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TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 5:30 pm

JULY 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

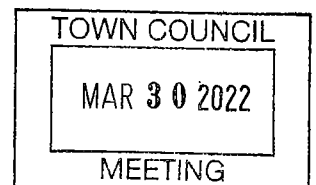
Tony Morettini
Ray Payson
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Glenn Donovan
Jay Maciel

Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

The video teleconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:33 pm.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Payson. Vote: 6-0.
2. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner provided an update to the tree planting program. There are forty trees ready to be planted during this summer cycle of the program. Many trees were planted today replacing trees that were removed from the Town Beach. Also, tree requests will be staked out with Steve Saracino, the Town Tree Warden, on Monday and those trees should be going in the ground soon after that. Mr. Morettini reported that there is a new champion tree in Bristol, an American linden at the corner of Gibson Road and Highland Avenue. He and John Campanini of the RI Tree Council recently visited the tree which received a score of 388 points (based on the trunk, height, and crown measurements), surpassing the previous American linden champion in Jamestown that had 313 points. In total, there are thirteen champion trees in Bristol, and that number is only surpassed by the cities of Newport and Providence.
3. Food Waste/Composting Initiative: Ms. Green reported that Black Earth Compost is the new firm that will be providing collection services for food scraps in Bristol. The fee is \$99 per year for biweekly pick-ups.
4. Fertilizer Initiative: Mr. Morettini said that the Healthy Yards/Healthy Waters sustainable lawn care guide for homeowners has been printed, and that the flyer is currently being distributed via five information kiosks around Town. Additional means of getting the information into people's hands were discussed, including distribution at the Mount Hope Farm Farmers Market, a letter to the editor or possible feature story in the Bristol Phoenix, and a presence on the web.





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JULY 2021 MEETING MINUTES, continued

5. Golf Course Project: Mr. Tanner said that phase II of the construction project is complete. He said he recently met with the landscape architect for the project; and that the grass mowing is being done correctly. Mr. Tanner has been in contact with Wenley Ferguson, Director of Habitat Restoration for Save the Bay, who said the plants are doing great and that there will be more planting in September. In addition, Mr. Tanner noted that the irrigation system needs power; and that a Request for Qualifications (FRQ) for management of the golf course will be put out.
6. Announcements/Around the Room: Mr. Morettini said that in person meetings will resume in September. Mr. Morettini gave a Rhode Island General Assembly legislative update for conservation related items: 1. The Ocean State Climate Adaption and Resilience Fund (OSCAR) was adopted, 2. A bill prohibiting the intentional release of balloons was adopted, 3. An act prohibiting the distribution of single use plastic straws unless asked for was adopted, 4. The Forest Conservation Act was passed, 5. An act creating a Shoreline Access Study Commission was passed, and 6. The 2021 Act on Climate was passed. Mr. Payson mentioned two upcoming events at the Audubon Society of RI: The Nature Center's 20th anniversary and the dedication of the Rose Pollinator Garden. Ms. Green announced that soil testing by URI Master Gardeners will take place at Mount Hope Farm this weekend. Ms. Green noted that milkweed at the Town Beach was cut down. Because of this, she contacted Walter Burke, Acting Parks and Recreation Director, regarding the need to develop a policy on how to manage the rain gardens. Ms. Green said that she received word that spraying for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) at the Town Beach and Sports Complex was taking place and noted that this is not compatible with pollinator plants there. Mr. Fisher questioned whether there was any update to the Bike Path Connector project to which Mr. Tanner replied that Ms. Williamson was working with engineers in an effort to evaluate different routes.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will take place on September 14, 2021, at 5:30 pm.
8. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Payson, seconded by Ms. Green. All were in favor and the meeting ended at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Jay Maciel