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TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 @ 5:30pm

JANUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Tony Morettini
Ray Payson
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Glenn Donovan
Lee Ann Freitas
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 December minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Mr. Fisher. Vote: 7-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Morettini reported that he, Mr. Payson, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Maciel and Mr. Tanner walked the Cabral property on Sousa Street with Frank Cabral, the owner's son, on December 8, 2020 to assess the property as a potential open space acquisition by the Town. The property was ranked using the Open Space Project Ranking Point System and scored well above the minimum requirement that was necessary to recommend the parcel for acquisition. Mr. Morettini sent a letter Diane Williamson with the Conservation Commission's findings, and recommended that the Town pursue the next steps in acquiring the property.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner said the thirteen remaining trees from the Town's fall tree planting program are currently being stored at the Water Treatment Facility. The planting locations have been staked, Dig Safe has been notified, and the trees are slated to be planted soon.
4. Pollinator Program: Mr. Morettini reported that he and Ms. Freitas met with Sara Churgin, District Manager of the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District, to discuss and sign the project agreement and funding agreement forms for the People's Garden Project grant received by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Fisher asked about the irrigation component of the grant. Ms. Freitas explained that we received \$500 to be used towards rain barrels, rain catchers, containers and hoses.
5. Fertilizer Initiative: Mr. Morettini cited means of controlling nutrient pollution, including 1. awareness of the problem and the call to fertilize responsibly, and 2. incentivize landscapers to be responsible through the use of a certification program. Ms. Freitas mentioned the importance of educating homeowners and their responsibility to ensure that their landscapers adhere to best practices. Ms. Freitas also mentioned that the RI Nursery & Landscape Association (RINLA) might be a resource to help promote awareness. It was suggested that nutrient pollution and control awareness could be tied into ongoing stormwater initiatives.
6. The next Conservation Commission meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 5:30 pm.
7. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Freitas, seconded by Mr. Payson, and the meeting ended at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jay Maciel

