

H2A

Honorable Town Council:

Since last meeting with you some months ago, our group has been working hard and fast in researching the best solution for a location of a marker-memorial to acknowledge Bristol's historic role in the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade.

We have conferred with town officials and done due diligence to select a site that is publicly favorable to our citizens, while also being visible, unobtrusive, unencumbered, and not in conflict with other memorial sites. We have reached out to the public through social media, print media, and a public meeting to gather public input on an appropriate site. With all of this information in hand, we have determined that a space in the northwest corner of Independence Park, near the boardwalk and well away from the two other memorials already in place, will be a suitable location for this marker-memorial. We are now looking to receive your approval of this site.

The spirit and intent of the marker-memorial is to honor the people who endured the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and/or were enslaved in our area. The marker will educate viewers on the historic experiences of people of African descent and the people native to our area, the Wampanoag-Pokanoket tribes. The memorial will reflect the stories of these people and pay homage to their memory.

We understand that other approvals will be required, including our local Historic District Commission, the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, the Coastal Resources Management Council and possibly a state-level sign-off. We are prepared to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the marker-memorial is fully compliant and has approval at all levels. More details will be presented at the Town Council meeting and we remain open for further discussion with the Council and Bristol's citizens.

Thank you for allowing us to return to you with a chosen site in mind, as you requested from the March meeting.

The Bristol Committee of the Middle Passage Port Markers Project

