for all employees, based on length of service from each employee's date of hire:

Less than one year	One (1) week
One year but less than five years	Two (2) weeks
Five years but less than ten years	Three (3) weeks
Ten years but less than sixteen years	Four (4) weeks
Sixteen years	Twenty-One (21) days
Seventeen years	Twenty-Two (22) days
Eighteen years	Twenty-Three (23) days
Nineteen years	Twenty-Four (24) days
Twenty years	Six (6) weeks
Twenty-Five years and over	Six (6) weeks and (3) days

- b) Vacation time shall be used within two years of the date earned or shall be forfeited.
- c) Vacation pay shall be at the employee's regular salary.
- d) Employees shall not accrue sick time for pay periods during which they are on layoff or any other leave without pay.
- e) Every employee shall be eligible to take paid vacation after six (6) months of employment with the Town. However, employees shall start to accumulate vacation credits as of their date of employment.
- f) The following is the paid vacation schedule for all employees hired after July 01, 2011, based on the length of service from each employee's date of hire:

Less than one year	One (1) week
One year but less than five years	Two (2) weeks
Five years but less than ten years	Three (3) weeks
Ten years but less than sixteen years	Four (4) weeks
Sixteen years	Twenty –one (21)days
Seventeen years	Twenty-two (22) days
Eighteen years	Twenty-three (23) days
Nineteen years	Twenty-four (24) days
Twenty years	Five (5) weeks

- g) Part time senior clerk(s) position will accrue vacation and sick time at 50% of the full-time senior clerks.
- h) If an employee dies while on active service with the Town, his or her next of kin will be paid any unused vacation time that the employee has remaining at one hundred (100%) percent.

ARTICLE V: LONGEVITY

Section 1. a) Employees shall receive the following longevity pay based upon length of service from each employee's date of hire:

Four years but less than eight years	3.5%
Eight years but less than twelve years	4.5%
Twelve years but less than fifteen years	5.5%
Over fifteen years	7.5%

- b) The Town's fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th. The longevity pay shall be paid June 30th of each year and shall be based upon the base salary established and in effect as of July 1st at the beginning of that fiscal year. Should an employee have an anniversary, which would qualify the employee for an upgrading in percentage of longevity, the longevity pay shall be computed on a prorated basis; such that the lower percent is applied against the pre-anniversary period and the higher percentage is applied against the post-anniversary period.
- c) In the event that an employee is terminated, laid off, quits, retires for any reason whatsoever, including disability, or otherwise is not employed by the Town, then that employee shall receive, if he or she is entitled as provided in this Agreement, longevity pay for that part of the year up to the date of his or her termination. Prorated longevity pay shall be paid at the next scheduled pay period after termination.

- d) If an employee dies while on active service with the Town, his or her longevity will be pro-rated to the date of death and paid to his or her next of kin at one hundred (100%) percent.

ARTICLE VI: HEALTH BENEFITS

Section 1. The Town for the duration of this Agreement shall provide for its employees, their dependents and students to age 26 the following medical coverage. Effective July 1, 2015, the Town shall institute and administer through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island, an IRS-qualified high-deductible Health Savings Account ("HSA") with the Healthmate Coast to Coast coverage and a \$2000 Individual/\$ 4000 family annual deductible applicable to all covered healthcare services. The Town further agrees that it shall fully fund each member's HSA deductible account (i.e. with \$2000 for individual plans and \$4,000 for family plans) at the start of each plan year.

Any plan selected shall provide coverage in the event the employee or a dependent requires medical attention out of state. If the town changes insurance coverage it agrees to provide the Union with ninety (90) day notice.

Section 2. For the term of this contract, the numerical contribution made by each employee towards health insurance is fixed at the current level.

Section 3. Any employee hired after July 1, 2007 shall contribute as a co-payment an amount equal to the calculation equal to the current fifteen percent (15%) to the Town of such employees annual complete medical and dental coverage divided by the total number of pay periods per fiscal year.

a) Employees hired before July 1, 2007 shall contribute as a co-payment on an amount equal to the annual cost of completed medical and dental coverage as follows:

a. July 1, 2018 – 6.5%

b. July 1, 2019 – 8%

b) Any employee hired prior to July 01, 2011 who chooses not to receive any and all family coverage shall receive a payment of five hundred seventy-five dollars (575 waive co-pay, taxable income) per month as compensation. This amount shall be made in payment on the first pay period of each month separate from normal wages.

c) Any employee hired prior to July 01, 2011 who chooses not to receive any and all individual coverage shall be entitled to receive a payment of two hundred seventy-five (waive co-pay, taxable income) per month as compensation. This amount shall be made in payment on the first pay period of each month separate from normal wages.

d) Any employee hired as of July 01, 2011 who is married to or a dependent of an employee employed by the Town of Bristol or the Bristol Warren Regional School

District, the employee shall not be entitled to the buy-back benefit or a separate medical/dental plan.

e) All employees hired after July 01, 2011 who choose not to receive any coverage shall receive a payment of \$2,500 family and \$1,250 for Individual. For opting out of medical only, the buy-back is \$1,800 for Family and \$900 for Individual. The buy-back is paid once per month throughout the fiscal year. Employees hired within the fiscal year have their buy-back pro-rated.

f) Part-time senior clerk(s) position will include medical and dental benefit.

Section 4. Employees retiring by, or making known their irrevocable intention, before 3/01/2006, to retire by 9/01/2006, or who have 25 years of service with the Town as of 9/01/2006, but who retire at a later date, will continue to receive lifetime retiree medical insurance as per the mutually recognized past practice referred to in Town Administrator Parella's June 29, 2004 memo to Local 14845 (See attachment B Pg.15). Employees retiring after 9/01/2006 who did not have at least 25 years of service with the Town as of 9/01/2006, will receive retiree medical benefits as described below.

- a) Upon retirement from the Town the employee shall retain such health coverage as is in place until such time as the employee is eligible for Medicare or other federally subsidized program in place at the time.
- b) Upon reaching said age of eligibility the retiree shall obtain Medicare or other federally subsidized programs in place at that time.
- c) Upon reaching said age of eligibility the Town of Bristol shall provide only the retiree and not the retiree's spouse with Plan 65 or other such "wrap around coverage" as the Town deems acceptable for a period of ten (10) years at no expense to the retiree.
- d) Upon completion of the tenth (10) year all health coverage being provided by Town shall cease and become the sole responsibility of the retiree.
- e) Upon retirement only the retiree and not the retiree's spouse, may purchase a dental plan from the Town at the retiree's own expense for ten (10) years from the date of retirement.
- f) Post- retirement medical coverage shall be extended only to the employee and those of the employee's dependents who are then in existence and eligible at the time of the employee's retirement. (For example, should an employee retire unmarried and then marry and/or have children after retirement, the employee shall have the right to receive single coverage only).

- g) When the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare or other federally subsidized program in place at the time and that retiree's spouse is not eligible for Medicare or other federally subsidized program in place at the time, then that retiree's spouse shall continue to receive the same healthcare insurance, individual coverage only, he/she was receiving prior to the retiree, becoming eligible for Medicare. It shall be the responsibility of the retiree to continue paying any contractual premium-sharing plan in place at the time of retirement for said spouse's coverage. Once said spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or other federally subsidized program in place at the time then said health care insurance shall cease and said spouse shall not be eligible for any supplemental medical insurance from the Town of Bristol.

In order to be eligible for the above stated benefits the retiree must have worked for the Town of Bristol for a period of no less than twenty (20) years or have reached their 58th birthday and have worked for the Town of Bristol for a minimum of ten (10) years and retire in good standing with the Town of Bristol.

All employees hired after the 1st of September 2004 shall not be eligible for any above-mentioned benefits except with respect to (a) and (e) above. Furthermore, any employee with a minimum of twenty years, and hired after the 1st of September 2004 shall be eligible for (a), (c), and (e) provided they retire in good standing.

ARTICLE VII: ACCUMULATED SICK TIME

Section 1 If at the end of each month, the employee has not taken any sick days during said month then the employee shall be entitled to one-half (1/2) day off. In no event shall an employee accumulate more than six (6) days in any one fiscal year and said bonus days shall carry over only into the next fiscal year or shall be forfeited. This benefit shall end on June 30, 2024.

Section 2. Beginning July 1, 2024, Employees using five (5) or less sick days in the fiscal year shall be paid an amount equal to one (1) weeks pay at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 3. The Town agrees to grant fifteen (15) sick days per year, one and one quarter per month, to all members of the Union.

Section 4. Each member of the Union can accumulate up to one hundred thirty (130) days of sick leave.

Section 5. Any employee out of work more than five (5) consecutive workdays shall secure a statement from a doctor.

Section 6. Upon retirement, death, or termination, while in active service, employees shall be compensated for one hundred (100) percent of their accumulated unused

sick leave. Employees hired after July 1, 2011 shall be compensated for fifty (50) percent of accumulated unused sick leave.

Section 7. Sick leave without pay shall be granted after all sick leave and vacation time have been exhausted. Sick leave with pay shall be granted for a period not to exceed one year.

Section 8. Time out on compensable illness shall not be deducted from accumulated sick leave.

ARTICLE VIII: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Leave of absence without pay may be granted for a period of up to one year; provided that the employee has at least two (2) years' of continuous employment with the Town.

Section 2. A leave of absence will not be granted to employees seeking other employment.

Section 3. An employee entitled to leave, pursuant to this Article, is guaranteed to retain his or her same position, if physically capable of performing his or her duties.

Section 4. The employee shall suffer no loss in seniority upon his or her return from unpaid leave.

Section 5. Upon written application to the Town Administrator, a permanent employee shall be granted unpaid maternity/paternity leave.

Section 6. The town will allow (3) employees to attend Union educational conferences, conventions, or other functions of similar nature. The Union shall reimburse the Town for the salary of employees attending leave. In addition, the Town Administrator will grant time to attend additional training within reason provided the Union agrees to give advanced notice.

ARTICLE IX: ADVANCED SICK LEAVE

Section 1. The Town may advance up to thirty (30) workdays of sick leave to an employee who so requests. The employee shall have exhausted all accumulated sick leave and vacation time prior to making a request for advance sick leave.

Section 2. The request for advanced sick leave must be submitted in writing to the Town Administrator. The employee shall state the circumstances and need for sick leave.

Section 3. Upon returning to work, the employee shall repay the advanced sick leave by:

- a) Forfeiting 1.25 sick days per month until repaid, and
- b) Forfeiting vacation days earned until repaid

Section 4. No pay shall be earned for that day if an employee who is indebted for advanced sick leave is not present at work.

Section 5. Employees who, upon separation from Town employment are indebted for advanced sick leave, shall promptly reimburse the Town or appropriate deductions shall be made from any payments current, or future due the employee.

ARTICLE X: BEREAVEMENT

Section 1. Employees shall be granted five (5) days off with pay, for a death in the immediate family, including the day of the funeral.

Section 2. For the purposes of this Article, "immediate family" shall be deemed to consist of spouse, parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren and including foster or step relatives of the same kinship. Mothers-in-law and fathers-in-law are deemed to be members of the immediate family.

Section 3. Employees shall be granted two (2) day off with pay, for the death of a nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, although not deemed to be part of an employee's immediate family. Employees may request in writing that the Town Administrator grant additional unpaid time off for travel.

Section 4. An employee requesting time for the death of non-immediate family members, except for those mentioned in Section 3 of Article X, shall be charged for the time.

ARTICLE XI: SENIORITY

Section 1. Seniority shall prevail in that the employer recognizes the general principle that senior employees shall have preference of employment and promotional opportunity for positions which become available, provided that said employee shall meet the qualifications for that position and shall be given a (probationary) trial period of not more than 3 months during which time the employee could be made permanent, or returned to such employee's original position, by the department head with the approval of the Town Administrator.

Section 2. Seniority is defined to mean the accumulated length of full-time, continuous service with the Town, computed from the date of hire.

Section 3. An employee's length of service shall not be terminated or reduced but shall continue to accumulate during authorized leave of absence.

Section 4. An employee's length of service shall not be terminated by absence pursuant to an authorized leave of absence without pay or a layoff, except as hereinafter provided, but shall not continue to accumulate during such period of absence.

Section 5. An employee's length of service shall be lost and employment terminated if any of the following occur:

- a) Discharge
- b) Resignation
- c) Failure to return promptly upon expiration of authorized leave
- d) Absence for five (5) consecutive working days without leave or notice
- e) Absence for illness or injury for more than twelve (12) months
- f) Retirement

Section 6. The Town will implement job descriptions with minimum qualifications and requirements for each position. Incumbents in those positions shall be excluded from qualifications and requirements.

Section 7. Any employee who has successfully completed the probationary period shall be considered a permanent employee and shall not be subject to yearly appointment.

Section 8. The Town reserves the right to dismiss, suspend or lay off any employee for just cause.

ARTICLE XII: LAYOFFS

Section 1. Seniority shall govern in all cases of layoff, recall to work, shift preference and vacation preference.

Section 2. Whenever layoffs become necessary, employees will be laid off in the following order:

- a) Temporary employees
- b) Probationary employees
- c) Permanent employees based upon the inverse order of seniority

Section 3. Inverse seniority is based upon employee date of hire. The last employee hired is the first subject to layoff.

Section 4. A permanent employee shall be entitled to two (2) weeks- notice before layoff.

Section 5. Whenever it becomes necessary to increase the workforce, laid off employees shall be recalled in the order of their seniority before any new employee is hired provided that the employee who is recalled can perform the job that he or she is called to. Employees will be given a thirty (30) calendar day period to perform the job. If the employee who is recalled is not able to perform the job in a satisfactory manner within the thirty (30) day trial

period, then the employee shall be placed back on layoff and the next senior employee shall be given the same opportunity.

Section 6. Except to the extent set forth in Section 5 of this Article, employees will be guaranteed at least two (2) month's employment before being recalled and may refuse recall without jeopardizing any of his or her rights under this Agreement if the period is for less than two (2) months.

Section 7. Recalled employees shall be notified by the Town by certified or registered mail with a copy to the Union. The employee shall have seven (7) calendar days; from the date the town mailed the recall notice to notify the Town of his or her position. The Town shall be deemed to have fulfilled its obligation by mailing the recall notice. It is the responsibility of the employee to provide the Town with a current mailing address.

ARTICLE XIII: VACANCIES

Section 1. All vacancies within the bargaining unit shall be filled pursuant to the following procedures:

- a) A notice shall be posted on the Union bulletin board clearly setting forth the job description and qualifications for the position that will be vacant.
- b) Such notice shall be posted on the Union bulletin board for at least five (5) business days.
- c) Employees who desire to bid on the posted position shall submit their bid to the Town Administrator, or his/her designee, within (5) days of posting.
- d) Once an employee is awarded the posted position the vacancy created shall be posted within 3 days on the Union bulletin board.
- e) Except as and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in Article XI Section 1, vacancies shall be filled on the basis of seniority. Seniority extends to all employees covered by this Agreement, not just those within the department in which the vacancy exists.
- f) The employee awarded the position shall have three (3) months to satisfactorily perform the duties as described in the posted qualifications or shall be returned to his or her former position.

Section 2. It shall be a condition of employment that all employees covered by this Agreement shall remain members of the Union in good standing.

Section 3. It shall be a condition of employment that on the ninetieth (90th) day following their date of hire, all employees become and remain members of the Union.

ARTICLE XIV: GRIEVANCES

Section 1. A grievance is defined as a dispute arising concerning the interpretation or application of the terms of this Agreement or the rights claimed to exist hereunder. The parties agree to act in good faith to attempt to resolve the grievance promptly and expeditiously, and in accordance with the following procedure:

Step 1. Any Union employee who has a grievance shall submit it in writing to the Town Administrator within five (5) business days after the event giving rise to the grievance or after the employee or the Union should have become aware of the occurrence of the event. The grievance shall be signed by the employees and a Union representative.

Step 2. A meeting between the Town Administrator, or his representative, the Union representative, the employee and the employee's Department Head shall be held within five (5) business days of receipt of the grievance by the Town Administrator. If the grievance is settled as a result of such meeting, the settlement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Town Administrator and the Union. If no settlement is reached, the Town Administrator shall give the Town's written answer to the Union within five (5) business days following the meeting.

Section 2. The employee is entitled to Union representation at each step of the grievance procedure. An employee requesting representation shall not participate in any discussions with the Town if not represented by the Union.

Section 3. A grievance not properly filed within ten (10) business days after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance, shall be waived.

ARTICLE XV: ARBITRATION

Section 1. If a properly filed grievance is not settled pursuant to Article XIV, the Union may refer the grievance to arbitration within ten (10) business days after the receipt of the Town's final answer.

Section 2. The grievance shall be heard by an arbitrator selected by the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

Section 3. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the Town and the Union.

Section 4. The cost of the arbitrator shall be divided equally between the Town and the Union.

ARTICLE XVI: WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Section 1. Employees shall be covered under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act of the State of Rhode Island, as amended from time to time.

Section 2. The first three (3) days that an employee is absent from work as a result of an on the job injury shall be charged to the employee's accumulated sick leave. Should the employee be indebted to the Town for advanced sick leave, the employee shall receive no pay for those three (3) days.

ARTICLE XVII: GENERAL

Section 1. All existing benefits and past practices of a beneficial nature to the employee or the Town shall continue in full force and effect during the life of this Agreement, except to the extent set forth herein.

Section 2. It is agreed that a liaison committee of the Union and the Town shall meet on a semi- annual basis. The Town and the Union shall designate its members; not to exceed three (3) each. Meetings shall be held at a mutually agreed upon date, time and place.

ARTICLE XVIII: POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFITS

In accordance with Section 20-134 of the Retirement Benefits ordinance, each employee shall contribute an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the then yearly salary of the then lowest wage rate in the unit's pay schedule for each fiscal year, commencing on July 1, 2007. This contribution shall be made by deduction from each employee's pay during each pay period, and shall be applied towards retirement benefits. The Town shall match each employee's contributions.

- a) Effective July 1, 2013 the contribution shall be equal to one percent (1%) of the employees then yearly salary.

ARTICLE XIX: TERMINATION

Section 1. This Agreement shall continue in effect to and including June 30, 2029, and thereafter for yearly periods upon mutual agreement of the Town and Union.

Section 2. Either the Town or the Union may request negotiations of the Agreement effective July 1, 2029 by giving written notice to the other by January 1, 2029.

Section 3. Should any provisions, modifications or amendments of this Agreement or any application thereof become unlawful; by virtue of any Federal or State laws or contrary to

ordinance of the Town of Bristol, the provisions of this Agreement shall be modified to comply with such law, ordinance or Home Rule Charter.

ARTICLE XX: MISCELLANEOUS

(Tuition Reimbursement will be retroactive to July 1, 2023)

Tuition Reimbursement-Current employees attending Roger Williams University are entitled to tuition reimbursement provided he/she completes a tuition remission form, and passes the course; with a two (2) course maximum per semester. When the courses are available on-line only, the town will cover the remaining cost after the employee has submitted the FAFSA, applied for any available scholarships and/or grants, etc.

Town of Bristol

10 Court Street

Bristol, RI 02809

SENIORITY LIST

TITLE	EMPLOYEE	DOH	YEARS OF SERVICE
Payroll Senior Clerk*	Michelle Perry	05/06/2002	(24 YRS 2 MTHS)
Bookkeeper	Lucia Caetano	04/07/2014	(12 YRS 3 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Catherine Marshall	03/08/2017	(9 YRS 4 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Paula Carroll	11/12/2019	(6 YRS 8 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Melanie Wolfe	12/09/2020	(5 YRS 5 MTHS)
Senior Clerk PT	Edward Carusi	02/22/2021	(5YRS 5 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Margarida Chaves	10/25/2021	(4 YRS 9 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Lisa Marshall	08/22/2022	(3 YRS 11 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Megan Cabral	10/28/2022	(3 YRS 9 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Lori Hubbard	01/08/2024	(2 YRS 6 MTHS)
Senior Clerk	Whitney Squires	09/08/2025	(10 MTHS)

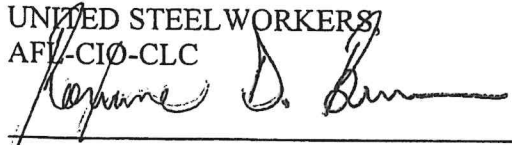
Pay Schedule

Wage Increases FY 2027-2029

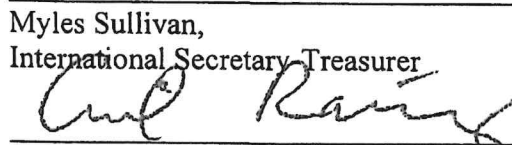
Position	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29
		Salary Adj	3.50%	4.00%
Payroll Senior Clerk*	61,787	70,000	72,450	75,348
	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29
	(+1000)	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%
Bookkeeper	59,698	60,698	62,519	64,707
Senior Clerk	54,250	55,250	56,908	58,899
	(+500)	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%
Part-Time Senior Clerk	27,125	27,625	28,454	29,450
	(+600)			
Part-Time Accounting Clerk	35,818	36,418	37,510	38,823
FY 25-26 Includes \$1000 salary adjustment to FY 25-26				
Part-Time Senior Clerk 50% -\$500.00				
Part-Time Accounting Clerk 60% -\$600.00				
Probationary Payroll Senior Clerk*		69,500	71,950	74,848
Probationary Senior Clerk		56,408	58,399	60,755
Probationary PT Senior Clerk		27,954	28,950	30,128
Probationary PT Accounting Clerk		37,010	38,323	39,876

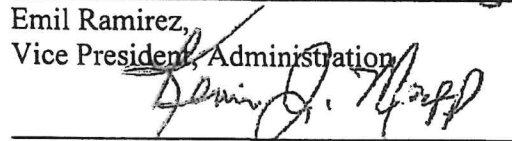
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties by their duly authorized representative, hereto affix their signatures as of this _____ day of _____, _____.

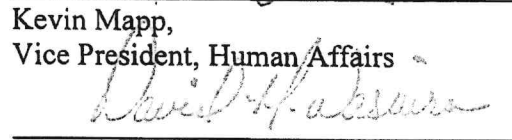
UNITED STEELWORKERS
AFL-CIO-CLC

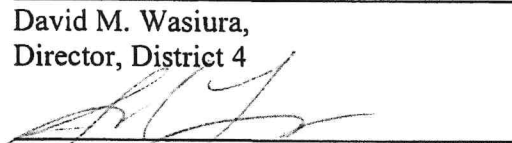

Roxanne Brown,
President

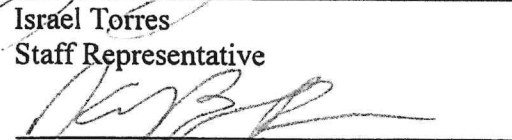

Myles Sullivan,
International Secretary-Treasurer

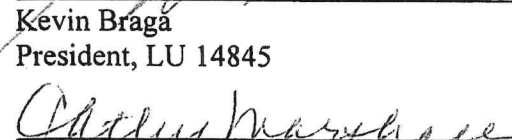

Emil Ramirez,
Vice President, Administration

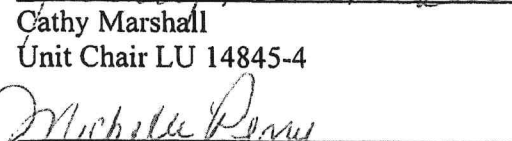

Kevin Mapp,
Vice President, Human Affairs

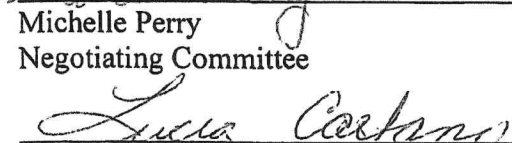

David M. Wasiura,
Director, District 4


Israel Torres
Staff Representative

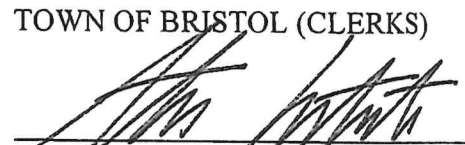

Kevin Braga
President, LU 14845


Cathy Marshall
Unit Chair LU 14845-4


Michelle Perry
Negotiating Committee


Lucia Caetano
Negotiating Committee

TOWN OF BRISTOL (CLERKS)


Steve Contente
Town Administrator



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF LAND REVITALIZATION & SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Property Owner,

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (RIDEM) is investigating the extent of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in groundwater in the vicinity of known or suspected PFAS source areas. Please see the accompanying fact sheet for additional information about PFAS.

Due to known PFAS contamination on Minturn Farm Road, RIDEM would like to access your property for the purpose of collecting a drinking water sample. Samples may be collected from an outside spigot (if present).

The sampling and testing of your well water **will be provided to you at no cost** and your participation is completely voluntary. The sampling will be conducted by RIDEM personnel from Tuesday August 25th through Thursday August 27th between the hours of 7:30 am and 3:30 pm. If you receive this letter after these dates, arrangements can be made for a sample at a later time. It will take no longer than 30 minutes per household. Please be advised that the results of all private well sampling will be a matter of public record, therefore, it is necessary for us to receive your permission to conduct the sampling. Please have the attached form filled out to the best of your ability and **signed** prior to sampling; the form **must** include a method of contact (email, phone number, and/or mailing address). The form may be given directly to RIDEM on the date of sampling.

Upon completion of the drinking water analysis, a copy of the laboratory report will be forwarded to you. **If your drinking water contains PFAS concentrations above the current Rhode Island Drinking Water Standard, RIDEM will coordinate the installation of a treatment system at no cost to you.** Agreement to installation of a treatment system is completely voluntary, but please be advised that homeowners will be responsible for any future operation and maintenance costs to these systems. An explanation of the treatment options and approximate associated costs will be made available to you.

This opportunity for no cost sampling and treatment system installation is available as a result of limited Federal grant funding and RIDEM strongly recommends that you take advantage of this opportunity.

If you are interested in having RIDEM sample your well, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding the process, please reach out to Emily Buchanan at Emily.buchanan@dem.ri.gov or call at (401)-537-7158. If you are interested in having your property's drinking water sampled, please let RIDEM know (either by phone or email) when you are available within the provided timeframe.

Sincerely,

Emily Buchanan
Environmental Engineer I
Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Material Management

Telephone 401.222.2797 | www.dem.ri.gov | Rhode Island Relay 711



STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

August 17, 2026

Mr. Matthew Pion
53 Wapping Drive
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Mr. Pion,

Thank you for accepting the appointment to serve on the Town of Bristol's Building Code of Appeals Board. I have enclosed your service warrant and current contact list of Board Members. I appreciate your willingness and commitment to share your professional experience and knowledge as a member of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Contente", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven Contente
Town Administrator

Cc. Honorable Bristol Town Council



STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

September 8, 2026

Landscaping Services, Inc.
Seraphin DaPonte, President
700 Wood Street
Bristol, RI 02809

Re: Bid# 1094 – Curbside Collection of Residential Yard Waste

Dear Mr. DaPonte

We are pleased to inform you that Landscaping Services, Inc. has been awarded Bid# 1094 – Curbside Collection of Residential Yard Waste, with the price not to exceed as follows:

Year 1: \$370,000

Year 2: \$388,500

Year 3: \$402,097

2014 International Refuse Truck: \$45,000

Please reach out to Public Works Director Christopher Parella for formal arrangements and start date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Contente", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven Contente
Town Administrator

CC: Carl Carulli, Treasurer
The Honorable Town Council
Christopher Parella, Director of Public Works



STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Item (CA) GG8.

MEMORANDUM

To: Town Council
From: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
Re: Bid 1094 – Curbside Collection of Residential Yard Waste

Date: August 24, 2026

The Director of Public Works has recommended awarding Bid 1094 for Curbside Collection of Residential Yard Waste to Landscaping Services, Inc. I have reviewed the recommendation and have awarded the bid to Landscaping Services, Inc.

The bid pricing is:

Year 1	\$370,000
Year 2	\$388,500
Year 3	\$402,097

As part of the bid, Landscaping Services, Inc. will purchase the Town's 2014 International refuse truck for \$45,000.

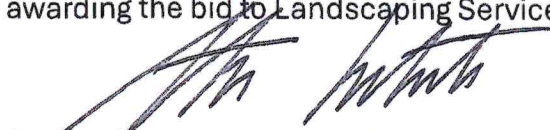
The Town will retain the 2023 Crane Carrier refuse truck for the time being. The 2014 International is the vehicle being sold to Landscaping Services, Inc.

This years estimated annual cost for the Town to provide the service in-house is \$438,874.

	Amount
Estimated Town In-House Cost	\$438,874
Landscaping Services, Inc. – Year 1	\$370,000
Annual Operating Savings	\$68,874
Proceeds from Sale of 2014 International	\$45,000
Total Year 1 Financial Benefit	\$113,874

The Year 1 contract therefore provides an estimated operating savings of \$68,874 compared with providing the service in-house. In addition, the Town will receive \$45,000 from the sale of the refuse truck, for a total first-year financial benefit of \$113,874.

Based on the Director of Public Works' recommendation and the financial comparison, I determined that awarding the bid to Landscaping Services, Inc. is in the best interest of the Town.



Steven Contente, Town Administrator



TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

**Historic District Commission Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 03, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809**

Written comments may be submitted to the Historic District Commission via regular mail addressed to: Historic District Commission, Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol RI 02809 or via email to ntoth@bristolri.gov

Application packets can be found online at: <https://bristol-ri.municodemeetings.com/>

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
 - 1 **Staff Report**
3. **Review of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes**
 1. **Review of August Meeting Minutes**
4. **Application Reviews**
 1. **26-81:1200 Hope St, Infinity 1217 LLC**
Discuss and act on addition of well house, change of previously approved siding on new construction buildings.
 2. **26-105: 685 Hope St, James Zamil**
Discuss and act on construction of pre-fabricated gazebo structure, addition of front facing fence. Additional items administratively approved.
 3. **26-54: 244 Metacom Ave, Andrew Broten**
Discuss and act on demolition of stone structure.
5. **Concept Review**
 1. **CRHD-26-6: 165 High St, William Magee**

2026 AUG 18 AM 9:23

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Discuss proposed reconstruction of
outbuilding/carriage house.

6. Monitor Reports & Project Updates

7. HDC Coordinator Reports & Project Updates

8. HDC Coordinator Approvals

9. Other Business

1. AI-Generated Application Materials Policy

Discuss and act on adding AI-Generated Application
Materials Policy to standards guide

2. RIDOT RI-114 Project Letter

Letter from RIHPHC regarding changes to the finish
options on the RI-114 Seawall.

10. Adjourn

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
HOUSING AUTHORITY**

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2026 AUG 18 AM 9:14

AGENDA

Special meeting of the Town of Bristol Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will be held on **Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.** in the Bristol Housing Authority Community Room, 1014 Hope Street, Bristol, Rhode Island. *The public is invited.*

Public Comment: Limited to Noticed Agenda Items; Off-Agenda topics will not be heard during this meeting. The Chair shall determine the allotted time for public comments.

Please be advised that the Board intends to discuss and/or act/vote upon each and every item appearing on this Agenda.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
 - A. July 30, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes (VOTE)
 - B. July 30, 2026, Executive Session Meeting Minutes (VOTE)
5. Old Business
 - A. Update on Status of Requested Governance Documents to All Board Members Pursuant to the Board Vote of July 30, 2026.
6. Current Business
 - A. Director's Report (Modernization / Vacancy Report / Staffing Update)
 - B. Approval of Monthly Financials for July 31, 2026, and Synopsis July 2026 (VOTE)
7. New Business
 - A. Resolution 2026-10 – Resolution to Approve Executive Director, Chair and Vice Chair (alternate) as BankNewport Signers for BCDC Account (VOTE)
 - B. Discussion and possible vote regarding re-negotiation and extension of the Executive Director's Employment Agreement: discussion of Executive Director succession planning in the event the Board votes not to extend the contract. (VOTE)
8. Executive Session
 - A. Discussion and possible vote on status of IT litigation per the State of Rhode Island Open Meetings Act RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2).
9. Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting Date - September 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

POSTED August 18, 2026, BHA Properties, Bristol Town Hall, BHA Bulletin Board, and Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office Open Government website



The Commissioners of the Cemeteries

The North and East Burial Grounds Commission
 Town of Bristol, Rhode Island
 10 Court Street ~ PO Box 407
 Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
 Ph 401-253-6426 ~ Fax 401-253-5885

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
 2026 AUG 17 AM 11:20

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, August 19, 2026, 6:00 PM

North Burial Ground Committal Shelter

1081 Hope Street
 Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**
- 2. REVIEW & APPROVAL:** Minutes of June and July 2026 Meetings.
- 3. REVIEW:** Monthly Census of Cemetery Use and Sales Income.
- 4. REVIEW:** Monthly Expenses and Invoices for June and July 2026
- 5. CHAPEL REPAIR UPDATE**
- 6. PAINTING OF WROUGHT IRON GATE AT EBG**
- 7. NBG RULES VS CHARTER UPDATE**
- 8. BLUE STAR FAMILY PLAQUE UPDATE**
- 9. ESTABLISHING DEADLINES FOR PROJECT COMPLETIONS**
- 10. EBG ENDOWMENT AND FENCE UPDATE WITH CARL CARULLI**
- 11. DOCUMENTS FOR TOWN COUNCIL BIDS UPDATE**
- 12. REAR FENCE AND NICHES**
- 13. BUDGET FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR**
- 14. REPLACE/ADD STREET SIGNS**
- 15. PAINTING OF STORAGE SHEDS TO COVER PHONE NUMBER**
- 16. REMOVAL OF FLOWER HOLDERS FROM COLUNBARIUM**
- 17. BRICK FUNDRAISER FOR POND WALKWAY**
- 18. EAST BURIAL GROUND CONCERNS**

ONGOING:

Commission meetings for 2026: 8/19, 9/9, 10/14, 11/18, 12/9, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at 6pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the chapel at North Burial Ground, 1081 Hope St., Bristol, RI .

US Flags for US veterans' graves are available at the superintendent's office (401-253-6426) or from the Bristol Council of Veterans.

Commission meetings are posted at the following locations:

The Bristol Post Office, Bristol Town Hall, RI Secretary of State website:

http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/?page=view_entity&id=4502.

*Submitted and posted 08/19/2026
 Herman Martin, Chair*

Warren Rensehausen, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation
wrensehausen@bristolri.gov

Tim Shaw
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation
tshaw@bristolri.gov



RECREATION BOARD Item (CA) HH4.

Karl Antonevich
Mike Cabral
N. Diane Davis
Kevin Manuel
Patti Nenna
Donald Squires
Michael Tomaselli

Recreation Board Meeting
Wednesday August 26, 2026 @4:30
Quinta Gamelin Community Center
101 Asylum Road Bristol, RI

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Attendance
- 3) Veterans Report
- 4) Department Report
 - A. Project updates
 1. Walley
 2. Dog Park
 3. Capital Projects FY27

B. Directors Report - general

- 5) Assistant Directors report
- 6) Senior Services Report
- 7) Program report.
- 8) Upcoming events/trips
- 9) Individual members
- 10) Adjournment

2026 AUG 24 PM 12:12
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Frances C. O'Donnell, Chairman

Peter Hewett, Vice-chairman

Marie Knapman, Member



Melissa Cordeiro, Clerk

Board of Canvassers

Tuesday, September 9, 2026

6:00 AM

Bristol Town Hall

10 Court Street

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. The Bristol Board of Canvassers will convene to conduct the September 19, 2026, Preference Primary, and will remain in session throughout the entire day until the close of Board business pertaining to the elections. Polling locations will be open from 7am to 8 pm.
3. Adjournment

Per Order of the Board of Canvassers

Melissa Cordeiro, Clerk

Posted: July 1, 2026



TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

PLANNING BOARD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, August 27th, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Town Hall Conference Room, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Agenda Items

B1. Review Revised Land Use Chapter (Continued from July 23, 2026)

C. Adjournment

2026 AUG 20 PM 1:02
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
308-201-1111

Date Posted: August 20, 2026

Posted By: mbw

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 5:00 pm
450 Child Street (Boardroom), Warren, RI

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input
3. Distribution of Annual Report
4. Presentation of FY2026 Audit – CBIZ
5. Minutes
 - i. Board Meeting – 6/24/26
 - ii. Properties Committee Meeting – 8/12/26
6. Executive Director Report
7. Financial Report
8. Board Member Town Council Reports
9. Quarterly Write-Offs: For Information Only
10. Board Vote on Properties Committee Recommendation for the Proposed BCWA Operations Building
11. Executive Session:
 - i. Disposition of Public Property – BCWA Property in Swansea, MA (Assessors Map 14, Lot 13, aka Warren Reservoir Property) pursuant to RIGLs. 42-46-5(a)(5)
 - ii. Disposition of Public Property – Old Station Building pursuant to RIGLs. 42-46-5(a)(5)
 - iii. Executive Session Minutes:
 - a. Board Meeting – 6/24/26
 - b. Properties Committee Meeting – 8/12/26
12. Board Vote on Issuance of Request for Proposals for the Old Station Building
13. Board Vote on Disposition of BCWA Property in Swansea, MA (Assessors Map 14, Lot 13, aka Warren Reservoir Property)
14. Next Scheduled Meeting: September 24, 2026
15. Adjournment

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Bristol County Water Authority not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. 401-245-2022 (voice) or via RI Relay 1-800-745-5555 (TTY).

Agenda Posted 8/21/26

1. Secretary of State Website
2. BCWA Main Office Bulletin Board
3. BCWA Operations Department Bulletin Board
4. BCWA Website bcwari.com

Agenda Sent Via Email 8/21/26 for Posting on Public Bulletin Boards

1. Barrington Town Hall
2. Bristol Town Hall
3. Warren Town Hall

2026 AUG 21 PM 1:46
 TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
 BRISTOL COUNTY, RI

Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 01 September 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Bristol Historical & Preservation Society
48 Court Street, Bristol, RI

1. Call to Order

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes – 09 June 2026 meeting minutes

2. Old / Open Business

- Time capsule for Tricentennial
- Financial
 - Final distribution of money
 - Close out of checking account
- Recap of accomplishments
- Miscellaneous items from the group

3. Adjournment

**TOWN OF BRISTOL HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA

A Special Meeting of the Town of Bristol Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will be held on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.** in the Bristol Housing Authority Community Room, 1014 Hope Street, Bristol, Rhode Island. *The public is invited.*

Public Comment: Limited to Noticed Agenda Items; Off-Agenda topics will not be heard during this meeting. The Chair shall determine the allotted time for public comments to ensure the orderly conduct of business.

Please be advised that actions, if any, will be taken as specifically described within each agenda item below.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. New Business
 - A. Receive and acknowledge Letter of Resignation dated August 25, 2026.
 - B. Discussion of personnel matters related to the mutual termination/buyout agreement for Executive Director; Potential vote to approve, ratify or provide direction regarding the agreement; Discuss and consider appointment of Candace Pansa as Interim Executive Director; Potential vote to approve appointment.
 - C. Discuss and consider organization of an Executive Director Search Committee and immediate next steps, including membership, charge and timeline.
5. Executive Session: Motion to enter Executive Session for items expressly noted below under RIGL 42-46-5(a), followed by roll call vote; upon reconvening in open session, the Chair will disclose any votes taken and record any non-confidential actions.
 - A. Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) (collective bargaining or litigation): Discussion regarding matters arising from an August 14, 2026 Employee Grievance hearing; Potential vote regarding whether to request related information from counsel or provide further direction. Upon reconvening, disclose any non-confidential directives.
 - B. Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) (collective bargaining): Discuss direction to counsel regarding a union card check with Local Union 1217; Potential vote to direct counsel to proceed by date certain. Any non-confidential authorizations to be disclosed upon reconvening.
6. Reconvene in Open Session; Disclosure of any votes that do not jeopardize the basis for entering Executive Session.
7. Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting Date – October 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Bristol Fourth of July Committee
Ball Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2026 @ 5:00PM
Bristol Parks & Recreation
Quinta- Gamelin Community Center
101 Asylum Rd, Bristol, RI

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ATTENDANCE
3. REVIEW BID 1093
4. VOTE ON BID 1093
5. ADJOURNMENT

Posted at the Bristol Town Hall, the Bristol Post Office, and the
Secretary of State Website on 9/26/26



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
bristolri.gov
401-253-7000

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMISSION

AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

5:30 P.M.

SITE VISIT AT

WALLEY SCHOOL BUILDING

260 HIGH STREET

BRISTOL, RI

Posted: 8/27/26

By: dmw



TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW

Agenda

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809

2026 AUG 31 PM 2:27

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Scanned copies of all applications and supporting materials will be available on the Town of Bristol website at <https://bristol-ri.municodemeetings.com/>. Written comments may be submitted to the Zoning Board via regular mail addressed to: Zoning Board of Review, Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809 or via email to etanner@bristolri.gov. Written comments should be received no later than 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th, 2026.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes - July 13, 2026**
3. **Sitting as Board of Appeal - Continued Petitions**
 - 3A. **ZAPL-26-1, ZAPL-26-3, ZAPL-26-4 David Ramos / Ramos Landscaping, LLC – Appeal (continued from July 13th)**: of three Notices of Violation dated February 12th, February 25th, and March 11, 2026 issued by the Administrative Officer for conducting business operations on a Sunday and/or outside of the Planning Board's approved special use permit hours of operation. Located at **668 and 670 Metacom Avenue**; Assessor's Plat 128, Lots 15 & 16; Zone: GB **Public Hearing is closed, vote on formal decision only.**
 - 3B. **ZAPL-26-5 John J. Marshall – Appeal (continued from July 13th)**: of a decision of the Bristol Historic District Commission denying installation of a sliding door on an existing accessory garage structure. Located at **8 Constitution Street**; Assessor's Plat 11, Lot 20; Zone: R-6 **Public Hearing is closed, vote on formal decision only.**
 - 3C. **ZAPL-26-6 Carole Anne Benn – Appeal (continued from July 13th)**: of a decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer approving a Zoning Modification Permit to construct a 16ft. x 24ft. detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) structure at a height of 20ft. 10in. above grade. Located at **29 Harrison Street**; Assessor's Plat 146, Lot 21; Zone: R-15
4. **Sitting as Board of Review - Continued Petitions**
 - 4A. **ZBR-26-21 Thomas A. Dawson – Dimensional Variances (continued from June 1st)**: to remove an existing accessory shed structure and construct a new 12ft. x 16ft. accessory shed structure with less than the required rear yard and less than the required right side yard. Located at **15 Burton Street**; Assessor's Plat 15, Lot 79; Zone: R-6
 - 4B. **ZBR-26-24 Joseph M. Brito, Jr. – Dimensional Variances (continued from June 1st)**: to demolish an existing residential guest house structure and construct a 41ft. 2in. x 44ft. 4in. x 32ft. high accessory bunkhouse / boathouse structure at a size and height greater than permitted for accessory structures in a residential zoning district. Also, a **Special Use Permit**: to construct a 41ft. 2in. x 44ft. 4in. x 32ft. high accessory bunkhouse / boathouse structure at a height greater than 25 feet above grade within the flood zone. Located at **161 Poppasquash Road**; Assessor's Plat 182, Lot 7; Zone: R-40
 - 4C. **ZBR-26-30 Sarah Miller – Dimensional Variances (continued from July 13th)**: to construct an approximate 40ft. x 43ft. detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) structure with less than the required front yard, and at a size greater than

permitted for accessory structures in the Residential R-10 zoning district. Located at **169 Fatima Drive**; Assessor's Plat 123, Lot 33; Zone: R-10

- 4D. **ZBR-26-32 Douglas M. and Susan E. Dahl – Special Use Permit and Dimensional Variances (continued from July 13th)**: to construct a 28ft. x 46ft. single-family dwelling at a height greater than 25 feet above grade in the flood zone; and with greater than permitted gross floor area (GFA) for the dwelling, first and second floor footprints, and deck. Located at **61 Smith Street**; Assessor's Plat 133, Lot 128; Zone: R-15

5. **Sitting as Board of Review - New Petitions**

- 5A. **ZBR-26-9 Mosa Al Zoweilei – Dimensional Variances**: to construct a 3ft. 6in. addition to the footprint of an existing 21ft. x 23.25ft. accessory garage structure, and to construct a new 19.5ft. x 23.25ft. second- and third-story accessory dwelling unit (ADU) addition and second story deck above the structure with less than the required lot area for an ADU within a new or expanded structure; less than the required rear yard; less than the required distance between a principal and an accessory structure; and with less than the number of required off street parking spaces. Located at **721 Hope Street**; Assessor's Plat 8, Lot 3; Zone: W
- 5B. **ZBR-26-33 Andrew Tyska – Dimensional Variance**: to construct an approximate 12ft. x 23ft. sunroom addition to an existing single-family dwelling with less than the required rear yard. Located at **26 Patricia Ann Drive**; Assessor's Plat 55, Lot 129; Zone: R-15
- 5C. **ZBR-26-34 Larry Goldstein / TSL, LLC – Dimensional Variance**: to modify exterior walls and roofline of a portion of the existing Bristol Harbor Inn hotel building and construct eight (8) new hotel rooming units on the third floor of the structure with less than the required lot area per rooming unit. Located at **267 Thames Street**; Assessor's Plat 9, Lot 50; Zone: W
- 5D. **ZBR-26-35 Luke and Tracy D'Antonio – Dimensional Variance**: to construct an approximate 16.5ft. x 25ft. garage addition to an existing single-family dwelling with less than the required right side yard. Located at **62 Beachmount Avenue**; Assessor's Plat 63, Lots 80 & 81; Zone: R-10
- 5E. **ZBR-26-36 Joseph M. Goulart – Dimensional Variance**: to construct a 30ft. x 40ft. accessory garage structure at a size greater than permitted for accessory structures in the R-10 zoning district. Located at **421 Metacom Avenue**; Assessor's Plat 48, Lot 10; Zone: R-10
- 5F. **ZBR-26-37 Douglas and Patricia Gablinske – Dimensional Variances**: to construct a 16ft. x 30ft. pool house/cabana addition to an existing 22.2ft x 22.2ft. accessory garage structure with less than the required front yard; and at a size greater than permitted for accessory structures in the R-10 zoning district. Located at **6 Knowlton Court**; Assessor's Plat 103, Lot 14; Zone: R-10
- 5G. **ZBR-26-38 Paul J. and MaryAnn Salesi – Dimensional Variance**: to construct a 20ft. x 41ft. accessory dwelling unit (ADU) addition to an existing 20ft x 24ft. accessory garage structure at a size greater than permitted for accessory structures in the R-6 zoning district. Located at **66 Collins Street**; Assessor's Plat 26, Lot 72; Zone: R-6

6. **Adjournment**

Date Posted: August 27, 2026

Posted By: emt

Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Frances C. O'Donnell, Chairman

Peter Hewett, Vice-chairman

Marie Knapman, Member



Melissa Cordeiro, Clerk

Board of Canvassers

Thursday, September 10, 2026

9:30 AM

Bristol Town Hall

10 Court Street, Bristol

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. The Bristol Board of Canvassers will convene for the purpose of determining the disposition of provisional ballots cast in Bristol during the Party Preference Primary Election of September 9, 2026.
4. Adjournment

Per Order of the Board of Canvassers

Melissa Cordeiro, Clerk

Posted: September 2, 2026

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
2026 SEP -2 PM 5:38

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

TOWN OF BRISTOL HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2026 SEP -3 AM 10:06

Bristol Housing Authority
Board of Commissioners Agenda
September 10, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Bristol Housing Authority Community Room
1014 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

Please be advised that the regular meeting scheduled for September 10, 2026 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items.

POSTED September 2, 2026, BHA Properties, Bristol Town Hall, BHA Bulletin Board, and Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office Open Government website

BUDGET AND DECLINING ENROLLMENT WORKGROUP

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Thursday September 10, 2026

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

PLACE: Warren Town Council Chambers

AGENDA

I. Roll Call

II. Discussion Topics

- Revenue and Enrollment Projections, BWRSD
- Expenditure Projections, BWRSD
- Municipal Budget Impacts (current, short-term, long-term)
- Stakeholder, data and information needs (for future meetings)

III. Next meeting date

IV. Adjournment

Margaret Richards, Vice Chairperson
Budget and Declining Enrollment Workgroup



TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, September 10th, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court Street, Bristol, RI 02809

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2026**
- C. Agenda Items**
 - C1. Review and make recommendations to the Town Council on proposed zoning ordinance amendments:
 - a. Short Term Rentals
 - b. Flood Zone Definitions.
 - C2. Review and discuss zoning ordinance amendments to regulate AI Data Centers as referred from Town Council.
 - C3. Review annual update on projects from Roger Williams University as required by Planning Board conditions on Educational Institution Master Plan.
- D. Correspondence**
 - D1. Enacted Legislation affecting Land Use Law

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2026 SEP -3 PM 2:22

Date Posted: September 4, 2026

Posted By: mbw



The Commissioners of the Cemeteries

The North and East Burial Grounds Commission
 The Town of Bristol, Rhode Island
 10 Court Street ~ PO Box 407
 Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
 Ph 401-253-6426 ~ Fax 401-253-5885

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY September 9, 2026, 6PM

North Burial Ground Chapel

1081 Hope Street
 Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**
2. **REVIEW & APPROVAL:** Minutes of Aug 2026 meeting.
3. **REVIEW:** Monthly census of cemetery use- and sales income.
4. **REVIEW:** Monthly expenses and invoices for Aug 2026
5. **REMINDER to ALL:** The link for the new cemetery program is [North Burial Ground – Search Powered by CemeteryFind](#) This is available via Bristolri.gov.
6. **DISCUSSION | REVIEW | BUDGET | FINANCE:** Fence/foundation replacement at EBG.
7. **West-side update**
8. **Tree trimming at EBG/NBG**
9. **ON-GOING: DATES AND REMINDERS:**

~**COMMISSION MEETINGS DATES FOR 2026:** The Commission meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the chapel at North Burial Ground unless otherwise noted. Remaining schedule for 2026: **9/19; 10/14; 11/11; 12/9**

~**COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE POSTED AT THESE LOCATIONS:**

The Bristol Post Office | Bristolri.gov | RI Secretary of State Website:
http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/?page=view_entity&id=4502

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Carusi, Chair Pro-tem
Posted: Sept 4, 2026

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
 2026 SEP -4 PM 2:02



TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

BRISTOL HARBOR COMMISSION AGENDA

September 14, 2026

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

**MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MARITIME CENTER
127 THAMES STREET, BRISTOL, R.I. 02809**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO DISCUSS AND/OR ACT
UPON EACH AND EVERY ITEM APPEARING ON THIS AGENDA**

- 1.) Pledge of Allegiance
- 2.) Approval of August, 2026 meeting minutes
- 3.) Report of the Harbormaster : Gregg Marsilli, Harbormaster
John Perry, Deputy Harbormaster
 - a.) Dock Maintenance
 - b.) Dock Wait List 112
- 4.) Citizens Public Forum
- 5.) Adjournment

Posted: 9/4/26 per

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2023 AUG 27 10:14

DATE RECEIVED

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of
Bristol: The undersigned hereby respectfully
requested of your Honorable Body that:



On Saturday July 18th we attached our 51' sailing catamaran to Town Mooring TM-15 for what was supposed to be a 30 day stay. Less than 5 hours later, the Harbormaster had called to say that the mooring had broken, and our boat had washed ashore at the Thames Waterside Grill seawall/docks. In my opinion this mooring was not properly sized for a boat of our size and even though the weather wasn't settled it was certainly not a severe storm. Although the damage was minimized because this happened during the day and the harbormaster reacted quickly, the initial estimate is still over \$25,000.

My insurance deductible is \$12,500 and I am seeking reimbursement for that amount.

I am including more detailed information, a diagram of the mooring, pictures of the damage, and my insurance claim statement clearly showing the initial estimates and my deductible.

PLEASE NOTE:

*Please ensure that your petition is submitted
by 4:00 PM, two (2) Wednesdays before the
Town Council meeting scheduled for*

*9/16/2026
in order to be included on the docket. Ac-
cording to Council policy, petitions cannot
be addressed unless recommendations, if
needed, from the relevant departments are
received before the Council meeting*

SIGNATURE: _____

Scott Waterhouse

NAME: _____

34 Annie Moore Road

ADDRESS: _____

Bolton, MA 01740

TOWN: _____

E
F
I

On Saturday July 18th, we attached to Town Mooring #TM-15 at approximately 11:30AM. We had reserved this mooring for 30 days for our 51' Outremer sailing catamaran Helia2 while we waited to have some maintenance done on our mast. The day was overcast with rain showers and winds around 10-15mph. We attached to the mooring like we do all moorings, using two of our docklines looped through the eye(s) of the mooring pennants. A diagram is attached, our lines are shown in green. We left the boat shortly after picking up the mooring to return to my parent's house in Mattapoisett, MA.

At approximately 4:30PM Deputy Harbormaster John Perry called me to inform me that our boat had broken free from the mooring and had washed up onto the seawall and dock of the Thames Waterside Bar and Grill. He had secured Helia2 as best he could to the dock before calling. Shortly after my wife and I met with John first at the office and then we walked over to the boat. At the boat we saw that we had a fair amount of damage in two places at the bow (including below the waterline) and stern. I went on the boat and found no evidence of any water ingress. John offered to have us move to a mooring he said was for a 45' boat but I refused that option. Not having any suitable moorings for us to move to, and no dock space available we decided to leave the boat on the restaurant dock until morning. Later that evening I noticed on our Dockwa app (used for mooring/dock reservations) that TM-15 was listed as a mooring for a 45' boat. If I had known this before we would not have accepted the mooring.

On Sunday July 19th, we moved the boat to Safe Harbor New England Boatworks in Portsmouth, where it still is actively undergoing repairs. Before moving the boat, I went out to TM-15 and took the picture included below, showing that the loop in "Part A" of my diagram (part of the town supplied mooring) has broken. This was the reason my boat washed ashore. In my opinion we were assigned an undersized mooring for our boat, and even moderate weather conditions were more than the pennant could handle.

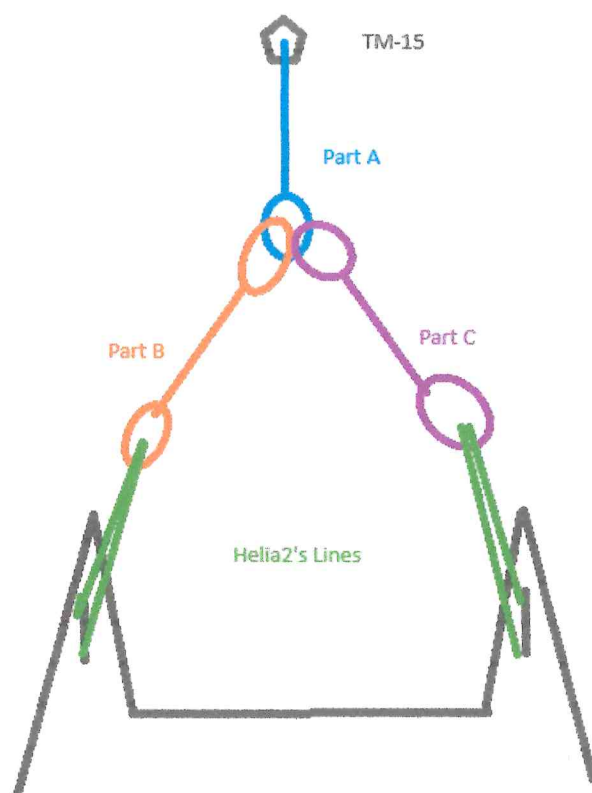
According to the 2022 Harbor Plan posted on the website, the pennant is supposed to be 1" Nylon (I assume three strand) for 41-50' boats and 1-1/4" for 51-65' boats. As TM-15 had a braided pennant the equivalent sizes for braided at least 7/8" for boats to 50' and at least 1" for boats 51-65'. I don't know the exact diameter of the pennant that was on TM-15 but my opinion is it was 5/8" – well undersized for a 51' boat.

Initial repair estimates are approximately \$24,000 although the work is still underway and will be increasing by at least another \$4000 as of the writing of this statement.

My insurance deductible is \$12,500 and I am seeking reimbursement for that amount.

I am including a diagram of the mooring, pictures of the damage, and my insurance claim statement clearly showing the initial estimates and my deductible.

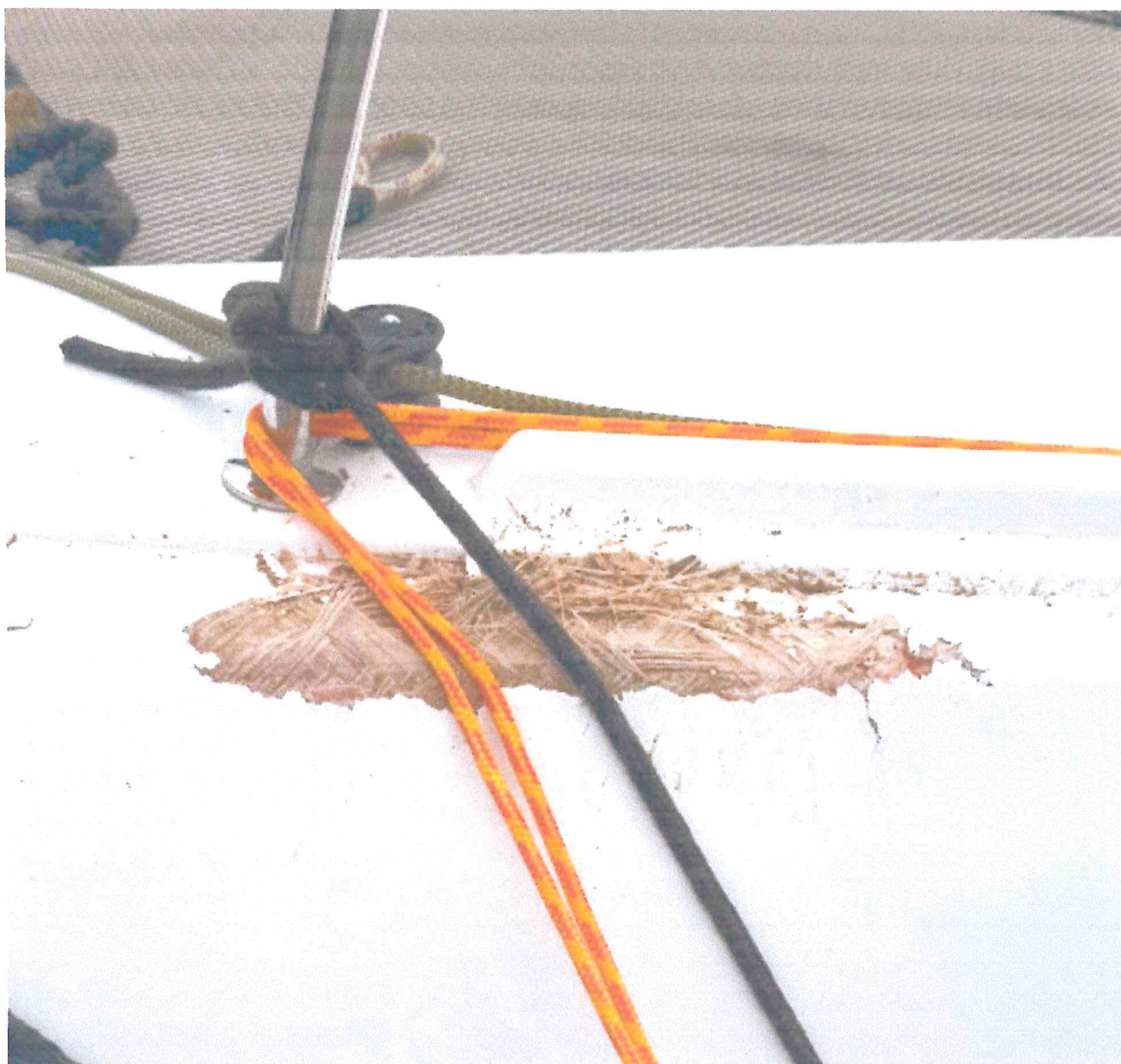
Diagram of Mooring



Damage at Bow – at and below waterline



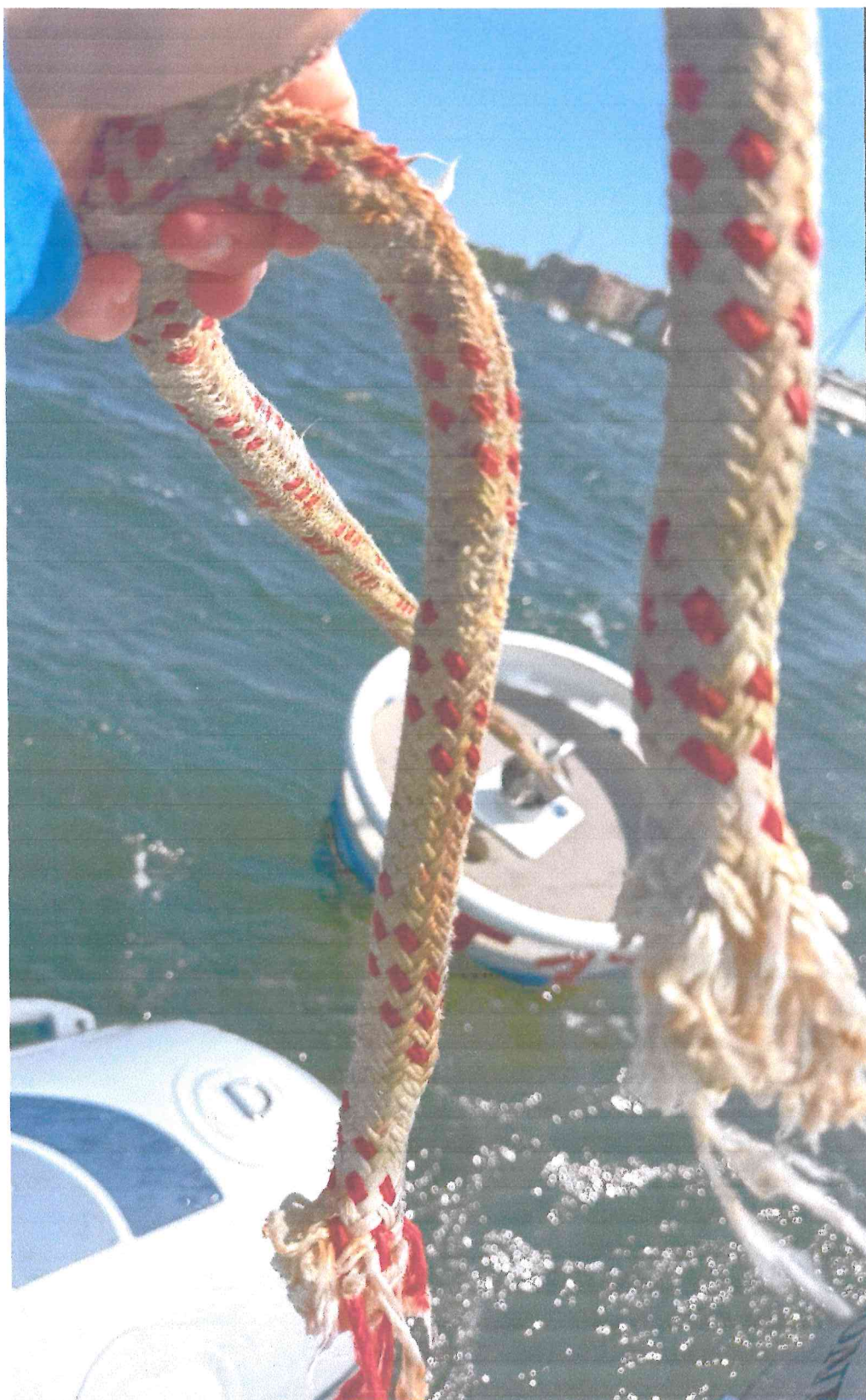
Damage at Bow – Deck Level



Damage at Stern



Broken Mooring Pennant (town supplied portion)



Second View of Mooring Pennant



Table from page 170 of the 2022 Harbor Plan showing requirements

(B.) The Harbormaster may approve informal variances to mooring tackle specifications other than those minimum standards described herein for specific cases if such specifications are appropriate for the area in which a mooring will be located. The Harbormaster must file such variance with the Harbor Commission.

REGISTERED BOAT LENGTH feet	MUSHROO M ANCHOR pounds	BOTTOM CHAIN	TOP CHAIN	NYLON DACRON LINE	STAINLE SS STEEL WIRE
Under 16	75	3/8	3/8	1/2	1/4
16-19	150	3/8	3/8	1/2	1/4
20-22	200	1/2	3/8	5/8	1/4
23-25	250	1/2	3/8	3/4	1/4
26-30	300	5/8	3/8	3/4	1/4
31-35	400	5/8	3/8	3/4	3/8
36-40	500	3/4	1/2	7/8	3/8
41-50	600	3/4	1/2	1	1/2
51-65	750	1	1/2	1-1/4	1/2

TRAVELERS - THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

Item (CA) II1.

Western Gulf Claim Center - Boat (286)

PO Box 650293
Dallas, TX 75265
Phone: (800) 772-4482

Claim #:
Workfile ID:

IVG3130001
caed5f57

Estimate of Record

Written By: SHAUN ASHTON, License Number: 8479127, 8/5/2026 3:09:48 PM
Adjuster: MAER

Insured: SCOTT WATERHOUSE Owner Policy #: PT5010A6156009928401 Claim #: IVG3130001
Type of Loss: Collision Date of Loss: 07/18/2026 12:00 AM Days to Repair: 99
Point of Impact: 11 Left Front Deductible: 12500.00

Owner (Insured):	Inspection Location:	Appraiser Information:	Repair Facility:
SCOTT WATERHOUSE 34 ANNIE MOORE RD BOLTON, MA 01740 (508) 7 Evening	SAFE HARBOR NEW ENGLAND B 1 LAGOON RD PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871-0000 Other (401) 683-4000 Day	SAshton@Travelers.com (774) 292-9760	SH-NEW ENGLAND BOATWORKS 1 LAGOON ROAD PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871 (401) 683-4000 Evening

VEHICLE

2022 OTHE OUTREMER 51 WHITE

VIN: A0M51249A222	Production Date:	Interior Color:
License: UNK	Odometer: UNK	Exterior Color: WHITE
State: MA	Condition: Good	

Estimate of Record

2022 OTHE OUTREMER 51 WHITE

Line	Oper	Description	Part Number	Qty	Extended Price \$	Labor	Paint
1	#	YACHT-CATAMARAN OVER 26'		1			
2	#						
3	#	Repl HAUL, BLOCK AND RE-LAUNCH		51	1,275.00 X		
4	#	Rpr UNSTEP/STEP MAST FOR INSIDE STORAGE/REPAIRS				8.0	
5	#	Repl TENTING TO PREVENT DUST MIGRATION		1	100.00	3.0	
6	#	Rpr SAND/GRIND DAMAGED AREAS TO GOOD LAYUP				27.0	
7	#	Rpr RENEW LAYUP TO BUILDERS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE				30.0	
8	#	Rpr FILL, FAIR TO PRELOSS PROFILE				40.0	
9	#	Rpr RENEW GELCOAT IN REPAIRED AREAS				15.0	
10	#	Rpr WET/SAND BUFF FOR UNIFORM FINISH				4.0	
11	#	Rpr ADD'L WET/SAND FOR HULL SCUFFS ON PORT SIDE				8.0	
12	#	Rpr REPAIR METAL STANCHION/RAILINGS-STRAIGHTEN				4.0	
13	#	Repl 100' DYNEEMA RAILING LINE		1	159.00	2.0	
14	#	Rpr R&I STANCHIONS FOR REPAIR ACCESS				3.0	
15	#	Repl RENEW PORT BOW BARRIER COAT/ANTIFOULING PAINT		1	200.00	5.0	
16	#	Repl GELCOAT AND RELATED		1	150.00		
17	#	Repl RESINS AND HARDENERS		1	150.00		
18	#	Repl FIBERGLASS MATTS AND CLOTHS		1	100.00		
19	#	Repl MIXING CUPS, APPLICATORS, MASKING AND PPE		1	100.00		
20	#	Repl ABRASIVES		1	150.00		
21	#	Repl MISC. SHOP SUPPLIES		1	99.85		
SUBTOTALS					2,483.85	149.0	0.0

NOTES

Estimate Notes:

INSPECTION:

- Completed by S.S Shaun Ashton along with vessel owner and Rob Mason from SH-NEB.
- Completed report by SS. Shaun Ashton on 8/5/26.

BACKGROUND:

HIN's confirmed as A0M51249A22 and matches the policy dec. page. Vessel is fitted with twin Volvo D2 50HP sail drives.

DAMAGES:

Estimate of Record

2022 OTHE OUTREMER 51 WHITE

Fiberglass delamination with deep gouges and scratches on the portside bow and aft corner.
Bent forward and aft stanchions on the port side.
Gelcoat scratches, scuffs and chips on the port side hull and gunwale.

CAUSE OF LOSS:

Damage is consistent with an impact as reported, where the mooring broke free and the vessel drifted hitting a dock.

DEPRECIATION:

Applied based on age and condition.

SUBROGATION:

No Factor.

SALES TAX:

Confirmed using salestaxstates.com

AGREED PRICING:

SH-NEB submitted an estimate to repair all the listed damages on my repair estimate. I agree with the same.

ESTIMATE TOTALS

Category	Basis		Rate	Cost \$
Parts				1,208.85
Body Labor	149.0 hrs	@	\$ 135.00 /hr	20,115.00
Miscellaneous				1,275.00
Subtotal				22,598.85
Sales Tax	\$ 1,208.85	@	7.0000 %	84.62
Total Cost of Repairs				22,683.47
Deductible				12,500.00
Total Adjustments				12,500.00
Net Cost of Repairs				10,183.47

All supplements must be pre-approved by Travelers.

Supplement repair charges may be subject to rejection unless approved by Travelers prior to repairs.

This instrument is a damage estimate only and not an acceptance of liability or authorization to repair.

Repair must be pre-authorized by the vehicle owner.

Vehicle owner maintains the right to repair vehicle at a repair facility of their choice.

Please present this estimate to the repair facility prior to repairs.

Necessary Information for Photograph and Video Estimates (READ CAREFULLY):

This estimate may have been completed based wholly or in part using photographs and/or video. Because of the use of photographs and video, this estimate may not be complete, as there could be hidden damage. You should provide this estimate to the shop of your choice prior to commencement of work. If your shop finds additional damages or undiscovered damages, Travelers will work with your repairer to assess the appropriate scope of work. Your shop is instructed in this estimate to contact Travelers through its supplement process and the damages they discover must be reviewed and approved prior to repairing the vehicle. In the event that you are not repairing your vehicle and believe that our estimate does not account for all of your damages, please contact your Claim professional to discuss.

Estimate of Record

2022 OTHE OUTREMER 51 WHITE

and address your concerns and options.

PER MASSACHUSETTS REG. TITLE 212 CHAPTER 2.02(5), "THIS ESTIMATE HAS BEEN PREPARED AND SWORN TO UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY."

CCC ONE Estimating - A product of CCC Intelligent Solutions Inc.

The following is a list of abbreviations that may be used in CCC ONE Estimating that are not part of the MOTOR CRASH ESTIMATING GUIDE:

BAR=Bureau of Automotive Repair. EPA=Environmental Protection Agency. NHTSA= National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration. PDR=Paintless Dent Repair. VIN=Vehicle Identification Number.



PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:

The undersigned hereby respectfully request of your Honorable Body that:

DATE RECEIVED

Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

I am seeking reimbursement for
tree damage to our roof @ 283 Wood St.
Please see attached for details.

Thank you,
Jayne S. West

PLEASE NOTE:

Please ensure that your petition is submitted by 4:00 PM two (2) Wednesdays before the Town Council meeting scheduled for 9/16/26

In order to be included on the Town Council docket. According to Council policy, petitions cannot be addressed unless recommendations, if needed from the relevant departments are received before the Council meeting.

SIGNATURE: Jayne S. West

NAME: Jayne S. West

Jayne S. West and Glenn Bouchie, Owners
 283 Wood Street
 Bristol, RI 02809

Bristol Town Council
 10 Court Street
 Bristol, RI 02809

August 28, 2026

Dear Council Members,

We request reimbursement in the amount of \$300 for the repairs to the damage done to our house at 283 Wood Street, Bristol on Sunday and Monday, July 12 and 13, 2026 by a town tree that had grown over our property. On July 12, 2026, I requested, via online submission as well as an in-person visit to the DPW, that the large branch on the peak of the roof of our house be removed. The wind increased the evening of July 12, so I called again the morning of July 13th to inform the DPW that the branch was moving across the top peak of the front of the building and causing even more damage. With much appreciation, the branch was removed on Tuesday, July 13th.

Given that a portion of the roof was torn off and exposed the wood underneath, I requested that Ferschke Construction, LLC do the work as quickly as possible, so we didn't suffer more damage if there were any rain to get into the house where the shingles had been torn off by the tree branch.

The cost to us to repair the roof and fascia was \$300. Receipt for this work is attached.

We thank the Town for their swift attention and removal of this branch and request that the Town reimburse us for the damage done by a tree on Town property that was not adequately trimmed to prevent such damage.

Sincerely,



Jayne S. West

Attachments:

Photos of branch on roof (2)

Still shots from drone of damage to roof and fascia (2)

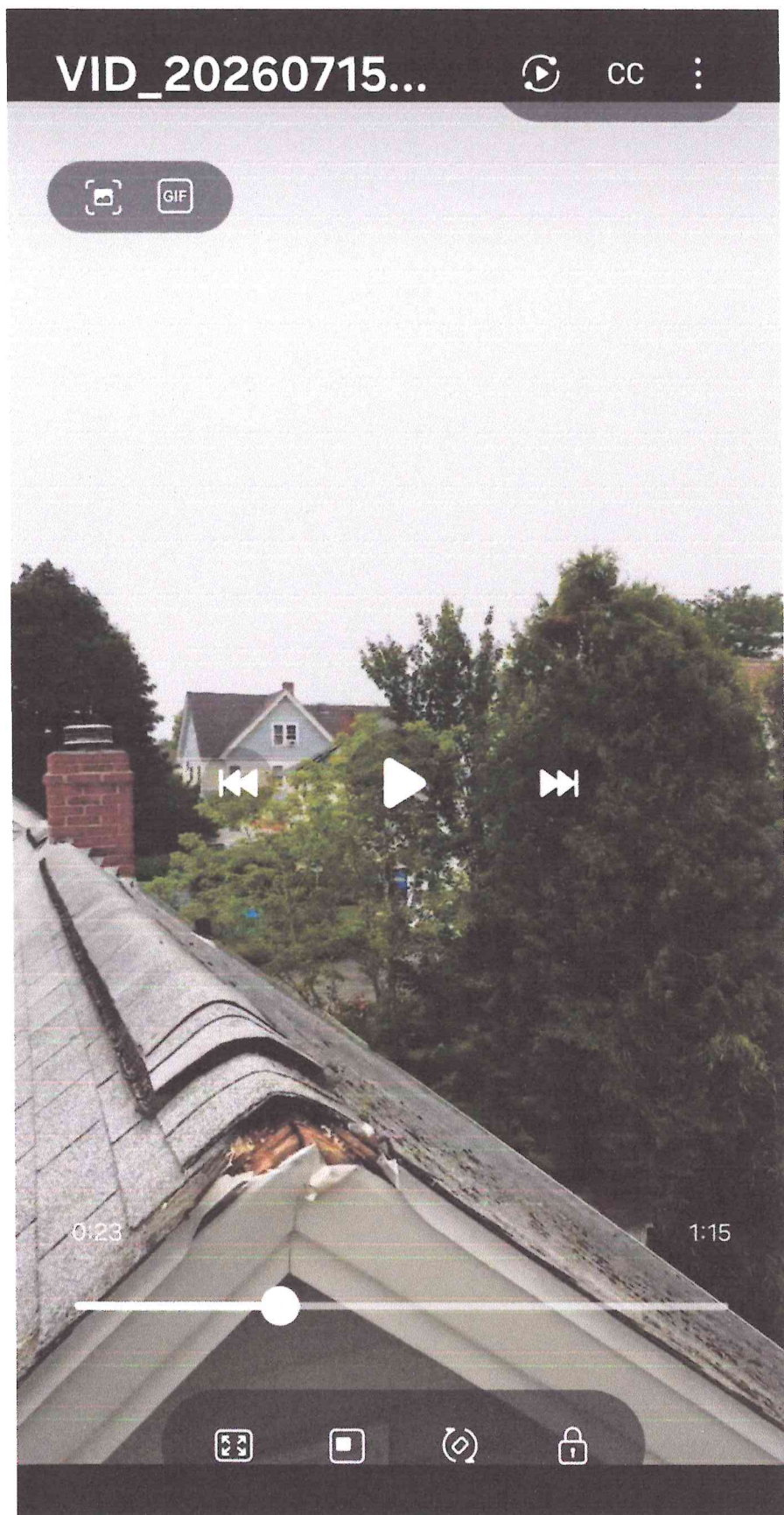
Photo of house and branches removed from tree on July 13, 2026 (1)

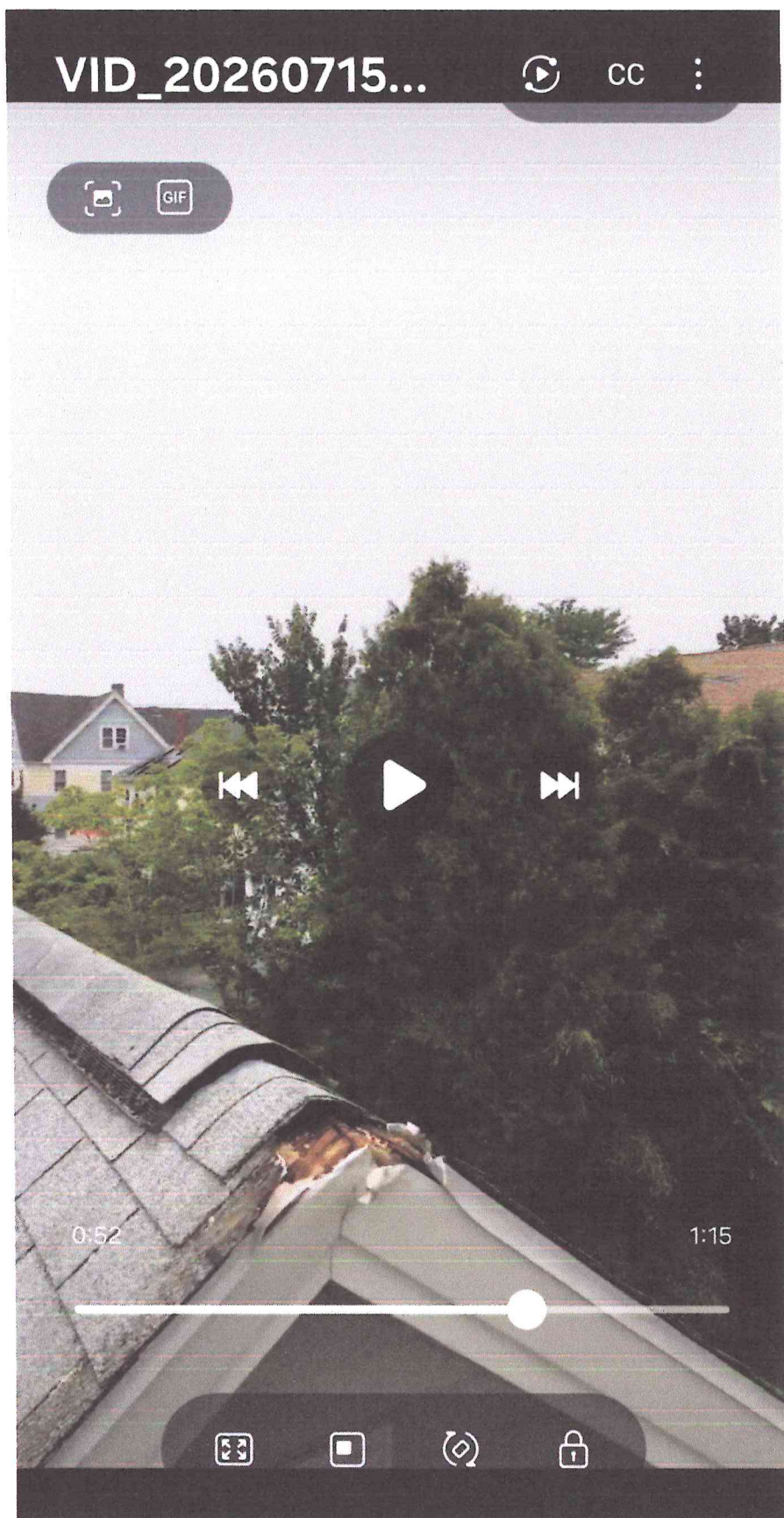
Police Report

Receipt from Ferschke Construction, LLC













BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

1. CAD Event Number 26-017358	2. Barracks BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT	3. Phone Number 401-253-6900	4. Other Agency Case #	5. Department Case Number 2026-017406
---	---	--	------------------------	---

CRIME / INCIDENT INFORMATION

7. Incident Date 07/15/2026	8. Incident Time 1116 Hrs	9. Loc. of Crime or Incident (No. - Street) 283 WOOD ST	10. City BRISTOL	11. County BRISTOL	12. State RI	13. Zip 02809	14. Location Zone 3
15. No. 1	16. RIGL:	17. Crime / Incident DAMAGE TO PROPERTY			18. NIBRS	19. Degree	

PERSON(S) INVOLVED

# 1	20. Type COMPLAINANT	21. Name (Last) BOUCHIE	(First) GLENN	(Middle) C	Home Phone / Cellular [REDACTED]
22. Full Address (No. and Ap/Suite) 424 SEA MEADOW DR			23. City PORTSMOUTH	24. County	25. State RI
26. Zip 02871					
27. Mailing Address (if different than above)					

28. Social Security No.	29. DOB [REDACTED]	30. Age [REDACTED]	31. Sex MALE	Race WHITE	Driver's License # / State
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PROPERTY

63. Property Status	65. Quantity	66. Brief Description	69. Value	70. Date Recovered
---------------------	--------------	-----------------------	-----------	--------------------

VEHICLE(S) INVOLVED

31. State	32. Reg. Number	33. Lic. Type (LIT)	34. Year	35. Model	36. Body Type	37. Color	38. VIN
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NARRATIVE / GIST

PLEASE REFER TO SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE.

Print Rank / Name PATROLMAN ZIAD M. ABDALLAH, ID#34	Page No 1 Of 1	Report Date 07/16/2026	Reviewed By: SERGEANT KYLE J. BATISTA, ID#10
Signature 			Supervisor Signature 

Case No. 2026-017406



BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL PAGE REPORT

1. CAD Event Number 26-017358	2. Barracks BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT	3. Phone Number 401-253-6900	4. Other Agency Case #	5. Department Case Number 2026-017406
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NARRATIVE

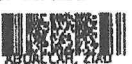
On 07/15/2026 at approximately 1116 hours, I responded to Bristol Police Headquarters to speak with a complainant. Upon my arrival to Police Headquarters lobby, I was met with Glenn Bouchie [REDACTED] who wished to report damage to the roof of his residence.

Bouchie stated that on 07/12/2026, he was at his property at 283 Wood St. Bouchie was cleaning up brush that had fallen from a town owned tree located adjacent to his residence. Bouchie advised that numerous branches and debris had accumulated on the front porch area. While Bouchie was removing the brush he observed a large tree branch leaning against the east side of the residence.

Bouchie noticed that the branch had struck the roof, causing minor damage. Bouchie pointed out a small section of the roof where the impact had chipped out the shingles. Bouchie showed me a photograph of the damage, and I observed a small chip on the corner of the roof, located on the east side. After Bouchie observed the damage, he contacted Department Public Works (DPW) regarding the tree leaning on his residence. Bouchie stated the DPW employees responded to the residence and removed the tree.

Bouchie stated that he wished to have this matter documented. Bouchie completed a hand-written witness statement and was advised to contact Police if any further issues arise.

Case No. 2026-017406

Print Rank / Name PATROLMAN ZIAD M. ABDALLAH, ID#34	Page No 1 Of 1	Report Date 07/16/2026	Reviewed By: SERGEANT KYLE J. BATISTA, ID#10
Signature 			Supervisor Signature 



Ferschke Construction LLC.
6 Lantern RD. Smithfield RI 02917

Location Address
283 Wood Street
Bristol, RI 02809-3231

Jayne West
283 Wood Street
Bristol, RI 02809

INVOICE

Job: 2619: Jayne West
Invoice Number: 2619-1
Invoice Date: 08/03/2026
Terms: Upon Receipt

INVOICE

	PRICE
Roof repair from tree damage	\$300.00
Subtotal: Invoice	\$300.00
Grand Total	\$300.00



Payments/Credits:
08/03/2026 \$300.00
Total Received: \$300.00
Invoice Balance Due: \$0.00

REMIT TO:
6 Lantern RD. Smithfield RI 02917

Company Representative:
Corey Ferschke
(401) 499-4562



PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Item (CA) 113.

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol:

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

The undersigned hereby respectfully request of your

DATE RECEIVED

2026 AUG 31 PM 3:24

Honorable Body that:

Petition Regarding Giuliana Michelletti's
Camp Injury and Medical Expenses

Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

I am submitting this petition regard the injury ~~my~~ ^{our} daughter, Giuliana sustained while attending camp on July 23, 2026, and the medical treatment and expenses that have resulted from that injury.

Giuliana sustained an injury to her hand while at camp on July 23, 2026. Although her grandmother was eventually notified, we were not informed until the end of the day, and neither my husband nor I, as Giuliana's parents, were notified of the injury at all. We did not receive direct notification from the camp regarding what happened or the extent of her injury.

Giuliana was taken to a local urgent care on July 26, 2026, where I'maging confirmed that she had sustained fractures to her hand. Because of the injury, she was then evaluated by University Orthopedics on July 28, 2026.

At her university orthopedics appointment on July 28, Giuliana was placed in a cast. We were informed that the injury was more significant than we initially understood, involving a fracture to the base of her pinky as well as an injury to her ring finger.

She had a follow-up appointment on August 11, 2026 with University Orthopedics, and she continues to require medical care. Her next orthopedic appointment is scheduled for August 28, 2026 and she is also scheduled to begin physical therapy for her hand on August 29, 2026.

Although camp has now ended, Giuliana's injury has continued to affect her well beyond the date of the incident. She has required urgent medical evaluation, orthopedic treatment, casting, follow-up appointments, and will require physical therapy as part as her recovery. These medical needs have also resulted in significant expenses for our family.

(continued on back)

PLEASE NOTE:

Please ensure that your petition is submitted by 4:00 PM two (2) Wednesdays before the Town Council meeting scheduled for 9/16/26

In order to be included on the Town Council docket. According to Council policy, petitions cannot be addressed unless recommendations, if needed from the relevant departments are received before the Council meeting.

SIGNATURE:

NAME: Christine Michelletti

ADDRESS: 15 Sunnyside Ave

The amount currently due for her medical treatment is \$US9.15, and additional expenses are anticipated as she continues with orthopedic care and physical therapy.

I understand that children participate in games and physical activities at camp and that accidents can happen. However, I am concerned not only about the circumstances surrounding Giuliana's injury, but also about the lack of direct notification to her parents when the injury occurred. As her parents, we should have been promptly informed that our daughter had sustained an injury significant enough to ultimately require urgent care, orthopedic treatment, a cast, continued follow-up, and physical therapy.

I respectfully request that the circumstances surrounding Giuliana's injury and the camp's response to the incident be reviewed, including:

- 1) The circumstances and activity during which Giuliana was injured;
- 2) What first aid or evaluation was provided at camp;
- 3) When and how the injury was documented;
- 4) Why her parents were not directly notified of the injury;
- 5) Why notification to her grandmother did not occur until the end of the day; and
- 6) Whether the camp followed its policies and procedures regarding parental notification of an injured child.

I am requesting consideration for reimbursement of the medical expenses resulting from Giuliana's injury, including the \$US9.15 currently due, as well as consideration of additional reasonable medical expenses associated with her ongoing treatment and physical therapy.

My primary concern is Giuliana's health and recovery. This was not simply a minor incident that ended when she left camp. The injury has required continued medical treatment and rehabilitation, and she continues to experience the consequences of what happened on July 23, 2024.

I respectfully request a fair and thorough review of this matter and appropriate consideration of the medical and financial impact this injury has had on Giuliana and our family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Christine Michelelli
Parent / Guardian of Giuliana

Due Now

\$308.17 bill for visit on Aug 11, 2026

Giuliana's visit with SONIA RODRIGUES, PA and SONIA RODRIGUES, PA at University Orthopedics

Insurance Coverage



Insurance was applied to this bill on Aug 26, 2026, and all services were eligible under your plan. However, insurance has not paid anything. [Learn more.](#)

Reference this bill at our office with claim #4178928

Summary

You owe	
\$308.17	
Original cost	\$762.00
Insurance adjustment	-\$453.83
Insurance paid	\$0.00
You previously paid	\$0.00
Amount Due	\$308.17

3 Services in This Bill

Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and low level of medical decision making. when using time for code selection, 20-29 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

Service Code 99213



Insurance applied

Amount Due: \$42.26

▼ Details

Radiologic examination, hand; minimum of three views, left side

Service Code 73130



Insurance applied

Amount Due:**\$46.80**[View Details](#)

Details

[View Details](#)**Application, cast; elbow to finger (short arm), left side**

Service Code 29075



Insurance applied

Amount Due:**\$219.11**[View Details](#)

Due Now

\$350.98 bill for visit on Jul 28, 2026

Giuliana's visit with SONIA RODRIGUES, PA and SONIA RODRIGUES, PA at University Orthopedics

Insurance Coverage



Insurance was applied to this bill on Aug 12, 2026, and all services were eligible under your plan. However, insurance has not paid anything. [Learn more.](#)

Reference this bill at our office with claim #4157638

Summary

You owe	
\$350.98	
Original cost	\$957.00
Insurance	-\$606.02
adjustment	
Insurance paid	\$0.00
You previously paid	\$0.00
Amount Due	\$350.98

3 Services in This Bill

Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making. when using time for code selection, 45-59 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

Service Code 99204



Insurance applied

Amount Due: \$83.78



Details

Radiologic examination, finger(s), minimum of two views

Service Code 73140



Insurance applied

Amount Due:**\$48.09**

Details

Application, cast; elbow to finger (short arm), left side

Service Code 29075



Insurance applied

Amount Due:**\$219.11**

DATE RECEIVED

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of
Bristol: The undersigned hereby respectfully
requested of your Honorable Body that:



Bristol Town Council:

I am requesting a curb cut for a driveway at 318 Wood St in order to have & offer off street parking for my 5 unit building. It is located across from the pickleball courts which have become increasingly popular causing parking issues with residents and the Church services. Please see the attached rendering. I am spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on this property in order to provide quality housing options for our residents. I hope you will approve this request.
Thank you

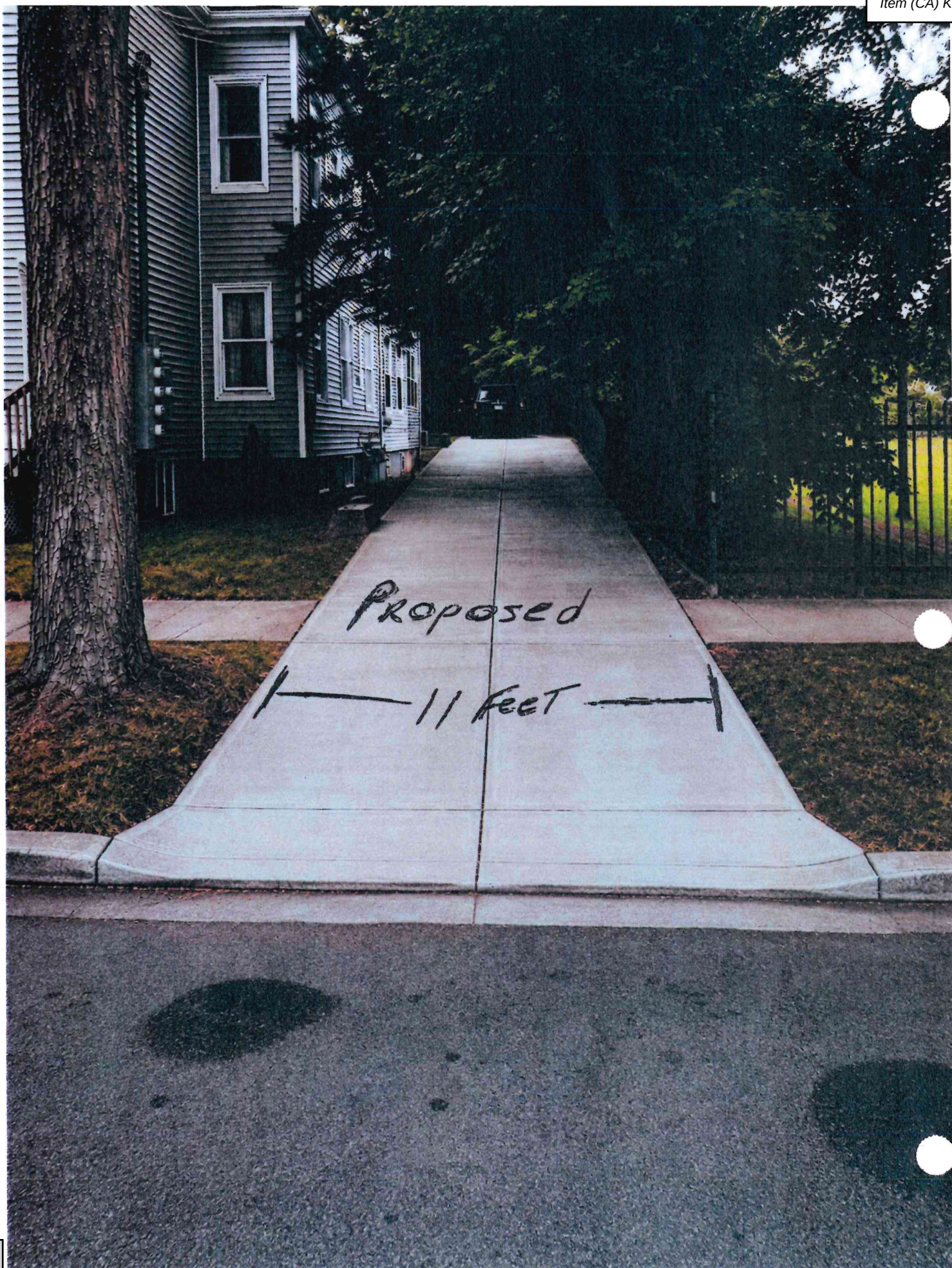
PLEASE NOTE:

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in order to be included on the docket. According to Council policy, petitions cannot be addressed unless recommendations, if needed, from the relevant departments are received before the Council meeting

SIGNATURE

NAME: WEP, LLC, CHRIS WOODARDADDRESS: 318 WOOD ST.TOWN: BRISTOL, RI 02809





TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
TOWN CLERK

DATE: September 1, 2026

RE: Chris Woodard, 318 Wood Street request for curb cut



May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **September 16, 2026**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments

Department of
Public Works

Memo

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Christopher J. Parella, Director of Public Works
Date: September 10, 2026
Re: Chris Woodard, 318 Wood Street request for curb cut

2026 SEP 10 PM 1:46

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Mr. Administrator,

I have no objection to this request for a curb cut. I would recommend that the Honorable Town Council grant this petition and refer this matter to the Department of Public Works to ensure compliance with the Town construction standards and that if determined necessary, a road opening permit is obtained.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns.

CONCUN
Stm Contente

STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator