

Bristol Park Board Meeting Narrative Summary (June 2, 2026)

This meeting served as a comprehensive update on the town's ongoing park improvement initiatives and upcoming administrative transitions. Below is a narrative overview of the key discussions:

Park Initiatives and Maintenance

- **Community Garden Refinement:** The board reviewed the progress of the community garden, which is nearly fully planted (0:58). To clarify its primary mission of supporting local food security, the board proposed renaming it the *Bristol Community Food Pantry Garden* and plans to install a new, professional sign (3:33-4:18, 6:06).
- **Hermance Park Wetland Project:** A major focus was the long-term wetland planting project at *Hermance Park*. The board is planning a phased approach starting this fall to manage drainage and erosion, which includes installing a 5-10 foot wide path for maintenance and public access (44:27-52:19, 58:28-1:01:36).
- **Infrastructure Updates:** Routine maintenance was successfully completed, notably with fresh asphalt laid for the *Cummins Park* and museum driveway (40:15). Additionally, the board confirmed that new mulch and playground borders were ordered to refresh local play areas (17:25-18:49).

Events and Administration

- **Summer Programming:** The board officially approved the *Public Library's* annual car show, set for August 15th (14:18), and acknowledged the upcoming *Bristol Homecoming* festivities scheduled for July 9–11 (15:39).
- **Operational Shifts:** The board is actively seeking a volunteer to serve as a temporary park board secretary to manage meeting minutes (9:05). Furthermore, a significant staff transition was announced: *Eric Funkhouser* is moving to the *wastewater treatment plant* as superintendent, with *John Creech* stepping in to lead the *street department* (128:41-129:41).

Looking Ahead

- Future meetings will prioritize discussions on *Congdon Park* parking lot improvements (30:43) and potential mural designs for the *Hermance Park* pavilion, with *Scott Dreamer* acting as the project liaison (103:48-112:16).