

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](https://www.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](https://www.sowams.org).

With thanks and kind regards,\

Andrea Rounds, Chair
Sowams Heritage Area Board of Directors