



**TOWN OF BRISTOL  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

*Wednesday, April 6, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.*

**APRIL 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

*Tony Morettini  
Ray Payson  
Lindsay Green  
Craig Fisher  
Glenn Donovan  
Lee Ann Freitas  
Jay Maciel*

**Staff Present:**

*Ed Tanner*

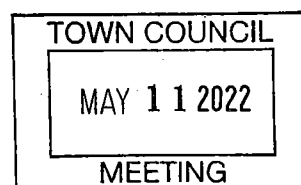
*The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:04 p.m.*

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Mr. Fisher. Vote: 7-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner reported that the Town recently received a grant in the amount of \$197,500 from the RI Department of Environmental Management to be used towards the purchase of 7+ acres of land that abuts the south side of the Perry-Tavares Farm. Once an appraisal and survey are done, final negotiations with the owner for the purchase should take place.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner said that a key component of the new Davey's Treekeeper application is its ability to schedule tree work. Mr. Morettini will be in contact with Jon Greenberg of the Newport Tree Conservancy to follow up on the Town's conversion to the new mapping service. Mr. Tanner said that an Arbor Day event in Bristol will take place at Guiteras School and will be organized soon. Also, a spring clean-up of the bio-retention rain gardens at Guiteras School will take place on Saturday, April 9 at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Tanner noted that there are no final plans yet for the spring tree planting cycle, but he has been in contact with Steve Saracino, the Town's Tree Warden, who suggested planting along Hope Street this year.
4. Pollinator Garden Initiative: Ms. Freitas said that an application to the Xerces Society for the Town to be designated a Bee City USA is in the works. Ms. Green said she sent pictures of the Metacom Avenue pollinator garden to Sara Churgin of the Eastern RI Conservation District to be included on their web site.
5. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tour: Mr. Morettini said that the tour of the Field's Point CSO facility will take place on Wednesday, April 13 at 5:00 p.m.

*continued*

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

2022 MAY -4 PM 12:58





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**APRIL 2022 MEETING MINUTES, continued**

6. Leaf Blower Initiative: Mr. Morettini said that he testified before the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in favor of the zero-emission lawn equipment house bill, H7543, but that the vast majority of those who testified were against the bill. Ms. Freitas mentioned that Roger Williams Park Botanical Center is involved with a study of electric lawn mowers that came about from a recently received grant. Mr. Fisher noted that important to the topic is a suitable means of disposing lithium batteries, and that reducing emissions from gas powered equipment demonstrates a commitment to addressing climate change. Mr. Morettini also mentioned that he had been in contact with the sustainability studies students from Roger Williams University regarding their leaf blower project, and said that he will continue to work with them until their final presentation.
7. Fertilizer Initiative: Mr. Morettini said it was time again to resume the effort to raise awareness for responsible fertilizer use. Healthy Yards, Healthy Waters brochures were dropped off at Ace Hardware, and that the task of reaching out to the public, possibly via a table set up there, should be undertaken.
8. Perry-Tavares Farm Trail: Mr. Morettini said he was contacted by Sheila Dobbryn from Thrive Outside, an organization that looks for opportunities to get kids outside. Mr. Morettini said she is interested in having kids hike there, and that they may provide some help clearing the trails. Mr. Tanner reported that J's Junk Removal will be cleaning up all of the debris in the area at the end of San Francisco Avenue.
9. Announcements/Around the Room: Mr. Morettini announced that "Waterfowl Crossing" signs have been placed at the Children's Grove on both sides of Gibson Road. Ms. Green brought attention to a book she recommends entitled *The Insect Crisis: The Fall of the Tiny Empires That Run the World* by Oliver Milman. Discussion ensued about other worthwhile books including *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake recommended by Ms. Freitas, and *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard recommended by Mr. Morettini.
10. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.
11. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and the meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Maciel".  
Jay Maciel