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TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Tony Morettini
Ray Payson
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Glenn Donovan
Lee Ann Freitas
Jay Maciel

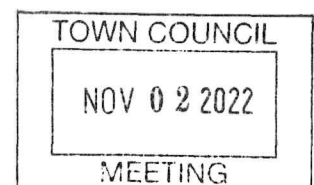
Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:34 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Payson. Vote: 7-0.
2. Tree Program: Mr. Morettini and Mr. Tanner reported that Forest Metrix is being explored as a replacement for the Town's tree inventory app. Mr. Fisher asked if the current tree information could be transferred to the new app to which Mr. Tanner replied yes. Next, there was discussion regarding a request from Town Administer Steven Contente for the Conservation Commission, acting as Tree Commission, to develop a Tree Management Plan. It was agreed that addressing the Tree Management Plan was a high priority, and Mr. Morettini said he will inform Town Administrator Contente of our position to prioritize this and continue with our efforts in creating this document. Mr. Morettini then presented a request from Tree Warden Steven Saracino asking the Tree Commission to weigh in on a request from residents of 28 & 29 Terrace Drive to remove four Town trees from in front of their properties. After considerable discussion, Mr. Morettini made a motion to send a correspondence to Tree Warden Saracino with our recommendation to keep the trees, citing: 1. that they are healthy and their removal would be contrary to our practice of preserving trees, 2. that he can prune as is appropriate and prudent, and 3. by noting the ecological benefits the trees provide. Mr. Payson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0.
3. Pollinator Garden Initiative: Means of regenerating the pollinator garden at the Perry-Tavares Farm were discussed. Ms. Freitas mentioned native plant xeriscaping, as well as the benefits to using rhododendrons. Mr. Tanner said that Seraphin DaPonte offered plants from his inventory to replace the ones his company unwittingly mowed, and asked that Ms. Freitas contact him to act on this. Next, an educational element or workshop for the pollinator garden was discussed, possibly in conjunction with Guiteras School or Thrive Outside. Ms. Freitas suggested how to manage winter gardens for pollinators as an appropriate topic. Lastly, Mr. Morettini mentioned the likelihood of a pollinator garden being installed at the end of Hillside Avenue.

continued





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SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES, continued

4. Fertilizer Initiative: Mr. Morettini said he regularly refills four kiosks around town with Healthy Yards/Healthy Waters flyers when they empty out.
5. Community Energy Aggregation: Mr. Morettini reported that the Town Council unanimously voted to create an RFP to hire a consulting company to proceed with the effort to pursue a Consolidated Energy Aggregation program for the Town of Bristol in its August 24th meeting. Mr. Morettini said he spoke in favor of energy aggregation at that meeting, representing the Conservation Commission and conveying our recommendation to the Town Council that they explore an energy aggregation agreement for the Town.
6. Town Beach Water Supply for Trees: Mr. Payson raised a situation at the Town Beach where some trees are in sad shape, stating that there should be as much emphasis on watering as there is on planting. Mr. Tanner suggested talking to Parks and Recreation Director Warren Rensehausen about how to better water these trees.
7. Announcements/Around the Room: Ms. Green announced that a pollinator habitat workshop offered as a collaboration between RI DEM and the Xerces Society will be held on October 6 at URI. Ms. Freitas announced she will be leading a talk on September 15 at Roger Williams Park on an ecosystems approach and the use of plants for stormwater management. Mr. Maciel provided a recap of the annual RI Land and Water Conservation Summit he attended in July, noting workshops he attended on land stewardship, climate resiliency financing paneled in part by Councilman Aaron Ley, and protecting municipally owned conservation land.
8. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.
9. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Payson, seconded by Mr. Fisher, and the meeting ended at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciel