

**BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
2025-12-10-F2**

Endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area

WHEREAS, The town of Bristol, RI is one of nine Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities on the northeastern shore of Narragansett Bay that comprise Sowams, the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621 and forged a 50-year alliance that changed the course of history: and

WHEREAS, This landscape is also the setting for other pivotal events in our nation's history. Here, King Philip's War began and ended; Roger Williams founded Rhode Island, and the seeds of religious freedom took root; the business of slave trading ignited a trans-Atlantic economy, and moral outcry; and the dynamic interplay of land and water defined the history and culture of the region for millennia; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are grassroots, community-driven programs that celebrate a region's contribution to America's heritage; are designated by U.S. Congress, but are not owned, controlled, or managed by the federal government; and are intended to encourage heritage conservation, community development, education, and regional collaboration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED We are proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Nathan T. Calouro, Chairman
Bristol Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk