

By Email and Courier

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Town Council
Town of Bristol
c/o Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk
10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809

**Re: Blithewold Museum And Gardens Tax Exemption
101 Ferry Road
Map/ Lot 166 - 6-1**

Dear Ms. Cordeiro and Honorable Town Council Members:

In behalf of Blithewold, Inc. we respectfully request to be placed on the May 28 Town Council agenda to consider a resolution supporting a request by Blithewold to the Rhode Island General Assembly for exemption of its buildings and tangible personal property from local property taxation for as long as said property is used for the purposes for which Blithewold was incorporated.

As you know, the Blithewold Museum Arboretum and Gardens have been an important community resource for decades, providing multigenerational educational and cultural heritage, and for the preservation and maintenance of this treasured estate. While the land associated with the estate has for decades had an exemption from local taxation, this request relates to the two buildings on the estate, which are integral to its core purpose, and that require ever increasing costs to protect and preserve.

Blithewold, Inc is a duly organized and existing Rhode Island non- profit corporation holding federal 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. We attach hereto a copy of Blithewold's Articles of Incorporation as approved by the State of Rhode Island, setting forth in pertinent part its authorized public purpose, as follows:

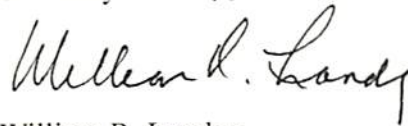
“ [To preserve and protect the condition and character of the Blithewold Mansion, Gardens, and Arboretumin accordance with professional standards, [and] to foster educational programs relating to the understanding of [the]arboretum, grounds and buildings, [and] to further the understanding of [its] cultural and historic heritage, and to maintain a balance between site use and preservation.”

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As I trust you know, the Herreshoff Marine Museum already holds a similar exemption. Both contribute demonstrably to the Town's cultural heritage and growth, as well as to the local economy.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to briefly explain this request further at your meeting on the 28th.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William R. Landry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "L".

William R. Landry

Enclosure

cc: Karen Binder

06-LA 036
2006 -- S 3041 SUBSTITUTE A
Enacted 07/04/06

A N A C T
EXEMPTING FROM TAXATION AND AUTHORIZING THE HERRESHOFF
MARINE MUSEUM TO INCREASE ITS HOLDING TO AN AMOUNT NOT
EXCEEDING \$5,000,000

Introduced By: Senators C Levesque, Bates, and Felag
Date Introduced: April 27, 2006

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Herreshoff Marine Museum, a nonbusiness corporation, incorporated under the general laws of this state on March 16, 1971, is hereby authorized to take, hold, transmit and

convey real, mixed and personal estate to an amount not exceeding five million dollars (\$5,000,000) and said real and personal estate shall be exempt from local property taxation so long as said estate shall be used for the purposes for which said corporation was incorporated.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC03108/SUB A
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Filing Fee: \$35.00

ID Number: 104480



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Office of the Secretary of State
Corporations Division
100 North Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1335

NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

ORIGINAL ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The undersigned, acting as incorporator(s) of a corporation under Chapter 7-6 of the General Laws, 1956, as amended, adopt(s) the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation:

1. The name of the corporation is Save Blithewold, Inc.
2. The period of its duration is (if perpetual, so state) perpetual
3. The specific purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are:
The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as
such terms are defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as
amended; and in furtherance of and not in limitation of the foregoing to preserve and
maintain the condition and character of, the Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum in
Bristol, Rhode Island in accordance with professional standards; to foster educational
programs relating to and public enjoyment of said arboretum, grounds and buildings; to
further the understanding of its cultural and historic heritage; and to maintain a
balance between site use and preservation.
4. Provisions, if any, not inconsistent with the law, which the incorporators elect to set forth in these articles of incorporation for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation:

See Exhibit A attached.

FILED

JAN 22 1999

BL *[Signature]*

5. The address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 2800 BankBoston Plaza
(Street Address, not P.O. Box)
Providence, RI 02903 and the name of its initial registered agent at such
(City/Town) (Zip Code)
address is Richard M. C. Glenn, III
(Name of Agent)

6. The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors of the Corporation is 11
(Not less than three Directors)

and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial directors are:

Name	Address
<u>Richard M. C. Glenn, III</u>	<u>29 Rumstick Road, Barrington, RI 02806</u>
<u>Bruce Ruttenberg</u>	<u>5 Harbour Road, Barrington, RI 02806</u>
<u>Martha Halyburton</u>	<u>93 Highland Road, Bristol, RI 02809</u>
<u>Virginia P. Purviance</u>	<u>47 Kane Avenue, Middletown, RI 02842</u>
<u>Robert Spink Davis</u>	<u>11 Abbotsford Court, Providence, RI 02906</u>
<u>See Exhibit B attached for additional Directors.</u>	

7. The name and address of each incorporator is:

Name	Address
<u>Richard M. C. Glenn, III</u>	<u>c/o Edwards & Angell, LLP</u>
	<u>2800 BankBoston Plaza</u>
	<u>Providence, RI 02903</u>

8. Date when corporate existence to begin upon filing of these Articles of Incorporation
(Not prior to, nor more than 30 days after, the filing of these Articles of Incorporation)

Dated January 22, 19 99

Under penalty of perjury, We declare and affirm that We have examined these Articles of Incorporation, including any accompanying attachments, and that all statements contained herein are true and correct.


Richard M. C. Glenn, III

Signature of each Incorporator

EXHIBIT A

"FOURTH. Provisions (if any) for the regulation of internal affairs of the Corporation, including provisions for the distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation, are:

(a) A director of the Corporation will not be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for breach of the director's duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its members, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, or (iii) for any transaction from which the director derived improper personal benefit. If the Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation Act is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Corporation will be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation Act, as so amended. Any repeal or modification of the provisions of this paragraph by the Corporation will not adversely affect any right or protection of a director of the Corporation existing at the time of such repeal or modification.

(b) The Corporation is not organized for profit, and no part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article THIRD hereof.

(c) The Corporation shall act lawfully in accordance with 7-6-8 of the General Laws, 1956, as amended, pertaining to limitations on powers of corporations which are also private foundations as defined in 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) to the extent applicable.

(d) Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the board of directors (as that term is defined by the Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation Act) of the Corporation shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), as the board of directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."

Exhibit B

Articles of Incorporation

SAVE BLITHEWOLD, INC.

Additional Members of the Board of Directors

Gail P. Davis
9 Harbour Road
Barrington, RI 02806

Robert Hall
7 Tallwood Drive
Barrington, RI 02806

Sanne Kire Hodges
168 Fairview Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Nancy Marini
303 Windridge Lane
Bristol, RI 02809

Ralph Weaver
31 Melrose Avenue
Barrington, RI 02806

Margaret Whitehead
181 Rumstick Road
Barrington, RI 02806