



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

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TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Ray Payson
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Glenn Donovan
Jay Maciel

Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Payson at 5:37 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Payson. Vote: 5-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner provided an update to the potential open space acquisition of some land in the area of Narrows Road. He said that a wetlands biologist has visited the site and that an appraisal has been done on the property. A minor subdivision plan in the works that would transfer small portions of the property to a few homeowners on Narrows Road needs to be done beforehand. There was some discussion with the Kendan hotel property on Gooding Avenue and the recent wetlands permit the landowners received from RI DEM.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner provided an update to the tree planting program. All forty trees from the current cycle are in the ground. Twenty-five were planted at the Town Beach and fifteen were planted in various neighborhoods around Town. The trees at the Town Beach have tree gator watering bags, and it was agreed that it would be prudent to purchase additional gator watering bags to be available for future tree plantings. Mr. Tanner stated that there would hopefully be another planting cycle in the fall. Mr. Tanner mentioned the Town has new Tree City USA signs and that he would arrange to have new signs installed where needed and have the "20 Years" stickers affixed to them. There was some discussion about the Tree Management Plan and it was agreed that Conservation Commission members would revisit the current draft of the plan.
4. Food Waste/Composting Initiative: Ms. Green reiterated that Black Earth Compost is the new firm providing collection services for food scraps in Bristol and that they have proven to be a reliable company. The subsidized fee is \$99 per year for biweekly pick-ups. It was agreed that some sort of promotion of this service to Bristol residents would be beneficial.
5. Fertilizer Initiative: It was noted that the Healthy Yards/Healthy Waters fertilizer and lawn care flyer was included as an insert to the current, September 9, 2021, issue of the Bristol Phoenix along with a Letter to the Editor by Tony Morettini promoting the initiative.

TOWN COUNCIL

MAR 30 2022

MEETING



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SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING MINUTES, continued

6. Pollinator Garden Initiative: Mr. Tanner passed on information from Ms. Freitas regarding the pollinator garden to be installed at the Perry-Tavares Farm. He said that plants will be available for an early October planting and more information will be forthcoming. Mr. Maciel passed out an information card produced by the Audubon Society entitled "Pesticides kill more than pests!" which details steps one can do to help native pollinators and which explains what Integrated Pest Management is.
7. Golf Course Project: Mr. Tanner announced that Wenley Ferguson, Director of Habitat Restoration for Save the Bay, is planning another round of planting approximately 500 more trees and shrubs at the golf course on September 23 and 24, and is looking for volunteers to help with the process. In addition, Mr. Tanner noted that a new utility pole will be installed soon by National Grid near Ballou Boulevard which will provide power to the irrigation system, and that a new pump that will be purchased. Ms. Green noted that it would be interesting to see the impact recent plantings have had on the water quality samplings for Silver Creek that are done by Save Bristol Harbor.
8. Announcements/Around the Room: Mr. Payson raised the topic of the temporary lifting of the plastic bag ban due to COVID-19. Mr. Tanner replied that the COVID-19 state of emergency executive order expired on August 18 and therefore retailers should not be using plastic bags. It was noted that Seabra Foods and Dollar General are still using plastic bags and that the Town's Code Compliance Officer should be notified to help remedy the situation. Mr. Maciel and Mr. Payson pointed out that the recent rains had washed away much of the gravel at the base of the Elmwood Drive foot bridge at the Perry-Tavares Farm. Mr. Tanner said he would check out the situation and see if the Department of Public Works could help in restoring the washed-out areas. Ms. Green commented on the record radical rains we've experienced recently and the impact flooding has had on our local waters from the large amounts of toxic runoff and with the sewer plant overflows. Ms. Green was also concerned with the Town's role in dealing with dangerous rains and whether the Conservation Commission could help.
9. The next Conservation Commission meeting will take place on October 5, 2021, at 5:30 pm.
10. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Payson and the meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Jay Maciel