



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2022 JUL -1 AM 11:21

*TOWN OF BRISTOL  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

*Department of Community Development  
9 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island*

*Tuesday, May 3, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.*

**MAY 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

*Members Present:*

*Tony Morettini*

*Ray Payson*

*Lee Ann Freitas*

*Jay Maciel*

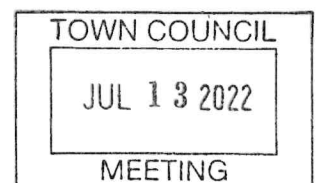
*Staff Present:*

*Ed Tanner*

*The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:33 p.m.*

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Ms. Freitas. Vote: 4-0.
2. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner said that a Kwanzan cherry tree has been purchased and will be planted at Guiteras School in celebration of Arbor Day this year, the date and time to be announced. Mr. Payson handed out an article from the newspaper Newport This Week entitled "Newport Fulfills the Arbor Day Tradition". Mr. Tanner reported that the Town of Bristol was recently recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year. Mr. Tanner also mentioned that tree requests are being reviewed for the spring tree planting cycle.
3. Pollinator Garden Initiative: Ms. Freitas said that she is working on the signage that will be installed at the pollinator garden.
4. Leaf Blower Initiative: Alessandro Pinto, Derek Pinto, and Emily Barry from Roger Williams University gave a presentation entitled "Gas Powered Leaf Blowers" resulting from their capstone project in their sustainability studies class. Highlights of the presentation included a definition of the problem, a review of health and environmental impacts, an analysis of other communities that have addressed the issue, potential solutions to consider, and an in-depth review of battery powered leaf blowers as an alternative. A discussion followed on the pros and cons of both gas and battery powered leaf blowers.
5. Fertilizer Initiative: There was a review of a brochure from the Niantic River Watershed Committee entitled "Healthy Lawns, Healthy River" that came about from a recent conference that Mr. Tanner attended and that was similar to the Bristol brochure, Healthy Yards, Healthy Waters.

*continued*





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**MAY 2022 MEETING MINUTES, continued**

6. Community Choice Aggregation: Councilman Tim Sweeney introduced Jamie Rhodes from the firm Good Energy to review the Community Electricity Aggregation option of having primarily green energy as the default source of energy provided to Bristol consumers. Mr. Rhodes explained that currently, National Grid is the default, or Last Resort Service supplier of energy to Town residents and businesses. Under the proposed plan, the default energy supplier would change to an option with more renewable energy. All energy consumers in Town would be enrolled automatically with the new standard default, unless they opt-out (or have already chosen a third-party supplier). A recommendation by the Conservation Commission to the Town Council, who would need to authorize the program, was requested. Mr. Rhodes concluded by mentioning that seven other cities and towns in Rhode Island, as well as 53 in Massachusetts, already have active or proposed CCA programs in their municipalities.
7. Announcements/Around the Room: Mr. Morettini announced that Wenley Ferguson of Save the Bay will lead another round of wetlands planting at the Bristol Golf Course on May 18, 19 and 20, with a focus on the area around Tupelo Pond. Mr. Payson announced that the RI Natural History Survey will be conducting this year's BioBlitz along the East Bay Bike Path over a 24-hour period on June 10 and 11.
8. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.
9. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Maciel, seconded by Mr. Payson, and the meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay Maciel".

Jay Maciel