Date posted: MARCH 16, 2021 by 4:00 P.M.
All items on this agenda are to be discussed and/or acted upon.

TOWN OF LITTLE COMPTON
TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2021

Virtual meeting by Zoom and teleconference
Join Zoom webinar: https://zoom.us
Webinar ID: 857 9113 8593
Password: 112386

Dial by location Toll Free numbers:
888 788 0099 or 833 548 0276 or 833 548 0282 or 877 853 5247
Or Alt. phone (NY) 1 646 558 8656

Live streaming at
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNoKeOBPqJ33aRtqzOXHO9g

AGENDA
7:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes - March 4, 2021

* Consent Agenda - All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen so requests in which event the item will be withdrawn from the General Order of business and considered in the normal sequence on the agenda.

** These items are received and filed with no other action taken.

Announcements:


Department Head Report file by Dept. of Public Works activity report for February 2021

Old Business:

1. Proposal for extension of Special Directive 5
2. Two (2) members of the Charter Review Commission – accept letters of interest to serve and develop a mission statement to be directed to the membership
3. Update on status of hiring FF/EMT to fill vacancy caused by resignation of a current FF/EMT
4. Appointments, per Section 202 of the Home Rule Charter, members to the Board of Canvassers due to recent resignations

New Business:

1. Report from Administrator on applicants for PT laborer with Public Works Dept.
2. Report from Don McNaughton, Chair, Conservation Commission regarding the water study results from 2020 and anticipated actions to be taken in 2021.
3. Announcement from the LC Agricultural Conservancy Trust (LCACT) of their unanimous support of Mr. Arthur Goldstone’s proposal to install a plaque in or around the Town Hall expressing appreciation to the Pontes family for working cooperatively with the Town and LCACT to preserve the land directly north of the Town Hall.
4. Request from Budget Committee for Council to attend their meeting on either April 12 or 20
5. Consider scheduling an executive session in person in council chambers to review collective bargaining and personnel matters.
Communications:

1. Letter received from Coco Smith, a second grader from Wilbur McMahon School expressing concern over the speed and safety of South Shore Road, specifically with regard to pedestrians walking to South Shore Beach in the summer months.
2. Request from the Portsmouth Parents Helping Students Organization for generous support of the Post Prom Committee’s endeavor to fund a Post Prom Party or Celebration of the PHS Senior Class of 2021 if a Senior Prom is not allowed due to COVID.
3. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Burrillville Town Council opposing RI 2021 Gun Control Legislation as depicted in Senate Bills S0073, and S0129 as well as House Bills H5581, H5586, H5553, H5554, and H5556.
4. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Burrillville Town Council opposing RI 2021 H5269 Tax Sale Legislation believing this legislation will impede the normal transaction of business for entities serving the public good and welfare.
5. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Burrillville Town Council requesting all activity to modify the operations and disposition of the Zambarano facility be held in abeyance until the Town and State can work constructively to find options and alternatives to maintain operations at Zambarano.
6. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Portsmouth Town Council supporting the passage of the Act on Climate Bills in the RI General Assembly.
7. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Portsmouth Town Council supporting legislation to amend Title 44, Chapter 5 of the RI General Laws regarding municipal taxation of real estate.

Consent:

1. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Charlestown Town Council urging the General Assembly to pass the Civics Literacy Act, House Bill H5928.
2. Copy of a resolution adopted by the East Providence City Council requesting the Governor and RI General Assembly allocate $8 million of the new stimulus money to afterschool and summer programs.
3. Copy of an e-mail to the Town Council e-mail group with a newsletter from RI Green Infrastructure Coalition, Partnerships Key in Green Stormwater Infrastructure, organizations come together to improve water quality on Aquidneck Island.
5. Letter from the Police Chief providing his review of Senate Bill 118 which seeks to change language relating to misdemeanor convictions defining the term from “one-year” to “364 days”.

Payment of Bills

All are welcome to any meeting at the town, which is open to the public. Individuals requiring communication assistance or any accommodation to ensure equal participation will need to contact the Town Clerk at 635-4400 not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.
Minutes of a Town Council virtual meeting held March 4th, AD 2021 via Video and Tele-Conferencing at 7:00 o’clock PM. Councilors present acknowledged by roll call: Paul J. Golembeske, Gary S. Mataronas, Andrew W. Moore, Robert L. Mushen and Anya Wallack. Also in attendance: Police Chief Raynes, Antonio Teixeira, Town Administrator and Richard S. Humphrey, Esq. Town Solicitor.

The Council President opened a Public Hearing noticed and advertised for March 4, 2021 at 7 PM for the purpose of hearing a request to expand the business zone on Plat 30, Lots 8-2 owned by Preston Post, Ltd. and Lot 3-4 owned by Marion Morrison et als. Both owners have submitted, in writing, letters of withdrawal. Due to this fact the following was voted:

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To accept and acknowledge letters received from Preston Post, Ltd. and Marion Morrison et als withdrawing their requests to expand the business zone over their respective lots on Plat 30. No further action will be taken.

The Public Hearing was declared closed by the Council President.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Moore, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To approve, as written the Town Council meeting minutes for February 18, 2021.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Moore, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To approve, as written the Town Council meeting minutes for February 25, 2021.

Announcements:

1. The Council President informed the public that the link for the March 11, 2021 Vaccination regional site has been activated on the Town’s Website. The town is still limited in supply of vaccine made available for distribution. The Town Clerk noted that the website link has already reached its limit and no longer has available appointments. Residents should monitor the site for future announcement and are advised to take advantage of the state run facilities as well as the CVS and Walgreen options.

2. The Council President informed his fellow Councilors of his use of the Emergency Declaration Authority to authorize the Fire Chief to move forward with actions to fill an upcoming vacancy caused by the resignation of a Fire Fighter/EMT who is moving on to a new position elsewhere. The Council President will keep his fellow members apprised of the situation as details are known.

3. Residents are encouraged to look at the Sakonnet Times to see the roughly 25 members of the 8th grade and other honor roll students listed for the Wilbur McMahan School. Even in these difficult times with remote and hybrid learning our school department results in superior performance by many of the children in our school system.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To place on file the following Department Head Reports filed for February 2021:

1. Town Clerk
2. Police Department
3. Public Works Department
4. Fire Department
5. Tax Assessor
6. Building Department
7. Town Administrator
RI Infrastructure Bank announced $1.5 Million for Municipal Resilience Program Action Grants. Little Compton was successful in its bid for $165,000 (with $41,000 local matching grant funds) for three green infrastructure projects for stormwater management and coastal erosion control at South Shore Beach, Town Way, and John Dyer Road. The Council members expressed their gratitude to the RI Infrastructure Bank and Program as well as strongly appreciative of all the work Larry Anderson put into drafting and coordinating the process during the past year.

Letter received from Larry Anderson resigning from the Core Team of the Little Compton Municipal Resilience Program. Mr. Anderson offered his appreciation for the varied members of town officials and town residents who assisted throughout the year in developing the application projects. He noted that RI Infrastructure Bank representatives were very interested in the town pursuing at some future date the solar grid proposal noted within the workshop held last summer.

Motion made by Councillor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councillor Moore, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To accept the resignation of Larry Anderson from the LC Municipal Resilience Program Core Team, to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Anderson and to accept the offer of Councillor Wallack to fill the vacancy created by said resignation.

Draft updates to the Zoning Board Rules and Regulations were submitted by the Boards Secretary, Stetson Eddy for the Council for review and approval. After confirming with the Town Solicitor that he has reviewed and is in agreement with the updates the following was voted:

Motion made by Councillor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councillor Golembeske, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To accept and approve the following update to the Little Compton Zoning Board of Review Rules and Regulations:

LITTLE COMPTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW
RULES & REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION
(ADOPTED: OCTOBER 3, 1994)
REVISED: NOVEMBER 25, 2002; MARCH 16, 2005; MARCH 4, 2021

1. Appeals and/or applications are to be filed on forms prepared and supplied by the Little Compton Zoning Board of Review (the “Board”). If filed by other than the owner(s) of the subject property, all owners (whether individual, estate, partnership, corporation, LLC or Trust) shall join in the application by signing the same. Appeals and/or applications and all of the supporting material required by these Rules and Regulations shall be filed at least forty (40) days before the expected hearing date. A signed Authorization(s) shall be submitted if the owner(s) of the subject property will not be in attendance at the hearing.

2. It shall be the duty of the person or entity making the appeal or filing the application to supply the Board a list of all property owners of record of land wholly or partly within 200 feet of the subject property whether within the Town or an adjacent Town; showing the names and address of such property owners and the Tax Assessors Plat and Lot numbers of the lots respectively owned by them. Reference also Section 14-9.8(d) of the Little Compton Zoning Ordinance for other possible notice requirements, and, where applicable, contact information shall be supplied to the Board.

3. The appellant or applicant shall provide a copy of the Assessors’ property record card (currently prepared by Vision Government Solutions, Inc.) and a copy of the Assessors’ Plat or Plats showing the site of the subject property and all such property wholly or partly within 200 feet of the subject property.

4. The appellant or applicant shall provide a scale drawing of the subject property prepared and certified by a Registered Civil Engineer or Registered Land Surveyor with a minimum size of 8 ½” x 11” and a minimum scale of 1’ – 100 feet, showing all lot lines, street lines and zoning district boundary lines within 200 feet of the subject property, with appropriate dimensions, scale and North arrow. All existing and proposed buildings and structures, septic systems and water wells on the subject property shall be accurately shown on the drawing with appropriate dimensions.
5. The appellant or applicant shall provide a scale floor plan and elevation drawings of the structure or structures when it is appropriate to demonstrate that a hardship justifying the petition exists.

6. The appellant or applicant shall pay a fee of Four Hundred Fifty Dollars ($450.00) by check payable to the Town of Little Compton. Said check shall be tendered to the Tax Collector who will give the appellant or applicant a receipt which shall be attached to the application package for submission to the Board.

7. The Board shall cause public notice of the appeal or application to be given at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Little Compton and by first class mail to all property owners of record of land within 200 feet of the subject property and to such others as may be required by Section 14-9.8(d) of the Zoning Ordinance.

8. The Board shall request that the Planning Board report its findings and recommendations in writing with respect to any application, including a statement on the general consistency of the application with the goals and purposes of the Comprehensive Plan of the Town, to the Board prior to the expected hearing date.

9. The appellant or applicant shall provide at the time of filing twenty-three (23) copies of the application and all of the supporting materials required by these Rules and Regulations or as the Board may otherwise request. Plans and drawings shall be folded to an 8-1/2" x 11" size.

10. The Board will maintain a record of all hearings and shall cause all decisions to be filed with its records and a copy posted in the office of the Town Clerk, within ten (10) working days from the date when the decision was rendered. Said decision shall be rendered within twenty (20) days of the public hearing. Any decision evidencing the granting of a variance or special use permit shall also be recorded by the Town in the land evidence records of the Town. Any such decision shall be mailed to the applicant and, if applicable, his or her attorney of record, as well as supply a copy to the Planning Board, the Building Official, the Town Council, the Town Conservation Commission and to the Town Clerk, who shall post the decision for twenty (20) days. Said twenty (20) day posting period shall elapse prior to the issuance of any building permit or certificate of occupancy.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Wallack, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To grant permission to the United Congregational Church to use the Town Landing on April 4, 2021 at 6:15 AM for an in-person Easter Sunrise Service with COVID protocols adhered to.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Wallack, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To accept a letter of resignation from Laurie Anderson as a member of the Board of Canvassers, to forward a letter of gratitude for her years of service on the Board and to initiate actions to find a replacement for this outgoing member.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Moore, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To place on file a resolution adopted by the Coventry Town Council requesting the General Assembly approve and enact an amendment to RIGL 44-5-2, by adding section d, 5 which relates computing the 4% cap imposed by this section of the General Law in tax levy calculation.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To place on file a copy of a resolution adopted by Central Falls City Council requesting the Governor and General Assembly support afterschool and summer programs for RI Youth.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To forward to the School asking for the School Committee to offer direction on any actions they may wish the Council to take regarding a resolution adopted
by Central Falls City Council urging the General Assembly to pass the Civics literacy Act HB-5028 which would require all students between grades 8-112 to complete a course in American Civics proficiency.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Moore, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To refer to the Chief of Police for comment a resolution adopted by Central Falls City Council urging the General Assembly to pass misdemeanor reclassification – SB-118 for the protection of immigrant families.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Moore, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): To place on file the following consent calendar items:

1. Solicitation from Smart City Policy Group to support COVID Memorial Monday through their website (sent to the town council email group)
2. Copy of a resolution adopted by the Central Falls City Council requesting the Governor and General Assembly further support small businesses that have been hurt by the COVID-19 Pandemic allowing them to resume normal operations
3. Copy of a letter of request confirming the Friends of Little Compton Wellness Center’s intention to ask the Council to submit, on their behalf, a request for funding in the FY22 Financial Town Meeting warrant for consideration.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor by roll call (Golembeske, Mataronas, Moore, Mushen and Wallack): That the bills be allowed and ordered paid as follows: $61,766.37

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Grid - Street Lights</td>
<td>$106.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Grid - Street Lights</td>
<td>$19.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bay Media Group - Probate</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bay Media Group - Zoning</td>
<td>$252.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bay Media Group - Probate</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bay Media Group - Council</td>
<td>$388.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.B. Mason - Finance / Clerk</td>
<td>$19.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.B. Mason - Town Hall</td>
<td>$31.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.B. Mason - Clerk</td>
<td>$8.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.B. Mason - Bldg / Clerk / Town Hall / Admin / Assessor</td>
<td>$357.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GoTo Services, LLC - Town Hall</td>
<td>$1,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GoTo Services, LLC - Public Safety Complex</td>
<td>$1,020.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everlasting Designs - Computer</td>
<td>$330.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postmaster- Zoning Board</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postmaster - Planning Board</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard S. Humphrey - Solicitor</td>
<td>$4,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard S. Humphrey - Legal</td>
<td>$214.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard S. Humphrey - Legal</td>
<td>$594.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verizon - Wastewater Treatment Facility</td>
<td>$55.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Government Solutions - Revaluation</td>
<td>$1,721.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petro - Public Safety Complex - Gasoline</td>
<td>$1,077.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petro - Public Safety Complex - Diesel</td>
<td>$483.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petro - Public Safety Complex - Gasoline</td>
<td>$761.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paychex of New York, LLC - Finance Dept.</td>
<td>$421.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Court Reporters, Inc. - Zoning Board</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakonnet Tree, Inc. - Tree Warden</td>
<td>$10,292.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champion Salt LLC - Highway Dept.</td>
<td>$1,105.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medeiros &amp; Sons Construction, Inc. - Highway Dept.</td>
<td>$651.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medeiros &amp; Sons Construction, Inc. - Highway Dept.</td>
<td>$665.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medeiros & Sons Construction, Inc. - Highway Dept. 
Kofie - Clerk 
OpenGov, Inc - Computer 
Core Business Technologies - Town Hall 
Core Business Technologies - Town Hall 
Cox - 32 Commons 
Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara L LC - Legal 
W.B. Mason - Police Dept. 
W.B. Mason - Police Dept. 
Rob's Auto Care, Inc. - Police Dept., 
GA-REL Manufacturing Company - Drug Forft. 
State of Rhode Island - Police Dept. 
Axon Enterprise, Inc. - Drug Forft. 
FirstNet - Police Dept. 
Bound Tree - Ambulance Reim. 
Greenwood Park Motors & Towing - Ambulance Reim. 
Eagle Leasing Company - Ambulance Reim. 
Eagle Leasing Company - Ambulance Reim. 
FirstNet - Fire Dept. 
FirstNet - Fire Dept. 
Air Cleaning Specialists on NE, LLC - Fire Dept. 
Paul's Press - Fire Dept. 
Core Business Technologies - Fire Dept. 
State of Rhode Island - Fire Dept. 
The Dawson Group - Fire Dept. 
TriMark United East - Fire Dept. 
Salva & Sons Safe & Security - Fire Dept. 
RIAFM - Fire Dept. 
Election early voting workers - Grant funds and Canvassing 
Election Poll workers - Canvassing 
Griggs & Browne - 30 Commons 
Home Depot - Town Hall - Public Safety Complex 
Helger Bros. Construction - Highway 
Santa Buckley Energy - 30 Commons 2/5 
Santa Buckley Energy - Public Safety Complex 2/5 
Santa Buckley Energy - Town Hall 2/5 
Santa Buckley Energy - 32 Commons 2/5 
Santa Buckley Energy - Town Hall 2/26 
Santa Buckley Energy - 32 Commons 2/26 
Santa Buckley Energy - 30 Commons 2/26 
Santa Buckley Energy - Public Safety Complex 2/26

The Council President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Carol A. Wordell, CMC, Town Clerk
How Much RI Gets In New Stimulus Bill: Town-By-Town Estimates

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse shared preliminary estimates of how much each town can expect from the newest round of federal pandemic relief.

- Rachel Nunes, Patch Staff
- Posted Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 3:21 pm ET

Here's how much your community could be getting in from the American Rescue Plan. (Shutterstock)

PROVIDENCE, RI — Congress recently passed the American Rescue Plan, the latest attempt to help the country financially navigate the coronavirus pandemic. Along with $1,400 stimulus checks to eligible residents, the relief package includes funding for cities and towns.

Although the final amounts aren't yet set in stone, Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse released a list of what the state's 39 cities and towns can expect to receive.

"Help is on the way!" Whitehouse tweeted. "My office did some estimating of how much money cities and towns get if county and schools money flows through per capita. Just estimates, but the bottom line is: it's a lot."

Here's a look at how much funding Rhode Island communities can expect from the bill.

- Barrington $5.3 million
- Bristol $6.4 million
- Burrillville $8.4 million
- Central Falls $27.2 million
- Charlestown $2.2 million
- Coventry $15.2 million
- Cranston $64.3 million
- Cumberland $16.6 million
- East Greenwich $4.3 million
- East Providence $40.1 million
- Exeter $1.9 million
- Foster $1.3 million
- Glocester $3 million
- Hopkinton $2.3 million
- Jamestown $2.3 million
- Johnston $14.7 million
- Lincoln $11.4 million
- Little Compton $1.14 million
- Middletown $6.6 million
- Narragansett $5.9 million
- New Shoreham $299,722
- Newport $13.6 million
- North Kingstown $11.8 million
- North Providence $16 million
- North Smithfield $5.1 million
- Pawtucket $98 million
- Portsmouth $6.9 million
- Providence $323 million
- Richmond $2.2 million
- Scituate $4.7 million
- Smithfield $8.1 million
- South Kingstown $11.8 million
- Tiverton $6.2 million
- Warren $3 million
- Warwick $51.6 million
- West Greenwich $1.8 million
- West Warwick $16.2 million
- Westerly $10.8 million
- Woonsocket $70.8 million

Subscribe
Little Compton Department of Public Works

Monthly Report: February 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSFER STATION</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transaction total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Debris</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint recycling</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTES</strong></td>
<td>126</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-waste</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor oil</td>
<td></td>
<td>gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appliance referigerant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Winter Storm events
   For the month of February 2021
   9. Sandings with large Mack Truck Sander
   11. Black ice sandings with small red pick up truck and or 1Ton Dump truck
   3. Snow event called all subcontractors in for snow removal 2/1, 2/7, 2/18, 2/19

   *** Each Winter storm event requires town employees to keep Public Safety clear of snow and ice together
   with the Wilbur School, Town Hall, Grange, Community center, Town Hall, Peckham lot, Transfer Station.

   *** This also requires shoveling at Public Safety and Town Hall, Transfer Station

2. The DPW crew has been working and maintaining the equipment during Winter storm events, 3 Pick up trucks with plows, and 2 small sanders, cleaning all and also keeping up with Town Backhoe which loads sand and salt into all equipment

3. DPW will be prepared to plow and sand, and shovel
   Transfer station, Public Safety complex, Town Hall, 30 Commons shop, 32 Commons Odd fellows
   Veterans field access (gravel) for school parking and public access

   DPW will continue to back up subcontractors on the roads
   DPW will continue to clear remote Fire Hydrant area's at 4 locations In Town, West Main near Old Main road, Pottersville near Amesbury
   The Ponderosa, Shaw road

4. maintain refuse from outside town barrels
5. Cut lawns and cemeteries for grass season
6. maintain town road signage
7. general maintenance of town buildings
8. maintenance of vehicles, tractors, and trucks
10. trash and recycle barrels throughout town
11. weekly, 15 bi-weekly from April - November
12. worked on upgrade of stop signs

William L Moore, Little Compton, Director of Public Works
Town of Little Compton  
Office of the Council President  
Post Office Box 226  
Little Compton, Rhode Island 02837

DRAFT  
19 March 2021

Special Directive 5 (Revision 8)  

Extension of State of Emergency in Town of Little Compton

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19, as set forth in Executive Order 20-02 issued by Governor Gina M. Raimondo on 9 March 2020, and

WHEREAS, the Little Compton Town Council on 16 March 2020 adopted a Declaration of Emergency and Emergency Ordinance due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, confirming the authority of the Town Council President to declare a state of emergency in the Town of Little Compton, and

WHEREAS, said state of emergency in the Town was renewed and amended on 30 April 2020, and subsequently has been extended through 19 March 2021, and

WHEREAS, further extension is in order due to the continued danger to health and safety.

NOW THEREFORE, the Little Compton Town Council on 18 March 2021 extended the state of emergency in the Town through 23 April 2021, unless renewed, modified or terminated by subsequent order.

_______________________________________________________________________________________

Robert L. Mushen  
President, Little Compton Town Council
Hi Carol,

Thanks for your time on the phone this afternoon. It was very helpful.

I just wanted to confirm my interest and willingness to participate on the Little Compton Charter Review Commission should you need a volunteer? Please let me know if you need any additional information from me as you finalize the team.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Haire

Sent from my iPhone
March 2, 2021
Office of the Town Clerk
Town Hall
Little Compton RI 02837

Dear Madam Clerk:

My name is Philip Crawford, and I would like to be considered to fill a vacancy for a two-year term with the Town Charter Review Commission. I have lived in Little Compton since 2017 and would very much like the opportunity to participate in this process, which would no doubt be an interesting learning experience. My educational background is in political science, and I have been in the financial industry for 25 years. I enjoy living in this town and would consider it a privilege to serve it in this capacity.

I thank you for your consideration of my interest and look forward to hearing back from you.

Very sincerely yours,
Philip Crawford
9 Watson Way
Little Compton, RI
March 18, 2021 Report to the Town Council
Little Compton Conservation Commission Study
“Do We Have Enough Water in Little Compton?”

Background

Little Compton’s Comprehensive Plan, updated in 2018, highlights the importance of protecting our fresh water resources. Such protection is critical, given our town’s reliance on private wells and individual septic systems, and the prohibitive cost of installing public systems.

Further, surveys conducted among residents over the years have consistently ranked water protection and availability as the most important Town considerations, yet before the Conservation Commission’s study, there had been no systematic effort to try to understand the quantity of fresh water available in our wells for domestic and agricultural needs.

Conservation Commission Study

In collaboration with URI researchers, the Conservation Commission launched a multi-year research project in 2019 to better understand our fresh water resources. Little Compton sits almost entirely atop fractured bedrock, a geological condition that complicates efforts to predict the quantity of water available to our residents and farms. However, changes in water quality can serve as an indication of whether we have enough water for current use and future needs.

In the summer of 2020, we carried out the second year of our study, replicating the well sampling that we first did in 2019. In 2020, 154 Town residents volunteered their wells for water sampling, a 40% increase from the 110 residents that participated in 2019. Critically, 92 residents participated in both 2019 and 2020, allowing us to directly compare results from their wells across years.

We measured well water samples for their electrical conductivity, a simple and inexpensive way to estimate the amount of dissolved solids in the water. High levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in drinking water could indicate the presence of salt water, septic system waste, or run-off from fertilizers. By monitoring changes in TDS results over a period of years, we will better understand the relationship between precipitation and ground water quality, and be able to track any evidence of water quality degradation, which could signal water quantity concerns.

What Do 2020’s Results Tell Us?

First and foremost, we are grateful to the 154 residents who participated in our 2020 study. This allowed us to reach our goal of sampling well water from 10% of Little Compton’s households, geographically distributed all across town.

Second, the results appear to confirm just how critical precipitation is to the amount of ground water we have available for use across town. In our fractured bedrock setting, we do not have a water-laden aquifer from which to pull, nor is there water coming from “elsewhere” to feed our wells. Instead, whatever water we have available to us comes from precipitation (rain and snow) that has worked its way down into the cracks and fissures of our bedrock, eventually seeping into our wells. When the amount of precipitation changes, the amount of fresh water available to us changes in relatively short order.
March 18, 2021 Report to the Town Council
Little Compton Conservation Commission Study
“Do We Have Enough Water in Little Compton?”

With precipitation down 33% in 2020 from the relatively wet 2018-2019 period, we hypothesized that Total Dissolved Solids would rise for two reasons. First, there would be less fresh water to hold back salt water from infiltrating bedrock cracks and fissures that feed wells close to the coast. Second, there would be less fresh water to dilute the impact of our septic system leach fields, and of home and farm fertilizer use. Thus, we anticipated that comparing actual TDS results from 2020 to 2019 would confirm the design of our study, the validity of the data collected, and the hypotheses with which we began our efforts.

And that is just what we saw.

Overall, TDS readings increased across town. This is best shown in the scatter diagram below. For the 92 wells that were sampled in both years, the diagram plots 2019 results against the ones from 2020. If TDS results were similar year to year, the dots would rest right on top of the diagonal black line. What we saw instead is that the bulk of dots came to rest above the line, indicating that TDS results in 2020 increased over 2019. In fact, the median TDS count increased almost 50 parts per million (ppm), from 165 ppm to 208 ppm.

![ Scatter plot of TDS in 2019 vs 2020 ]

Looked at another way, the EPA’s recommended standard for Total Dissolved Solids in drinking water is 500 ppm. In 2019, 3.6% of the wells we sampled registered a reading in excess of 500 ppm, thus failing to meet the EPA’s recommended standard; in 2020, that percentage doubled to 7.1%, representing a total of eleven wells. We have suggested that those eleven homeowners consider further laboratory testing of their well water, if they have not already done so.

While a TDS measurement offers only limited information and is far from comprehensive, we do believe that the comparison of 2019 and 2020 results shows that our town’s water resources are finite in nature, and hints at our vulnerability to drought and, in coastal locations, to salt water intrusion exacerbated by sea level rise.
March 18, 2021 Report to the Town Council
Little Compton Conservation Commission Study
“Do We Have Enough Water in Little Compton?”

What Comes Next?

We do recommend that homeowners test their well water periodically. Continued diligence will help protect water quality. Please contact your plumber, or Alyson McCann at URI Cooperative Extension alyson@uri.edu to get more information on private well testing (https://web.uri.edu/safewater/private-well-testing-and-protection/).

With results from 2019 and 2020 now in place, we plan to continue our TDS sampling program in 2021 and hopefully beyond. With repeated sampling, we can better gauge if changes in the results indicate evidence of longer-term water quality degradation, and thus water quantity concerns.

For our upcoming 2021 program, to be conducted over the summer months, we welcome both new and repeat participants. If you participated in 2019 or 2020, we will contact you to ask your permission to again sample your well. If you are new to the study and would like to participate, please go to our website https://littlecomptonwaterstudy.com/ where you will find a link to complete a short survey, or call one of the following Conservation Commission members: Rich Castenson (401-635-8586), Carol Trocki (401-952-2937), or Don McNaughton (401-230-7221).

In addition, we would like to begin to monitor TDS levels year-round to better understand seasonal variability. If you know of a well no longer in use in the Sakonnet Point area at which we could set up a monitoring station, please contact us by telephone at the numbers listed above.
• 110 wells sampled in 2019, and 154 in 2020 (+40%)
  • 84% of the wells sampled in 2019 were sampled again in 2020
  • 92 wells were sampled in both years

• **2019:** 67% of wells measured below 200 ppm
• **2020:** 47% of wells measured below 200 ppm
Comparison of 2019 vs. 2020 samples (N=92)
The median TDS reading in 2020 was 43 ppm higher than in 2019.
Dear Carol and Little Compton Town Council Members;

At the March 3 meeting of the Little Compton Agricultural Conservancy Trust the Trust members voted unanimously in support of Mr. Goldstone’s proposal to install a plaque in or around Town Hall expressing appreciation to the Pontes family for working cooperatively with the Town and the Ag Trust to preserve the land directly north of the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

William Richmond,
Chairman, LCACT
Dear Town Council,

My name is Coco Smith and I am a second grader at Wilber School. I am writing to talk about a safety concern in this town. The road right south shore beach has cars going way too fast. We live close enough to South Shore that we could walk or bike, but it is dangerous and scary because it is a narrow road and cars are flying by. It would be healthier for the environment and our bodies if we could walk, and because of safety, we sadly have to drive. I had an idea for how the town could make cars go slower.

I believe you know this is a problem because last summer you put up a robot that showed people how fast they were going. But it did not slow cars down. Despite the robot we saw many dangerous things. For example last July we saw an older woman almost get run over by a car. Cars coming from both directions fly around the curve and endanger outdoor lovers.
I suggest that the town puts in speed bumps on either side of the curve. This is a low cost way for the town to get cars to slow down. We have a pair of speed bumps on our street and they work very well.

Other options do not seem as effective. For example, giving tickets might catch speeders sometimes, but not consistently. Anyway, that would be after the cars had sped by. It is better to prevent speeding and the best option is to put in speed bumps. We love our town and hope you will take this matter into consideration.

Yours truly,
Coco Smith
Greetings Little Compton Town Council,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Portsmouth High School (PHS) Class of 2021 and the Post Prom Committee. As you are aware, most Little Compton students attend PHS after their 8th grade graduation from Wilbur McMahon. The Post Prom Committee is in the planning stages for this year’s event.

As of now, Wednesday, June 9, 2021 is the date the PHS Class of 2021 is scheduled to celebrate their Senior Prom. While we await confirmation on whether this will be allowed to take place given the current state guidelines on large gatherings, we are planning to celebrate the class in whatever way we are allowed. In the past following the prom, graduating Seniors and their guests attended the Annual Post Prom Party typically held at the PHS Field House. Portsmouth’s Parents Helping Students Organization (PHSO) and senior parents have hosted this post prom night celebration since 1997. This important event has always been a clear indication of our community’s strong commitment to keeping our kids and community safe on what could be a high-risk night.

The Class of 2021 unfortunately missed out on their Junior Prom due to the pandemic and have missed several milestones of their “Senior” year to date. Whether they are allowed to move forward with their Senior Prom or not, and the name of the event changes from the ‘Post Prom Party’ to ‘Celebrating the PHS Senior Class of 2021’; as parents, we do plan on throwing them some type of COVID-safe celebration which they well deserve so they can end their high school years on a high note!

With that said, we would greatly appreciate help from our area businesses and community organizations. Your generous support is an important link to the safety and well being of our students. We know it has been a challenging year for all, but we do hope we can count on your tax-deductible contribution this year.

Checks may be made payable to: PHSO Post Prom

Please mail checks to the care of: Amy Buddemeyer
73 Potomac Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

For any questions, please email us at phs2021seniors@gmail.com or contact one of the committee chairs listed below. Thank you in advance for your continued support of PHSI

Sincerely,

Post Prom Committee Chairs

Amy Buddemyer (401) 447-6562  Jen Tingley (401) 649-5258
Rose Hyder (401) 480-4863
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE
OPPOSITION TO RHODE ISLAND 2021 GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville pursuant to Rhode Island statute and the Town of Burrillville Charter, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the Town of Burrillville, RI; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified on December 15, 1791 as part of the Bill of Rights, protects the inalienable and individual right of the people to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), affirmed an individual’s right to possess firearms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in McDonald v. Chicago, 561 U.S. 742(2010), affirmed that the right of an individual to “keep and bear arms,” as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and is applicable to the states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in United States v. Miller, 307 U.S. 174(1939), opined that firearms that are part of ordinary military equipment, or with use that could contribute to the common defense are protected by the Second Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 22 of the Rhode Island Constitution adopted in 1842, provides that “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 6 of the Rhode Island Constitution provides that “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, papers and possessions, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated; and no warrant shall issue, but on complaint in writing, upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation and describing as nearly as may be, the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.”; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of general principle, and in recognition of over 230 years of lawmaking under the guidance of the Constitution for the United States of America having properly established numerous laws regarding criminal use of firearms that are wholly adequate when judiciously enforced such that additional laws are unneeded, any law which upon passage renders a lifelong law-abiding citizen a felon through no action of their own, is an unjustified law and should be unconstitutional under multiple amendments in the Bill of Rights; and
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville to declare its support of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and to the provisions of the Rhode Island Constitution which protect the citizens of the State of Rhode Island's inalienable and individual right to keep and bear arms and

WHEREAS, the Burrillville Town Council members each took an oath to support and defend the United States Constitution, the Rhode Island Constitution, and the laws of the State of Rhode Island which are not deemed unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, and the Charter of the Town of Burrillville; and

WHEREAS, the Burrillville Town Council members give great weight to and adhere to the belief of James Madison, Jr., the fourth President of these great United States that: "Oppressors can tyrannize only when they achieve a standing army, an enslaved press, and a disarmed populace"; and

WHEREAS, many of the bills being considered by the General Assembly would require the confiscation and storage of otherwise lawfully owned firearms, and make the Towns and Cities of Rhode Island, responsible for these costs; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island General Assembly, in its 2021 legislative session has pending before it numerous bills regulating and restricting the rights afforded the citizens of the State of Rhode Island through the Second Amendment to the United States' Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island, including, but not limited to:

Senate Bill 73, the Harold Metts School Safety Act of 2021 and its companion bill, House Bill 5555, prohibiting the possession of firearms on school grounds, which prohibition extends to individuals with lawful, legitimate carry permits;

Senate Bill 129 which repeals the authority of local authorities to issue conceal carry permits to eligible individuals and repeals the right of minors to obtain carry permits; and repeals provisions allowing permits to be issued to law enforcement officers who have retired in good standing after at least twenty (20) years of service;

House Bill 5381 which would require a purchaser of a firearm to execute a medical authorization for release of medical records related to substance abuse and mental health records for a period of five (5) years preceding the purchase of any firearm;

House Bill 5386 which prohibits a purchaser from purchasing a firearm for a prohibited person, a regulation already covered by federal law; and requires a specification of the number of firearms the individual is seeking to purchase;

House Bill 5553 which would require all firearms within a home to be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamper resistant or mechanical lock;

House Bill 5554 which would ban large capacity feeding devices, i.e., those holding more than ten (10) rounds unless the owner modifies the magazine so that it holds ten (10) or less rounds, surrenders the device or transfers the device to a federally licensed firearm dealer outside the State of Rhode Island;

House Bill 5556, the Rhode Island Assault Ban Weapon Act of 2021, would prohibit the possession of "assault weapons," defined as any shotgun that holds more than six (6) rounds or a rifle that holds more than 10 rounds. In order to be exempt, the weapon must, within
twelve (12) months of the bill’s passage, be registered, be rendered inoperable, be surrendered to a registered firearm dealer or police department, or be transferred to a person in another jurisdiction where such firearms are allowed. It would also require any heirs of a decedent to surrender or transfer the firearm. If registered, the lawful owner would be required submit fingerprints and pay a fee for registering the firearm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville on April 24, 2019, declared itself a Second Amendment Sanctuary Town, now reaffirms that declaration, and hereby takes the following position on state legislation that potentially abridges our Second Amendment rights. We find and declare that these gun restriction bills, if enacted by the Rhode Island General Assembly, infringe upon the rights of the People of the Town of Burrillville and the People of the State of Rhode Island to keep and bear arms. We are collectively opposed to the infringement of these rights established by our Founding Fathers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these bills impose unfunded mandates upon local governments; and the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville will not appropriate funds for capital construction of building space and/or the purchase of storage systems to store weapons seized, pursuant to any requirements set forth in the legislation if enacted by the General Assembly for the purpose of enforcing any law, that unconstitutionally infringes upon the rights of the People of the Town of Burrillville to keep and bear arms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, State Senators, State Representatives, the Governor and the Lt. Governor respectfully requesting their support.

Passed as a resolution of the Burrillville Town Council this 10th day of March, 2021.

[Signature]
Donald A. Fox
President
Burrillville Town Council

[Signature]
Vicki Martin, Town Clerk
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE
OPPOSESSION TO RHODE ISLAND 2021 H5269 TAX SALE LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville pursuant to Rhode Island statute and the Town of Burrillville Charter, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the Town of Burrillville, RI on behalf of its business entities and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Burrillville has within its jurisdiction four (4) fire districts, two (2) water districts, a sewer district and a utility district; and

WHEREAS, the House Bill 5269 premise is flawed that affected districts use of Tax Sales actually results in delinquent taxpayers and/or rate payers losing their properties at the end of the multi-year process (one of the fire districts in Burrillville recently began a Tax Sale with a list of 222 properties, of which 95% had sufficient payments made to be removed from the list by the date of the tax sale and none actually lost their property); and

WHEREAS, the House Bill 5269 diminishes the effectiveness of a “threat of a Tax Sale” to encourage delinquent taxpayers and/or rate payers to enter into payment agreements which will bring their accounts current; and

WHEREAS, the affected districts have in common capital intensive infrastructure costs in buildings, apparatus and equipment; and inelastic variable costs heavily influenced by unique labor requirements for specific skill sets; such that minimal discretionary expenses exist which can be reduced to cover a revenue shortfall without a dramatic reduction in service to the taxpayers and/or rate payers; and

WHEREAS, the affected districts’ source of revenue is predominantly from the taxpayers and/or rate payers in their jurisdiction based on an established rate sufficient to meet budgeted expenses each year on the premise that all will pay their obligation; and

WHEREAS, to the extent some taxpayers and/or rate payers do not pay their obligation, all other payers suffer an unjust consequence by either a reduction in service or increased subsequent rates to offset the shortfall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville opposes House Bill 5269 as: (1) a misguided attempt to solve a problem that does not exist, (2) a measure to unjustly handcuff the affected fire, water, sewer and utility districts from operating their businesses by effectively eliminating the most effective means to recover delinquent tax/rate obligations due them, and (3) a burden to the diligent taxpayer and/or rate payer with potential increased costs or reduced service.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville strongly opposes House Bill 5269 as legislative overreach under the pretense of compassion for property owners that for whatever reason become delinquent in their obligations, but in reality is a measure that impedes the normal transaction of business for entities serving the public good and welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island municipality, State Senators, State Representatives, and the Governor respectfully requesting their support.

Passed as a resolution of the Burrillville Town Council this 10th day of March, 2021.

Donald A. Fox, President
Burrillville Town Council

Vicii Martin, Town Clerk
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE
DISPOSITION OF ZAMBARANO HOSPITAL

WHEREAS, Wallum Lake is located in the most northwesterly part of Burrillville and is noted for the Zambarano Memorial Hospital which was built in 1905; and

WHEREAS, Zambarano was built as the State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis for the treatment of patients suffering from that disease; and

WHEREAS, the farmlands bordering the lake were an ideal spot amply providing the rest, fresh air, and good food upon which the physicians relied as a possible cure for the dreaded disease and was a self-sufficient operation with farming facilities, greenhouse, hen coops, slaughterhouse, storehouse and stable providing the essentials needed; and

WHEREAS, by the end of 1905, 48 men and women had been admitted to the hospital in the woods -- the first of untold thousands of patients who have lived at what is now called the Zambarano Unit of Eleanor Slater Hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1958 modern discoveries for treatment and sophisticated equipment replaced the older methods, and today the geriatric and acute care patients at Zambarano still enjoy the clean air, clear water and good care, all hallmarks of the hospital at Wallum Lake; and

WHEREAS, children with developmental disabilities were admitted in 1958, and in 1961, Zambarano began to accept "general medical care" patients; and

WHEREAS, the hospital earned continued accreditation after a survey by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nonprofit organization that sets national standards; and

WHEREAS, the commission described the quality of care at Slater as "excellent"; and

WHEREAS, James P. Benedict was chief operating officer of Eleanor Slater and Zambarano's chief administrator from 1976 to 1988. Benedict recalled that when he arrived, the hospital put more emphasis on "custodial care" than rehabilitation. That has changed. The hospital today offers numerous recreational and educational programs and employs three dozen therapists; and

WHEREAS, the hospital remains a central player in Rhode Island's public health system -- and a major employer; and

WHEREAS, the hospital remains a close community; and

105 Harrisville Main Street, Harrisville, RI 02830
WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has allowed this once magnificent facility and its complimentary buildings to deteriorate into disrepair and blight.

WHEREAS, Zambarano, located on one of Rhode Island's most beautiful natural resources, should be prioritized and its use maximized; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burrillville Town Council respectfully requests that all activity to modify the operations and disposition of the Zambarano facility be held in abeyance until the Town and State can work constructively to find options and alternatives to maintain operations at Zambarano.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, State Senators, State Representative, the Governor and the Lt. Governor.

Passed as a resolution of the Burrillville Town Council this 24th day of February, 2021.

[Signature]
Donald A. Fox, President
Burrillville Town Council

[Signature]
Vicki G. Marti
Vicki Marti, Town Clerk
TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION #2021-03-08 B

RESOLUTION TO PASS THE ACT ON CLIMATE BILLS IN THE
RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, the Town of Portsmouth places energy efficiency, carbon emissions reduction, and renewable energy choices among its top priorities; and

WHEREAS, the consensus opinion of the scientific community attributes the decades-long climate change trends to human-driven increases of the "greenhouse effect;” and

WHEREAS, current Rhode Island state law, the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, set aspirational goals for reducing our carbon pollution, which increases the greenhouse effect: 45% by 2035 and 80% by 2050, relative to 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, more rapid reductions in emissions are needed, in Rhode Island and everywhere, to prevent catastrophic heating of the planet by 2.7°F or more; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 law provides no means of accountability or enforcement if the state fails to meet these goals; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Act On Climate bill (S0078 and H5445) fixes these problems with an amendment to the 2014 law. The legislation provides for:

1. Faster emission reductions, consistent with climate science recommendations: 45% cut by 2030; 80% cut by 2040; and 100% cut (net zero emissions) by 2050.

2. Accountability and transparency: emission reduction targets will become legally binding. The state will have to publish plans, metrics, and a dashboard.

3. Attention to job creation and a just transition: the state’s plans must include input from vulnerable communities, address public health and environmental inequities, and develop a diverse, well-paid, clean-energy workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth calls on the General Assembly to promptly pass these bills, and for the Governor to sign and implement them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be distributed to Portsmouth’s members of the General Assembly, its leadership, the Governor and Lt. Governor of Rhode Island and the Clerks of all municipalities in Rhode Island.

Adopted, March 8, 2021

Kevin Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk
TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION #2021-02-22

RESOLUTION REQUESTING AND SUPPORTING LEGISLATION
TO AMEND TITLE 44, CHAPTER 5 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS
REGARDING MUNICIPAL TAXATION OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS: in 1997, the R.I. General Assembly enacted legislation (P.L. 1997, ch. 179, § 1)
which overhauled the statutory revaluation process for municipal taxation of real estate, to
require that “each city and town shall conduct a revaluation within nine (9) years of the date of
the prior revaluation and shall conduct an update of real property every three (3) years from the
date of the last revaluation”; and

WHEREAS: the new revaluation process was based on the General Assembly’s recognition that
the prior ten (10)-year cycle was “the longest revaluation cycle in the country”; the new
revaluation cycle, with its three (3)-year updates, was designed “to provide more reliable and up-
to-date property values in each of the cities and towns” and “to ensure that all taxpayers in
Rhode Island are treated equitably”; and

WHEREAS: in 2001, the General Assembly enacted legislation (P.L. 2001, ch. 365, § 1)
§ 44-5-26 regarding tax appeals; and

WHEREAS: as amended, § 44-5-15 requires that a taxpayer, as a prerequisite to seeking relief
from a tax assessment, must file with the assessor an annual account “specifying the value of
every parcel of the real estate as of December 31 in the year of the last update or revaluation and
personal estate as of December 31 of the tax year”; and

WHEREAS: as amended, § 44-5-26 requires that the mandatory statutory form for appealing a
tax assessment give a taxpayer a right to appeal an assessment “if your property is: (1)
OVERVALUED (assessed value is more than the fair market value as of December 31 in the
year of the last update or revaluation for real estate and as of December 31 of the tax year for
personal estate for any reason, including clerical and data processing errors” and further requires
the applicant to state the taxpayer’s “opinion” of the property’s value “as of December 31 in the
year of the last update or revaluation for real estate and as of December 31 of the tax year for
personal estate;” and

WHEREAS: on May 2, 2018, the Rhode Island Supreme Court issued an Opinion in Michael A.
Balmuth et al. v. David E. Dolce, in his capacity as Tax Assessor for the Town of Portsmouth,
Supreme Court Case Nos. 2017-6-A, 2017-8-A, 2017-9-A, 2017-11-A, and 2017-12-A
(“Balmuth”); a copy of the Balmuth Opinion is attached to this Resolution and incorporated
herein; and

WHEREAS: in Balmuth, a group of Portsmouth taxpayers challenged their real estate tax
assessments on December 31, 2008 (for tax year 2009) and on December 31, 2009 (for tax year
2010). The taxpayers conceded that the Assessor did not overvalue their properties on December
31, 2007, when he conducted a full revaluation of all real estate in the Town; rather, the
taxpayers alleged that they were entitled to relief because their property values had fallen
following the last revaluation due to a declining real estate market; and

WHEREAS: the Tax Assessor and the Tax Assessment Board of Review denied the taxpayers’
appeals based on the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-5-15 and § 44-5-26, as amended in 2001,
because the properties were not overvalued as of the date of the last revaluation on December 31,
2007; and

WHEREAS: the taxpayers filed appeals to the Newport Superior Court which ultimately entered
judgment for the taxpayers in five consolidated cases; and

WHEREAS: the Tax Assessor appealed from the Superior Court to the R.I. Supreme Court,
seeking a de novo interpretation of the intent and effect of the 2001 amendments to R.I. Gen.
Laws § 44-5-15 and § 44-5-26; and

WHEREAS: the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns as Amicus Curiae submitted a brief
to the Supreme Court which supported the Tax Assessor’s statutory interpretation and positions;
and

WHEREAS: on a vote of 3-2, the Supreme Court affirmed the Superior Court judgment for the
taxpayers, ruling that the taxpayers were not confined to the property values established at the
last revaluation of December 31, 2007 and were permitted to appeal their assessments for tax
years 2009 and 2010 based on valuations of the properties as of December 31, 2008 and
December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS: the majority opinion found that it was unclear “whether plaintiffs are, as defendant
argues, confined to the values of their properties as of December 31, 2007. Based on our
thorough review of the language contained in chapter 5 of title 44, the only thing that appears
clear to us now is just how unclear the conflicting language is.... [T]here is no shortage of doubt
about whether the General Assembly intended to restrict plaintiffs to the values of their
properties as of December 31, 2007, the year of the revaluation at issue. Unfortunately, neither
the 2001 amendments to § 44-5-15 and the form required by § 44-5-26(b), adding the phrase ‘in
the year of the last update or revaluation[,]’ nor the legislative findings contained in § 44-5-11.5
are determinative in discerning legislative intent.... [B]ecause we are confronted with a tax
statute so plainly afflicted with significant ambiguity, we are firm in our view that we are best
guided by the maxim which directs that ‘taxing statutes are to be strictly construed’ with doubts
resolved in favor of the taxpayer;” and

WHEREAS: the dissenting opinion stated: “Our review of the relevant tax statutes leads us to
conclude that real estate property taxpayers are not entitled to appeal the valuation of their
property each year, but may only challenge it ‘in the year of the last update or revaluation....’”; and

WHEREAS: the dissenting opinion considered the “possible ramifications of the majority’s
interpretation. Some taxpayers could seek a revaluation every year, requiring municipalities,
such as defendant, to expend funds in justifying them. Interpreting the statute in that manner would unnecessarily burden already strained municipal budgets, ultimately passing the costs on to taxpayers. Likewise, loss of revenue, which occurred in this case, would leave cities and towns attempting to recoup their losses by, again, looking to remaining property owners. In these times when most owners do not have expendable income, we cannot fathom the General Assembly wanting to do that”; and

WHEREAS: the majority opinion noted the dissent’s “cautions of such a descent into fiscal disarray. Besides noting that appealing a tax assessment is in and of itself rather cost-prohibitive, we nonetheless conclude that such a policy concern is best addressed by the General Assembly, not this Court”; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill S 0115 and House Bill H 5407 have been introduced in the current session of the Rhode Island General Assembly; and

WHEREAS: these bills would amend the provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, as necessary, to address the ambiguities noted by the Supreme Court in Balmuth, in order to provide with clarity that real estate property taxpayers are not entitled to appeal the valuation of their property each year, but may only challenge the value in the year of the last update or revaluation, as indicated in the 2001 amendments to § 44-5-15 and § 44-5-26;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portsmouth Town Council hereby requests and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass and enact Senate Bill S 0115 and House Bill H 5407; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk submit a copy of this Resolution to the Town of Portsmouth’s State Senator and Representatives, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Rhode Island Governor, and every Rhode Island municipality.

Adopted this 22nd day of February, 2021.

Kevin M. Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk
TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN, RI
RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
PASS THE CIVICS LITERACY ACT, HOUSE BILL 5028

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is 1 of only 10 states that does not have a civic graduation requirement which means many students do not know the basics when it comes to engaging with their community and government leaders thereby perpetuating a cycle of civic inequity, often referred to as the civic engagement gap; and

WHEREAS, On January 15, 2021, a comprehensive civic education bill, called the Civics Literacy Act HB-5028, was introduced in the General Assembly by a group of bipartisan lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, The Civics Literacy Act requires all students between grades 8-12 to complete a course in American Civics proficiency; calls for a project-based civics learning assessment so students can learn civics by doing civics; establishes a Civics Project Trust Fund to ensure the mandate is properly supported; prioritizes resources to support the implementation in districts that serve historically underserved students; and utilizes a portion of the funds to further ensure a diverse teacher workforce; and

WHEREAS, there has been a historical lack of diversity in viewpoints and context around the teaching of our nation’s history including our founding documents’ creation, impact, and role in society; and

WHEREAS, students, educators, and community organizations should all play a role in the creation of the curriculum either at the state level or allow local school districts to adjust it ensure the act can effectively teach and prepare all students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlestown Town Council urges the General Assembly to pass an amended Civics Literacy Act HB-5028 that allows for community input and addresses the concerns regarding diversity and inclusivity; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Town Clerk to the Governor, to all of the Honorable Representatives and Senators representing the Town of Charlestown in the General Assembly, to the Honorable Rhode Island Speaker of the House and the Honorable Rhode Island Senate President, and to all Rhode Island City and Town Councils, who are respectfully urged to also pass this resolution in support of our youth.

The RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

By resolution of the Charlestown Town Council at a meeting held on March 8, 2021.

Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Town Clerk
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
RESOLUTION NO. 4

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ALLOCATE $8 MILLION OF THE NEW STIMULUS MONEY TO AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the State of Rhode Island has enacted a number of executive orders and health directives that has negatively impacted Rhode Island Afterschool and Summer Programs; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Afterschool and Summer Programs are comprised of educational professionals, out-of-school time providers, youth, and their families that work together to provide opportunities, social emotional learning, and safe spaces for thousands of Rhode Islanders including in East Providence, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, while well-intentioned, some directives, mandates, and executive orders have left youth and their families without access to Afterschool and Summer Programs here in Rhode Island during the pandemic, including 58,000 youth trying to get into programs throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, dollars directed to the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Department of Human Services from the CARES Act have not been flexible for Afterschool and Summer Programs to remain open and accessible to youth and their families, with such programs having to adjust space, lay-off staff, and not serve to full capacity to keep their doors open, or qualify for any dollars from the CARES Act stimulus money due to state agency regulations; and

WHEREAS, for every 1 youth in Rhode Island in an Afterschool and Summer Program there are 3 youth waiting to get into despite the CARES Act dollars being allocated to said state agencies that serve school aged youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Providence City Council strongly urges both the Governor and the General Assembly to act without delay to allocate $8 Million from one or more of the following stimulus funding sources: Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) K-12 funds, the $23.5 Million Child Care funds, and Coronavirus Relief Fund for states and counties, to Afterschool and Summer Programs serving Rhode Island youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if the State of Rhode is unable to provide said request, we urge immediate and decisive action to be taken by state leaders to provide significant additional financial assistance to Afterschool and Summer Programs that are struggling and negatively impacted by the pandemic and economic crisis, for the sake of youth, working families, organizations, professionals, providers, and the community.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the City Clerk to the Honorable Governor Gina M. Raimondo, to all of the Honorable Representatives and Senators representing the City of East Providence in the General Assembly, to the Honorable Rhode Island Speaker of the House and Rhode Island Senate President, and to all Rhode Island city and town councils, who are respectfully urged to also pass this resolution in support of Afterschool and Summer Programs in their communities.

Adopted by the City Council: March 2, 2021.

Attest: 
City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Council President Britto

A certified true copy of this Resolution March 3, 2021

Attest: 
City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island
Partnerships Key in Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Organizations come together to improve water quality on Aquidneck Island
In partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, and the RI Department of Environmental Management, the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District completed a Green Stormwater Infrastructure project at Hoogendoorn Nurseries in Middletown. This nursery’s location on a hillside causes stormwater runoff from agricultural operations to drain into the Maidford River. This BMP (Best Management Practice) will collect and slow down polluted stormwater, allowing it to soak more naturally into the ground before it reaches Narragansett Bay.
This project is a prime example of how important partnerships are to successful stormwater mitigation installations. In 2016, Hoogendoorn was under a state order to address its stormwater runoff problem. The stormwater going into the Maidford River from Hoogendoorn was described as looking like chocolate milk. In order to rectify this problem, Hoogendoorn turned to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to get both technical and financial help under its Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP is a reimbursement program whereby NRCS pays up to 90% reimbursement to the landowner. However, due to the large size of the property and the run-off, the cost was exorbitant for the property owners.

Hoogendoorn Nurseries site before installation
(May 2020 - Photo Credit Aquidneck Island Planning Commission)

Partners to the Rescue:
In September 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency selected Aquidneck Island Planning Commission’s Island Waters project for funding under its Southeast New England Program – one of only 8 such projects selected by the EPA that year. The purpose of the program was to help the three Aquidneck Island communities (Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth) work together to better manage stormwater pollution. One of the projects selected to fund under Island Waters was Hoogendoorn. However, this was not enough money to fund the entire portion of the farmer’s share.

*Completed Best Management Practice (BMP) at Hoogendoorn Nurseries*
*(October 2020 - Photo Credit Aquidneck Island Planning Commission)*

Recognizing this project was extremely important for the entire Aquidneck Island farming community, DEM said it would be able to make up the difference of the funding owed by working with its partner, ERICD. Together, along with AIPC and NRCS, these four entities worked together to form a partnership that helped the Hoogendoorn project become a reality. It took close to four years for it to happen, but finally, it is complete.
Completed Best Management Practice (BMP) at Hoogendoorn Nurseries
(October 2020 - Photo Credit Aquidneck Island Planning Commission)

The Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition provides communication resources, trainings on maintenance of green infrastructure installations, and shared knowledge on successful sites and green infrastructure installations around the state.

Nature At Work is a newsletter designed and distributed by the Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition to bring more green space news to our cities and encourage the use of nature to clean, protect, and cool our neighborhoods. Because of climate change, we are seeing increased heat impacts in our city, especially where there are fewer trees, as well as issues with flooding and polluted runoff in our neighborhoods.
The Green Infrastructure Coalition is a collaborative of more than 40 non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies focused on using nature to reduce stormwater pollution. We develop projects to demonstrate the powerful role nature can play to create healthier urban environments. We promote policies to create sustainable funding for stormwater management and green infrastructure solutions. And we connect a wide range of partners to share lessons learned in the Providence Metro area and Aquidneck Island.
TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION #2021-03-08 A

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 2021 - H 5113
AN ACT RELATED TO MINIATURE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTAINER
DEPOSIT RECYCLING

WHEREAS, the prevalence of roadside litter of miniature alcoholic beverage containers,
commonly referred to a "nips," is undesirable and unhealthy; and

WHEREAS, many states have determined that nominal refundable deposits when purchasing
these nips has reduced roadside litter of these containers between 30 to 60 percent and
significantly increased recycling rates; and

WHEREAS, requiring refundable deposits upon purchase of these containers will place the
obligation to return the used container upon the purchaser and not require the public to
undertake the continued clean-up of these containers when discarded along roadsides; and

WHEREAS, increasing recycling of these products will help to extend the life-span of Rhode
Island's central landfill; and

WHEREAS, uncollected deposits will be converted to fund environmental programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth
hereby requests that the General Assembly act favorably and pass 2021 — H 5113; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to provide a copy of
this resolution to the Town of Portsmouth's representatives in the R.I. General Assembly and
all other Rhode Island cities and towns.

Adopted: March 8, 2021

Kevin Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk
March 8, 2021

The Honorable Town Council
Town of Little Compton
40 Commons
Little Compton, RI
02837

Honorable Town Council Members,

This letter is in response to your request for my office to review the Central Falls, Rhode Island City Council Resolution of February 8, 2021, which urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 118.

Senate Bill 118 was introduced on January 26, 2021 by Senators Acosta, Calkin, Mack, Cano, Quezada, Mendes, Anderson and Euer, and is currently pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 118 seeks to change language relating to misdemeanor convictions. As currently defined in Rhode Island General Law 11-1-2, a misdemeanor is “any criminal offense which may be punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year”. Senate Bill 118 proposes to define misdemeanor as “any criminal offense which may be punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three hundred and sixty-four (364) days.” Further, Senate Bill 118 would enact a new statutory provision in Rhode Island General Law 11-1-12, entitled “Misdemeanor conviction – Term of imprisonment.” This new section would globally alter the phrase “one-year” or “three hundred and sixty-five (365) days,” when used in reference to a sentence or maximum duration of imprisonment, to be interpreted as “three hundred and sixty-four (364) days”.

Under federal immigration law, a misdemeanor conviction could have deportation consequences for resident aliens living in Rhode Island. Passage of Senate Bill 118 is expected to decrease the number of mandatory deportations of individuals convicted of a misdemeanor offense. Because the proposed changes to the definition of a misdemeanor effects the sentencing portion of a criminal matter, the passage of Senate Bill 118 is not expected to impact the role of law enforcement entities in Rhode Island in investigating crimes and enforcing laws.
The members of the Little Compton Police Department will continue to use discretion when charging individuals who are suspected of committing a crime. Those individuals charged with a crime are presented to the District Court or Superior Court and prosecuted by the Little Compton Town Solicitor or Office of Attorney General, respectively. The defendant, along with his or her counsel, are advised of the potential immigration consequences that may occur as the result of a conviction or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. The Little Compton Police Department does not have a role in the disposition of criminal cases at this stage.

This Central Falls Resolution demonstrates the concern for resident aliens and their families. The Central Falls City Council should be recognized for their efforts and the resolution filed by the Little Compton Town Council.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Scott N. Raynes
Chief of Police