



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
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401-253-7000

April 14, 2026

TO: Town Council

FROM: Diane M. Williamson, Director

RE: The Franklin – Expansion of Liquor License for Additional Outdoor Seating

As you will recall, the above application is before the Zoning Board for a variance request on the number of parking spaces needed for the proposed outdoor seating area. The review and public hearing by the Town Council was pending the outcome of that variance request.

The variance application was scheduled for a public hearing with the Zoning Board on April 6, 2026. The applicant for The Franklin did not attend the April 6, 2026 meeting and the Zoning Board continued the hearing to May 4, 2026. It was later learned that, unfortunately, the applicant was the victim of an email scam that led him to believe he already had his zoning approval and he didn't need to go to the meeting.

This email scam is hitting every municipality in Rhode Island and cities and towns across the Country. Information for the email is taken from the public postings. The emails have an attached invoice usually in the thousands of dollars. The emails have gotten more professional sounding and appear to come from Town staff. The emails also seem to indicate that the permit has been approved and the applicant just needs to wire payment of the invoice to get the permit. The Town has had notices on the website about the scams, we have a notice on the Open Gov portal and the Town Clerk's office sent a letter to all the business license holders about the scam. However, as these things go, some folks are still caught off-guard.

