



*TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

*Department of Community Development
235 High Street, Bristol, Rhode Island*

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Tony Morettini

Ray Payson

Lindsay Green

Craig Fisher

Jay Maciel

Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

Member Absent:

Glenn Donovan

Lee Ann Freitas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:35 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Ms. Green. Vote: 5-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner announced two separate acquisitions of Mount Hope lands, one by the Pokanoket Tribe and one by the Town of Bristol. In November, Brown University transferred 255 acres of their property to the Pokanoket Tribe. Brown University has also agreed to sell 120 acres of their property along Tower Street to the Town for \$1.7 million, to be paid in part by two RI Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) grants and by another grant from the USDA Forest Service Community Forest Program (CFP). The property to be acquired by the Town, referred to as the Mount Hope Community Forest, will be preserved with a conservation easement, ensuring that it can never be developed.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Morettini said he trying to set up a demonstration of the Davey TreeKeeper tree inventory software with DPW Director Chris Parella and Tree Warden Steve Saracino. Mr. Tanner said that approximately 55 of the 84 trees funded by a RI Infrastructure Bank Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) Action Grant have been planted in the Tanyard Brook watershed and that the remaining trees should be in the ground by Christmas. Mr. Tanner said that another 15 trees are also being planted as part of the Town's fall tree planting cycle.
4. Roger Williams Park Visit: Mr. Morettini provided a summary of the visit Commissioners made to the Roger Williams Park (RWP) Botanical Center on November 12. Ms. Freitas first led a tour of the stormwater management and green infrastructure improvement projects that have been installed throughout the park to address water quality. Ms. Freitas then led a tour of the Botanical Center, both the outdoor gardens and the indoor conservancy and greenhouses, the latter being the largest glasshouse garden in New England.

continued



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5. Electric Leaf Blower Subsidy: Mr. Morettini announced that, effective November 18, Rhode Island landscaping businesses can apply for an incentive program rebate of up to \$1,000 through the RI Office of Energy Resources (OER) to switch over to electric leaf blowers. Total funds in the amount of \$250,000 are available from the program through a bill recently passed in the General Assembly.
6. Around the Room: Mr. Morettini announced that on December 6, RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) issued a wetlands alteration permit for a proposed hotel on Gooding Avenue, which was viewed by all as a big disappointment. Mr. Morettini noted that 35 letters were submitted in opposition to the project proposed to be built in the Silver Creek watershed, which is an already compromised area prone to flooding. Mr. Tanner announced that the Town of Bristol has submitted a Water Quality Certification application (WQC File No. 24-187) to RI DEM for improvements to the Gibson Road boat ramp.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m.
8. The meeting ended at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jay Maciel