

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

The council met on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, and called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

PRESENT: Council Chairman, Nathan Calouro  
Vice-Chairwoman, Mary Parella  
Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira  
Councilman, Timothy Sweeney  
Councilman, Aaron Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, Steven Contente  
Assistant Town Solicitor, Andy Teitz, Esq  
Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Chair Calouro led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Special Recognitions**

Citation- Caron Jewelers for their 70th Anniversary

Councilman Teixeira stated that it was with great pleasure, on behalf of the Town Council and Administration, to recognize Caron's Jewelers, owned by Joe and Diane, for 70 years of continuous operation in the Town of Bristol. He described a recent visit to the store during which Joe shared a framed, handwritten bill of sale documenting the original purchase of the business by his parents, noting it as an example of the traditional, trust-based manner in which business was historically conducted in Bristol.

Councilman Teixeira also shared a personal anecdote that approximately 51-52 years ago, he purchased both his wife's engagement ring and wedding ring at Caron's Jewelers, sold to him by Joe's mother, who allowed him to pay weekly, demonstrating the business's long-standing personal commitment to its customers. He commended Joe and Diane for successfully continuing the family business and highlighted the quality of their craftsmanship, particularly in creating items using local artifacts and materials.

He encouraged residents to visit the shop and formally presented a citation to Joe and Diane, recognizing their 70 years of service and operation in the Town of Bristol

Councilman Ley stated additional remarks, emphasizing that Joe and Diane are not only business owners but also strong advocates for the small business community. He noted that Joe is also known as a talented guitar player, a point often mentioned by his own father-in-law.

Councilman Ley further shared that his wife recently brought her wedding ring to Caron's Jewelers for service, underscoring the role the business plays in serving residents at the beginning of their marriages and throughout their married lives.

Members of the Council offered congratulations to Joe and Diane and expressed appreciation for their decades of service to the Town of Bristol. Multiple rounds of applause were given in recognition of Caron's Jewelers.

The Council extended its best wishes for continued success and expressed its hope that Caron's Jewelers will remain a valued part of the Bristol community for many years to come.

**Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared and presented.

**A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

- A1.** Town Council Meeting Minutes - December 10, 2025
- A2.** Town Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes (sealed, council only) - December 10, 2025
- A3.** Town Council Special Meeting Minutes (Legislative Workshop) - December 10, 2025

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 7, 2026 and the Executive Session Minutes of January 7, 2025, and the Special

meeting minutes of January 7, 2026 as prepared and presented.

**B. Public Hearings**

**C. Ordinances**

- C1.** Ordinance No. 2025-16 Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article V Stopping, Standing, and Parking, Section 16-145 (9) **(changing Violation wording) (2nd Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-16. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C2.** Ordinance No. 2025-17- Chapter 8 Boats, Docs and Waterways **Sec 8-72** (Parking Permits for Dock Holders) **Section 8-76** (Off-Season Parking at Marina Ferry Dock) and Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic **Sec. 16-382** Prudence Ferry Parking; Off-Season Parking- (to extend off-season parking from November 16th to April 14th and establishment of fees by resolution **(2nd reading) (see also I1)**)

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-17. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C3.** Ordinance No. 2025-18 - Chapter 5 - Amusements, Article III - Shows Exhibitions and Entertainment, Section 5-92 - License application, information required and Chapter 17 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article II - Alcoholic Beverage Establishments, Section 17-84 - Application, forms and required documentation, modifications to licensed premises. **(changes to premise license sketches) (2nd reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action as the Second

Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-18, including the amendment adding the word "**also**" to Section 17-84(c), to read as follows:

*For renewal applications that do not involve changes to the licensed premises or service layout, the applicant shall **also** provide a written attestation that the previously approved layout remains accurate and that no modifications have been made to the premises or service areas;*

and Advertise in the local newspaper

Prior to the vote being taken, Council Clerk Cordeiro asked the Council to consider adding the word "also" to Section 17-84(c) to read as follows:

*For renewal applications that do not involve changes to the licensed premises or service layout, the applicant shall also provide a written attestation that the previously approved layout remains accurate and that no modifications have been made to the premises or service areas.*

She explained that the amendment was intended to clarify that, upon submission of a renewal application, the applicant would be required to provide the written attestation in addition to the proposed required current photographs of the premises. The clarification was offered for clarity and consistency in the application process.

**D. Licensing Board - New Petitions**

**E. Licensing Board - Renewals**

**F. Petitions - Other**

**F1.** Lisa Belmore, 4 Domenic Court, requesting consideration of a traffic light at the intersection of Jameson Drive and Metacom Avenue- *State Highway Route 136*

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Received at meeting- (late Item) recommendation Town Administrator and Chief Lynch

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the RI State Traffic Commission, with coordination among the Town Administrator, Police Department, and Department of Public Works

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted a late agenda item received and listed on the Council dais as "received at meeting," consisting of a recommendation submitted by the Bristol Police Department.

Applicant Ms. Belmore, of 4 Dominic Court, addressed the Council and stated that there are over 60 homes in the neighborhood, with at least two drivers per household, and that based on signatures gathered, nearly all residents believe the intersection is unsafe. She described increasing difficulty safely turning left onto Metacom Avenue during morning and afternoon commute hours, noting that conditions have become so challenging that many residents instead turn right and seek a location to turn around. Ms. Belmore reported that the center turning lane on Metacom Avenue is frequently misused as a passing lane, with southbound drivers entering the lane prematurely to access Butterworth Avenue, creating near head-on conflicts with vehicles turning left into Jameson Street. She further noted that two travel lanes merge into one just prior to Jameson Street in the Warren-to-Bristol direction, causing drivers to race for position. She emphasized that the neighborhood has only one point of ingress and egress, raising concerns regarding emergency access.

Ms. Belmore also pointed out the presence of a daycare and a doctor's office directly opposite Jameson Street, as well as a RIPTA bus stop in the immediate area. She stated that the overall configuration and increased traffic volume make the intersection particularly dangerous and emphasized that safety improvements should be based on preventing crashes rather than waiting for a significant crash history.

Councilman Sweeney stated that he is in full support of a traffic light, citing his own observations of residents

struggling to turn left onto Metacom Avenue and congestion related to nearby traffic generators, including a Dunkin' Donuts and existing traffic signals at Tupelo Street and Michael Drive. Councilman Ley shared personal familiarity with the area, referencing relatives who previously lived on Justin Street, and noted that since earlier discussions on this matter, a new daycare has opened, and traffic conditions have not improved.

Resident, John Camillo of 19 Gregg Drive, addressed the council and further noted that the speed limit increases from 35 to 40 mph in the vicinity and that southbound traffic merges from two lanes to one, resulting in drivers "jockeying for position" and improperly using the center turn lane as a through lane toward Butterworth Avenue.

Council members acknowledged that the State Traffic Commission considers factors such as crash data and spacing from existing signals, but agreed that the intersection warrants formal review. The Council also discussed the potential use of actuated ("on-demand") traffic signals that would activate only when vehicles are present on the side street.

Council Chairman Calouro clarified that because the intersection is located on state property, the appropriate next course of action for a petition of this nature is referral to the Rhode Island State Traffic Commission for review and determination.

Town Administrator Contente stated that the Police Department's traffic representative would coordinate with Ms. Belmore and the State Traffic Commission investigator, provide the necessary data, and ensure ongoing communication, including notice of the State Traffic Commission meeting.

The Council further discussed that, even if a full traffic signal is not ultimately approved by the State Traffic Commission, the petition should prompt consideration of alternative traffic control and geometric improvements to enhance safety at the intersection.

Following discussion, Councilman Sweeney clarified and effectively amended his motion to ensure that the matter is formally referred to the State Traffic Commission, with coordination among the Town Administrator, Police Department, and Department of Public Works.

The Council thanked Ms. Belmore and the attending neighbors for their advocacy and for providing documentation demonstrating neighborhood support.

**F2.** Kayla DaSilva, 205 Franklin St, Unit 2, requests council consideration to keep Holiday lights installed after Christmas and reactivate for one month in June or July

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Parella/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to the January 28, 2026, council meeting.

Prior to the vote being taken, petitioner Kayla DaSilva, of 205 Franklin Street, Unit 2, addressed the Council and requested consideration to allow the downtown tree string lights to remain installed after the Christmas season and be temporarily reactivated for approximately one month during June or July, coinciding with the Fourth of July season. Ms. DaSilva explained that she had presented an early version of this concept the previous year and, following further study in business school, refined the proposal to be more economically feasible while maintaining its original intent.

Ms. DaSilva proposed that the existing holiday string lights remain in place but be turned off after winter, then reactivated at sundown (approximately 8:00-9:00 p.m.) and turned off at midnight for part of June or July. She cited studies indicating that aesthetic lighting around businesses can increase foot traffic by up to 20% and stated that reactivating the lights around the Fourth of July could support small downtown businesses, enhance town morale, and capitalize on Bristol's identity as "the most patriotic town in the country," particularly in light of the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary. She noted that many visitors already walk between Independence Park concerts and the downtown area during that season and suggested the lighting could encourage visitors to linger and patronize local businesses.

Ms. DaSilva acknowledged concerns raised by the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding potential damage to trees if lights are removed during summer months when foliage is full, as well as stress caused by heat, drought, and pulling lights through leaves. She stated that winter removal also presents risks, including frost cracking, snow and ice load, and sun scalding, and argued that leaving the lights in place longer could mitigate some winter-related damage. She emphasized that she was

not requesting the lights remain on overnight, but only during limited evening hours.

Vice Chairwoman Parella expressed support for the concept and, referencing DPW's concerns, suggested an alternative approach for the 250th anniversary, such as wrapping only tree trunks (rather than full canopies) with smaller, festive or red-white-and-blue lighting to reduce labor and stress on the trees. Ms. DaSilva indicated she was receptive to this suggestion and would be willing to amend her proposal accordingly, as well as explore partnerships for funding or purchasing appropriate lighting, including with the Fourth of July Committee or other groups, and potentially using smaller "twinkle" lights rather than the larger holiday bulbs.

Chairman Calouro reported that DPW Director Chris Perella was unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter, noting that it was a positive family event, as his daughter had welcomed a new baby; however he had submitted a written recommendation to deny the request, citing cost concerns, potential tree damage and maintenance issues, and reduced visibility of lights when trees are fully leafed out.

Chairman Calouro noted that the Town has recently made significant investments in upgraded holiday lighting and electrical infrastructure, including a transition to LED lighting, and that extending operation into the summer months would increase labor, maintenance, and electric costs. The Town Administrator further stated that in FY 2025-2026, the Town spent approximately \$83,000 on holiday lighting and related capital upgrades, noting that while some of those costs were one-time expenditures, extending seasonal operation would still result in substantial recurring expenses.

Council members suggested that Ms. DaSilva further explore alternative configurations, funding partnerships, and reduced-scope options, such as limited areas or pole-mounted or trunk-only lighting, to lessen DPW workload and overall costs.

The Council expressed appreciation for Ms. DaSilva's initiative and creativity and indicated interest in revisiting the proposal with additional input from DPW and related committees, including the 250th Anniversary Committee.

It was recommended to continue the matter to the next meeting to allow the DPW Director to be present to address technical and cost considerations and to provide Ms. DaSilva additional time to refine her proposal and pursue potential collaborations.

**G. Appointments**

**G1.** Assistant Harbor Master(s)- one-year Terms set to expire January 2027

a. Recommendation: Harbor Master Marsili

Teixeira/Sweeney- voted unanimously to approve the Assistant Harbormaster appointments as recommended by the Harbor Master, as amended to remove David Guertin, Sr

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro noted that Harbor Master Greg Marcelli had submitted a memorandum dated December 30, 2025, listing his recommended Assistant Harbormasters, and asked him to clarify the differences between that list and the prior year's list maintained by the Clerk's Office. Mr. Marcelli explained that several individuals from the earlier list had chosen not to continue and were no longer interested in reappointment, and that the names included in his December 30 memorandum reflected those who had confirmed their desire to return, many of whom have served between eight and twelve years or were appointed during the prior year. He stated that his memorandum should be considered the operative list and requested that David Guertin, Sr. be removed, as he had indicated he did not wish to be reappointed.

**G2.** Auxiliary Harbor Master(s) appointments to fill one-year terms set to expire January 2027

a. Recommendation: Harbor Master Marsili

Sweeney/Teixeira - voted unanimously in favor of the slate of candidates for the ensuing term based on the recommendation of the Harbor Master.

Prior to the vote being taken, Harbor Master Marcelli explained that the discrepancy between his January 1 recommendation and the Clerk's list was due to Auxiliary Harbormaster Jonathan Medeiros having moved out of town, rendering him ineligible under the Town Charter requirement that Assistant and Auxiliary Harbormasters be residents of Bristol. He stated that, as a result, Mr. Medeiros had been removed from his recommended list.

Harbor Master Marcelli then identified his recommended Auxiliary Harbormasters as Patrick Guthlein, Justin Charest, Melissa Benavides, Paul Padula, and Thomas Lake, and confirmed that each individual was willing to serve.

**G3.** North & East Burial Grounds Commission - Appointments to fill 2 five-year terms, set to expire January 2031

- a. Ed Carusi, 64 Mt. Hope Avenue - interest/reappointment

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to reappoint Ed Carusi to the North & East Burial Ground Commission with a term set to expire in January 2031

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Teixeira asked for clarification, noting that the committee report also referenced an additional member whose term was set to expire and inquired why that individual did not appear on the agenda. Clerk Cordeiro responded that the individual had been notified and had provided a late response; however, that applicant's response and a new application received earlier that day could - would instead be placed on the January 28 agenda for Council consideration.

At the conclusion of the board appointments, Chairman Calouro took a moment to express his deep gratitude and appreciation for all members of the community who volunteer their time to serve on one of the town's many boards and commissions. He acknowledged the invaluable contributions of these individuals, recognizing their commitment to the betterment of the community. Chairman Calouro emphasized the importance of their selfless efforts in helping to shape and enhance the town's governance. On behalf of himself and the members of the council he extended a heartfelt thank you to all those who dedicated their time and expertise to the collective well-being of the community.

**H. Old Business**

- H1.** Discussion and Possible Action - Council Request for Harbor Commission Chair and Harbormaster to Coordinate Review of CRMC Applications for Harbor Planning (continued from September 10, 2025)

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to receive and file.

Prior to the vote being taken, Steve Januario, Chairman of the Bristol Harbor Commission, addressed the Council. Mr. Januario explained that the Town has experienced an increase in residential and private dock construction applications, reflecting both the desirability of Bristol's waterfront properties and frequent turnover to new owners interested in installing private docks. At the Council's request—stemming from concerns previously raised, he prepared an educational packet and analysis addressing: (1) public access to the water, (2) Requirements and process required by Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) review process and applicant requirements, (3) navigational impacts, and (4) environmental impacts.

Using recent GIS aerial maps from spring 2025, Mr. Januario inventoried waterfront neighborhoods on a street-by-street basis, identifying approximately 165 waterfront lots without docks. He prepared a table reflecting counts in various areas. He emphasized that these figures represent potential dock sites and are not a prediction that all lots will be developed, citing the significant costs and permitting complexity. He estimated that a typical dock on the Kickemuit side may cost approximately \$80,000-\$100,000, while docks in more exposed areas such as Poppasquash may exceed \$250,000.

Mr. Januario then summarized CRMC's review process, referencing a multi-page CRMC checklist and a technical memorandum by CRMC engineer Daniel Goulet, PE included in the packet. He explained that CRMC reviews applications on a case-by-case basis and requires a site plan prepared by a professional engineer, compliance with structural and material standards, and strict 25-foot side-yard setbacks from each property boundary. He noted that variances are required for narrower lots, making many smaller Kickemuit-side parcels questionable for approval.

Regarding public access, Mr. Januario stated that CRMC requires docks over the shorefront to preserve lateral shoreline access by providing at least five feet of clearance from the bottom stringer to mean high water, or by otherwise allowing pedestrians to pass under, over, or around the structure without obstructing access. On navigational impacts, he explained that CRMC evaluates existing jetties, seawalls, piers, mooring fields, channels, and aids navigation to ensure proposed docks do not intrude into navigation channels or create conflicts with vessel traffic. On environmental impacts, he noted that CRMC reviews submerged aquatic vegetation, eelgrass, wetlands, erosion, and coastal habitat, and may require special construction methods or deny or modify applications where sensitive resources are present.

Council discussion focused on shoreline access and dock density.

Councilman Teixeira expressed concern that incremental approvals could gradually erode public shoreline access, even if individual projects meet regulatory standards. Vice Chairwoman Parella inquired whether the Town could limit the number or density of docks in certain areas or encourage shared or community docks, such as those on Anchorage Way and River Drive, particularly on streets with smaller lots like King Philip.

Town Solicitor Teitz advised that CRMC retains primary jurisdiction, but that dock limitations could potentially be addressed through a comprehensive update to the Harbor Management Plan, subject to CRMC acceptance. He cautioned that such an approach would be complex and could raise equity and implementation challenges. Community Development Director Williamson noted that an older GPS-based dock inventory exists within the Harbor Management Plan and could be updated using GIS technology.

Mr. Januario offered to derive current dock counts from available mapping and report back to the Council through the Council Clerk.

Mr. Januario concluded that, based on his review, the CRMC permitting process is rigorous and thorough, and that cost and regulatory requirements will limit the number of docks ultimately pursued. He agreed that continued local monitoring and coordination are appropriate.

Council members thanked Mr. Januario for his extensive research and mapping and stated that the packet would be helpful in guiding future Council responses when CRMC seeks local comment on individual dock applications.

#### **I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action**

- 11.** (Draft) Resolution # 2026-1-07-I1 -Off-Season Parking at Marina Ferry Dock fee modification - (from the town ordinance of \$150 per month to a resolution at \$125 per month fee)

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution as present to modify the Off-Season Parking at the Marina Ferry Dock to \$125 per month.

**I2.** Town Clerk Cordeiro Proposed Amendment to Background Criminal Investigation (BCI) Policy **(Adopted November 12, 2025)**

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously adopt the resolution amending the BCI Policy, including the amendment contained in the "Received at Meeting" item labeled Attachment A.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted a "received a meeting" item relating to a revised attachment A.

Clerk Cordeiro explained that most changes were clarifications: (1) adding cross-reference language so that positions requiring BCIs are clearly tied to Attachment A; (2) revising Attachment A (received at meeting) to correct the listing for special constables and fire police, clarifying that they are *not* required to submit a BCI upon each annual appointment; and (3) adding language on how to handle BCI results that show a record not specifically listed as disqualifying, giving the Council discretion to review those cases rather than automatic disqualification.

A brief discussion emphasized that the updated policy improves clarity, consistency, and transparency in background checks for boards, commissions, and other positions.

**I3.** Town Clerk Cordeiro re Council Consideration to Amend the Authorized Number of Class BV Liquor Licenses from 33 to 32 (due to the non-renewal and closure of Baba Sushi, 205 Thames Street)

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Solicitor so that he may draft ordinance language for Council consideration on February 18, 2026.

**I4.** Town Administrator Contente Project Update of Municipal Projects - Calendar Year 2025

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to receive and file.

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Steven Contente presented a comprehensive report on major municipal

projects completed or underway during the 2025 calendar year, organized by category:

### **Infrastructure / Transportation / Public Works**

- **Burnside Street Usability Improvements:** Construction is underway. The surface course is scheduled for completion in the spring. (RI Commerce grant): Substantially complete; binder and most curbing installed; surface course scheduled for spring.
- **Annual Road Resurfacing Program:** Construction for the 2025 season is substantially complete on Aaron Avenue, Ansonia Avenue, Cliff Drive, Gloria Street, Harrison Street, Pagnano Street, Roger Avenue, and Sandra Drive. remaining streets-Betsy Drive, Birchwood Drive, Kingswood Road, and Sandy Lane-are scheduled for completion in the spring-delayed to allow installation of state-required BMP stormwater systems on Mason Farm and Kingswood to improve water quality before discharge into Mount Hope Bay and eliminate private driveway storm drains historically maintained by residents.
- **Gooding Avenue Sidewalks Project** (Commerce grant/state road): Essentially complete; remaining item is replacement of a bench at the new bus shelter on Hope Street.
- **Downtown Holiday Lighting and Electrical Upgrades:** Installation of new circuits and metered drops; replacement of aging 1950s wiring; conversion from incandescent strands to cut-to-length LED systems; expanded lighting on Lower State Street.
- **Colt State Park Access Lighting:** New lighting on Asylum Road at the Quinta-Gamelin/Recreation Center entrance; State declined to add additional lighting on the exit side; Town plans to meet with RIDOT and, if necessary, continue supplementing state-owned infrastructure.
- **Church Street Dock Fire Suppression Extension:** Completed in coordination with the Fire Chief and Harbor Master.

### **Waterfront / Drainage / Environmental**

- **Independence Park Boat Ramp & Water Quality Improvements:** Completed.
- **Portside Drive Shoreline Right-of-Way & Stormwater Improvements:** Project is complete.

- **Sherry Avenue Drainage Improvements:** Phase I completed, enlarging basins at Highview Avenue and Varnum Street; Sewer replacement and outfall construction are complete. Phase II roadway improvements are anticipated to be completed in the spring.
- **Leahy Pond:** Removal of invasive vegetation; property surveyed; unauthorized structures removed from Town land; goal of restoring area for public use, including potential skating. Grant-funded work near Hampden Drive is complete. Additional grant opportunities are being pursued.
- **Bay View Avenue (Former Greenhouse Site):** EPA has assumed lead responsibility and funding for continued remediation of legacy pesticide contamination. Phase I, including structure removal and soil remediation, is complete.
- **Tree Planting:** Approximately 270 trees planted town-wide using an Infrastructure Bank grant, plus additional trees at the Route 114/Roger Williams University gateway, improving state-owned land maintained by the Town.

#### **Facilities / Capital Projects**

- **Wally School Building Reuse Project:** Town acting as its own general contractor; work bid by individual trades (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, millwork, drainage/parking); major systems replaced or rough-installed (sprinklers, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, alarms, cameras, interior grading); building being prepped for drywall; current cost approximately \$4.5 million, largely grant-funded, resulting in an estimated \$3 million savings over prior \$7-8 million lump-sum bid; Major structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, elevator, drainage, utility, and roofing work is complete on both floors. Interior finish work is underway on first floor. The building is anticipated to open in the spring. Grant opportunities are being pursued for second-floor completion
- **Rogers Free Library:** Second-floor maker space under construction with Learn 365 / Community Learning Spaces grant- 90% complete and painted; grant also funded replacement of all four rooftop HVAC units.
- **Recreation Center:** Fitness room floor replaced; canine grass installed at the animal shelter.
- **Coelho Park Playground:** Replacement underway; wood fiber installed; new swing components pending.

## **Land Conservation & Open Space:**

- **Mt. Hope Lands Acquisition** and conservation of approximately 120 acres of Mount Hope lands, along with additional conservation efforts

Council members praised the Administrator and staff for the volume and quality of work, aggressive grant-seeking, and in-house project management, and noted the value of the consolidated project summary for responding to resident inquiries.

- 15.** Fire Chief DeMello requests authorization to order a New Ladder 1 for the Fire Department

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to authorize the Fire Chief to proceed with ordering a replacement Ladder 1, with delivery and budgeting to occur in a future fiscal year on or after July 1, 2028.

Prior to the vote being taken, Fire Chief DeMello addressed the council to request authorization to begin the procurement process for a new aerial ladder truck to replace the Town's current Ladder 1. He stated that the existing ladder truck, acquired nearly 20 years ago, is approaching the end of its reliable service life and emphasized that Bristol operates only one ladder truck, making its readiness critical for fire protection, particularly in light of taller construction and evolving hazards.

Fire Chief DeMello explained that, due to industry backlogs and supply-chain delays, delivery timelines for fire apparatus are currently approximately three years, with some communities experiencing waits of nearly four years. As a result, if the Town were to place an order now, delivery and payment would likely occur on or after July 1, 2028, with a realistic expectation that the truck may not arrive until early 2029. He reported that the projected cost of the new ladder truck is approximately \$2.1 million, compared to \$1.0-\$1.2 million for a new engine, noting that apparatus prices rose sharply in recent years but have since stabilized at annual increases of approximately 3-5 percent. While the department has diligently maintained the current ladder truck, Chief DeMello stated that the increasing frequency and cost of major repairs make continued long-term investment in the existing unit impractical.

Council members expressed support for the request. Councilman Teixeira referenced the significant repair history of the vehicle and the risks associated with continued heavy investment in aging apparatus, stating that advance planning for replacement is fiscally responsible. Councilwoman Parella and other Council members praised the Fire Chief and Administration for proactive capital planning several years in advance of the current apparatus becoming unserviceable.

Chairman Calouro linked the request to the Council's broader emphasis on maintenance and planned replacement of critical infrastructure and public safety equipment. Chief DeMello also credited Fire Department personnel for their consistent weekly maintenance, which has extended the service life of the current ladder truck beyond its original horizon, and noted increased operational demands due to modern building types and recent incidents.

Before leaving the podium, Chief DeMello informed the Council that he would soon be installed as President of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Association and invited Council members to attend his installation, which was met with congratulations from the Council.

**16. Director Williamson re: Update on Pilot Program for Food Compost Eastern RI Conservation District**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to receive and file.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted a "Received at Meeting" item regarding a report on the Bristol residential curbside compost pilot program findings since 9-18-2025

Stella Piasecki, Compost Program Coordinator with the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (ERICD), provided an update on the Town's residential curbside food scrap composting pilot program. Ms. Piasecki reported that the two-year pilot launched on September 18, 2025, and currently has 232 Bristol households enrolled out of 500 available spots, with service provided by Black Earth Compost. Since the program's inception, Black Earth has serviced 2,570 bins in Bristol with very low contamination rates, diverting approximately 12 tons of food waste from the Central Landfill. Based on the Town's tipping fee of \$63 per ton, she estimated that Bristol has already realized approximately \$750 in avoided disposal costs, with savings expected to increase as participation grows and the program continues. She also summarized results of a participant survey, noting that 105 Bristol residents responded, with 50 percent

indicating they learned something new about composting through the program and 98 percent stating that it is important to them that the Town continue some form of municipal composting after the pilot concludes.

Ms. Piasecki provided broader context regarding solid waste management in Rhode Island, explaining that the state has only one landfill, which is projected to reach capacity around 2046. She noted that without a new in-state facility, Rhode Island may be required to ship waste out of state, similar to Connecticut, which currently exports approximately 40 percent of its waste at an annual cost of about \$94 million. She suggested that Rhode Island could face costs exceeding \$500 million over five years if it must export all or most of its waste. Ms. Piasecki emphasized that diverting food scraps helps extend landfill life, reduce long-term disposal costs, and support local soil health.

Both Councilman Sweeney and Councilman Ley spoke in strong support of the initiative and highlighted its practical benefits. Councilman Sweeney noted that he is a participant in the program and reported a significant reduction in his household trash, describing the service as convenient and effective. He emphasized that the pilot is working well for residents who have enrolled and urged that the Town and ERICD expand outreach efforts so more Bristol households fill the remaining available slots, suggesting that broader communication could increase participation and further reduce trash tonnage and tipping costs.

Councilman Sweeney also expressed support, focusing on the program's educational value and long-term fiscal impact. He underscored the importance of teaching residents about waste reduction and composting now, given the looming state landfill capacity issue and likely future increases in disposal costs.

Council members discussed the benefits of the program, including reduced household trash and positive environmental impacts, and commended Bristol for being an early municipal leader in curbside composting. They encouraged continued outreach to fill remaining program slots and expressed interest in exploring long-term options to maintain composting services beyond the pilot period.

**CF. Citizens Public Forum**

*PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK DURING THE CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM*

*MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL CLERK PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING*

**J. Bills & Expenditures**

**J1.** Bid No. 1078 - Renovations to the Walley School Site

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator to act in the best interest of the Town.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Mill City Construction, Inc., with a base bid amount of \$390,710.00
- Yard Works, Inc., with a base bid amount of \$284,000.00
- Beausoleil Bros, Inc., with a base bid amount of \$192,840.00
- JML Excavation, Inc., with a base bid amount of \$136,850.00
- Maron Construction Co., Inc. , with a base bid amount of \$578,379.00
- North Civil LLC. , with a base bid amount of \$308,000.00
- Construction Concepts & Solutions, LLC., with a base bid amount of \$406,796.88

**K. Special Reports**

**K1.** BCWA Tri-Town Report - December 2025

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to receive and file.

**L. Town Solicitor**

**M. Executive Sessions**

Consent Agenda Items:

**(CA) AA. Submission of Minutes - Boards and Commissions**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) AA1. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2025
- (CA) AA2. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2025
- (CA) AA3. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2025
- (CA) AA4. Finance Committee of the BCWA Meeting Minutes - October 22, 2025
- (CA) AA5. BCWA Board Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2025
- (CA) AA6. BCWA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - November 13, 2025
- (CA) AA7. Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes - November 6, 2025
- (CA) AA8. Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes - September 29, 2025
- (CA) AA9. Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes - October 15, 2025
- (CA) AA10. Planning Board Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2025

**(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these adjustments"**

- (CA) BB1. Tax Assessor Leadem - Recommended Abatement & Additions as of December 29, 2025

**(CA) CC. Financial Reports**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) CC1. Town Treasurer Carulli- YTD- Budget to Actuals for the month-end of December

**(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"**

- (CA) DD1. Resolution No. 2025-12-10-F2 Endorsing the Designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area
- (CA) DD2. Resolution No. 2025-12-10-H2 Requesting Action by the Bristol-Warren Regional School District Regarding Recent School Bus Safety Legislation
- (CA) DD3. Resolution No. 2025-12-10-B1 Town Council Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Real Property of the Town
- (CA) DD4. Commendation - Robert J Annis - Achieving the Distinguished Rank of Eagle Scout
- (CA) DD5. Citation - Father Joseph A Escobar - Distinguished Service Award
- (CA) DD6. Commendation - Raymond B Murray III - Achieving the Prestigious Rank of Eagle Scout

**(CA) EE. Utility Petitions**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"**

**(CA) FF. City & Town Resolutions Not Previously Considered**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) FF1. Resolution - Town of Warren Observance of the Victor Day Holiday
- (CA) FF2. Resolution - Town of Hopkinton in Support of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island Authorizing the Town of Hopkinton to Confer Jurisdiction on the Hopkinton Municipal Court to Hear Certain Appeals
- (CA) FF3. Resolution 2025-10 - Town of West Greenwich Regarding Low and Moderate Income Housing

**(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) GG1. Troop 6 Bristol Eagle Scout - Robert J Annis
- (CA) GG2. Troop 6 Bristol Eagle Scout - Raymond B Murray III
- (CA) GG3. Town Administrator Contente to Mr. Edward Cifune on his Reappointment to Continue Serving on the Building Code of Appeals Board
- (CA) GG4. Town Clerk Cordeiro to Alcoholic Beverage License Holder - Compliance Reminder: Food Service Requirement for All Liquor Licensees
- (CA) GG5. State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board Notice of Hearing
- (CA) GG6. Town Clerk Cordeiro to Mr. Raymond and Respected Members of the State Traffic Commission - Request for Review of Gooding Avenue & Metacom Avenue Pedestrian Signal Timing
- (CA) GG7. Town Administrator Contente to Mr. Brian Morrissette - On his reappointment to continue to serve on the Town of Bristol's Building Code of Appeals Board
- (CA) GG8. 2024 Annual Report Visiting Nurse Home & Hospice
- (CA) HH. Distributions/Notice of Meetings**  
(Office copy only)

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) HH1. Bristol County Water Authority Board of Directors Meeting - December 11, 2025
- (CA) HH2. Planning Board Meeting - December 11, 2025
- (CA) HH3. Planning Board Amended Meeting - December 11, 2025
- (CA) HH4. Recreation Board Meeting - December 17, 2025
- (CA) HH5. Bristol Planning Board Technical Review Committee Meeting - December 18, 2025
- (CA) HH6. Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting - December 18, 2025

- (CA) HH7. Bristol Land Conservation Trust 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH8. Bristol Historic District Commission 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH9. Bristol Fourth of July 2026 General Committee Meeting Calendar
- (CA) HH10. Department of Community Development Planning Board 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH11. Bristol Housing Authority 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH12. Department of Community Development Zoning Board of Review 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH13. Bristol Harbor Commission 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH14. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting - December 18, 2025
- (CA) HH15. Zoning Board of Review Meeting - January 5, 2026
- (CA) HH16. Amended Zoning Board of Review Meeting - January 5, 2026
- (CA) HH17. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Promotions Subcommittee Meeting - January 6, 2026
- (CA) HH18. Historic District Commission Meeting - January 6, 2026
- (CA) HH19. North and East Burial Grounds Commission 2026 Calendar
- (CA) HH20. BCWA 2026 Calendar

**(CA) II. Claims (Referrals)**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust"**

**(CA) JJ. Miscellaneous Items Requiring Council Approval**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these items"**

- (CA) JJ1. Grant of Easement - Town of Bristol to Narragansett Electric Company off Chestnut Street and Naomi Street (AP117 Lots 4,5,6)

(CA) KK. Curb cut petitions as approved by the director of public works

Approval of consent agenda = "motion to grant these curb cuts per the recommendation of, and conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works"

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:42 pm.

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Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk  
Council Clerk

DRAFT