



**TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

*Tony Morettini, Chairman
Ray Payson, Vice-Chairman
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Jay Maciel, Recording Secretary*

Staff Present:

Ed Tanner

Members Absent:

*Glenn Donovan
Lee Ann Freitas*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Ms. Green. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner said that the Town has received the grant from the US Forest Service to help fund the purchase of the Mount Hope Community Forest.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner said that round three of the tree planting effort funded by a grant from the RI Infrastructure Bank will occur this fall with 90 to 100 more trees to be planted. Following this, a final round of plantings will take place in the Silver Creek watershed.
4. Boat Ramp BMP: Mr. Tanner gave an overview of the new stormwater management Best Management Practice (BMP) for the parking lot at Independence Park. Grant funding was received for the storm drain improvements made to the parking lot there.
5. Composting Program: Mr. Morettini gave an update to the status of the Black Earth pilot composting program currently underway in Bristol. 154 new households have signed up for residential composting, bringing the total to 199 households participating, which includes existing users. There will be an informational workshop on the composting program tomorrow, September 3, at the Rogers Free Library at 6:00 p.m.
6. Around the Room: Mr. Morettini said that the State electric leaf blower rebate program has been expanded, with an additional \$250,000 allocated by the General Assembly to continue the program for commercial landscapers, up to \$1,500 per landscaper. The program has also been extended beyond commercial landscapers to include non-profit organizations and municipalities who regularly use leaf blowers for outdoor maintenance. Ms. Green shared information on EcoQuiet Lawn Care, a new to Rhode Island landscaping firm that only uses electric lawn care equipment. Mr. Fisher mentioned that the City of Philadelphia is considering a bill that would ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within city limits. Mr. Payson announced the recent passing of Owen Trainor, a past member of the Conservation Commission, who is remembered in part as a strong proponent of placing utility lines underground. Mr. Fisher shared information on an article from Oxford University that found the decline in honeybee colonies could be greatly improved by providing a missing nutrient the bees were not getting.

continued



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SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING MINUTES, continued

Around the Room, continued: Ms. Green reminded the group of a composting workshop tomorrow at Rogers Free Library hosted by the RI Food Policy Council. Local residents Emily and Ted Spinard were in attendance at the meeting to voice their concerns over the proposed development of a hotel on Gooding Avenue. Mr. Spinard distributed a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) created by DiPrete Engineering for the project along with his rebuttal to their document. Mr. Spinard asked the Commission for a response to the EIS. Mr. Morettini clarified that Diane Williamson would formally request the Commission's response at a later date, at which time the environmental impact would be addressed.

7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Mr. Maciel. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0 and the meeting ended at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay Maciel".

Jay Maciel