

**From:** Tony Morettini <[tmorettini@gmail.com](mailto:tmorettini@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:23 AM  
**To:** Diane Williamson <[dwilliamson@bristolri.gov](mailto:dwilliamson@bristolri.gov)>

Dear Diane,

At our last meeting on Feb 4, the Conservation Commission reviewed the landscaping plan for the new High School. It appeared well thought through, and we have some additional input, not all of which concerns planting, but rather overall environmental concerns.

In terms of the planting program:

- While a substantial number of trees will be removed, it appears the number of replacement trees are, likewise, substantial. This is, obviously, a concern of ours, so ensuring the new site is well "treed" will be important to aesthetics, provide overall environmental benefits, and significantly contribute to the management of stormwater runoff - a key concern at this site.
- As a side note, tree and shrub planting placement for sight lines, visual approaches, and appropriate wind and sun screening for athletic and recreational areas appear to be well thought through.
- Use of native species is also very important, and appears to be taken into consideration for both shrubs and trees.
- In terms of tree removal, if feasible, we would like to see as many of the existing trees as possible reused around town. Many of the trees are relatively young and healthy, so are of a size that still makes it viable to remove and replant. A program of thoughtful removal and transplantation to town properties, if possible, should begin as soon as possible with marking of those trees with ribbons to ensure they aren't accidentally removed in the construction process.

Some other thoughts:

- The site will be very well lit, as it should be for safety reasons. Therefore, use of "downlighting" will be critical to the health and safety of birds in the area, as well as to neighboring residential areas. It appears parking lots and walkways, etc. use this sort of lighting. It was unclear if the athletic fields do. As these are the most powerful lights on the site, reduction of light pollution is particularly critical there.
- While solar panels aren't included in the original building plan, some thought should be given to placement on the roof at some future time. Appropriate engineering to best accommodate a rooftop solar field is desirable.
- Management of stormwater runoff, particularly adjacent to a wetland, and especially with use of an artificial turf field, is of paramount concern. While we assume all plans and construction will be done with this consideration as a central premise, ensuring DEM is fully on board, and stays engaged, will be critical to success here.

Again, the plans appear to be well thought through with regard to safeguarding the environment, and creating an aesthetically pleasing campus. Ensuring the above concerns are given attention will create the sort of success the High School community and citizens of Bristol all want.

Thank you,

Tony Morettini

Chair, on behalf of the Bristol Conservation Commission

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