



**Town of Bristol, Rhode Island
Conservation Commission**

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 028
www.bristolri.
401-253-70

November 22, 2021

TO: The Honorable Bristol Town Council
FROM: The Bristol Conservation Commission
RE: Plastic Bag Ordinance Amendment

Honorable Members of the Council;

We the members of the Conservation Commission, respectfully request that the Town Council approve the Ordinance In Amendment to Chapter 24 of the Ordinances of the Bristol Town Code before you. In short, it is an Amendment, whose intent was unanimously passed by the Council in September of 2020, to remove the Sunset Provision of the original Plastic Bag Ordinance, which was passed in February of 2018.

On September 30, 2020, the Council voted to have this Amendment drafted by our Town Solicitor for your consideration. The Amendment language has not been drafted until now, and we urgently request you complete the process by passing it.

All of the reasons we put forward in September of last year to lift the Sunset provision are still true today. In brief, the Ordinance to eliminate most types of plastic bags in Bristol has demonstrably had the desired effect of largely keeping plastic bags off of our shores, out of our water, out of our trees and bushes and off of roadways. All of this has happened while having no impact on our economy. In fact, during the State of Emergency, when the Town Administrator suspended the Ordinance, very few (if any) merchants went back to plastic bags. It is working.

For these reasons, we believe the Ordinance has more than proven its worth, and should (finally) be made a permanent part of the Code. Again, we respectfully request that this Amendment, removing the Sunset Provision of the Plastic Bag Ordinance, be passed by the Council.

As always, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Commission with any questions you may have on this request, or any other Town Conservation issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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Ray Payson - Conservation Commission Vice Chair
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