



*City of Bristol
Board of Park Commissioners*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88962098471?pwd=tUIEr2YCTl5twliTd8mgsAnQheYx9p.1>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room 1-2 in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chair
Robert Fiorito, Vice Chair
Jonathan Bradley, Commissioner
Cynthia Donovan, Commissioner
Mark Dickau, City Council Liaison
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent
Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent

Absent:

Julie Metzroth, Commissioner
Aaron Weber, Commissioner

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: February 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the February 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

3. Public Participation

John Gianoni, president of the Forestville Village Association, presented the 2026 Fishing Derby on May 9, 2026, at Pine Lake; discussion followed.

John Gianoni, president of the Forestville Village Association, presented the possible donation of a solar-powered aerator for Pine Lake. Mr. Gianoni has been consulting with CT D.E.E.P for system recommendations based on Pine Lake's specifications; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to move New Business Item 6a., To approve the Special Event Application for the New England Auto Museum 12th Annual Auto Show on the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard on August 8, 2026, up on the agenda.
Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

6a. Approve the Special Event Application for the New England Auto Museum 12th Annual Auto Show on Veterans Memorial Boulevard on August 8, 2026

Michael Scheidel, of the New England Auto Museum, presented details about the New England Auto Museum 12th Annual Auto Show. Mr. Scheidel stated there are an estimated 250 vehicles that will be on display and expressed concerns about the number of spaces provided within the Bristol Arts Innovation and Magnet School and along the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard; discussion followed.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu will meet with Mr. Scheidel to explore Hope Street as a possible site and compare it with the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard/ B.A.I.M.S site.

6l. Hoppers Birge Pond Update

Erik Madsen, of 70 Oak Hill Drive in Bristol, and Friends of the Hoppers Birge Pond Preserve Board Member presented an update on the Hopper Birge Pond. \$250,000.00 has been allocated towards the first year of repair to the Boardwalk. Mr. Madsen requested to reallocated funds to purchase the 6-acre lot from H&T Holdings adjacent to Hoppers Birge Pond. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito the Mayor to go before the Board of Finance to request the \$250,000.00 allocated for the Hoppers Birge Pond boardwalk to be used towards the acquisition of the 6-acre lot.
Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

4. Superintendent's Report

a. Division Supervisor's Report

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Division Supervisor's Report; Discussion followed.

b. Project Updates

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Project Updates. Superintendent Medeiros stated the department is currently conducting interviews for an ADA Audit Firm with Commissioner Donovan sitting in as a Board of Parks representative. City Council has awarded a contract for Phase Two (2) at Page Park. The department is still waiting for the MOU from the state for Rockwell Park, and the Park Maintenance building Improvements contract was awarded to Guardian. Discussion followed.

c. Year to Date Financials

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Year-to-Date Financials. Superintendent Medeiros stated that the trust funds have been doing well and have exceeded the budget. Discussion followed.

d. Strategic Plan Updates

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Strategic Plan Updates. Superintendent Medeiros presented the newest changes on Bristolrec.com. Community Engagement Coordinator Eric Ussery has added a policy tab, broken out by chapter for easy accessibility. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to place the Superintendent's Report on file. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

5. Old Business

a. By Commissioners

Vice Chair Fiorito inquired about the truck signage on the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard. Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated the city is actively working through state approval, and exploring other options such as weight limits and alternative clear markings.

6. New Business

b. Consider a request from the Bristol 250 Committee to plant a Bristol 250 Tree and Garden at Rockwell Park

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson presented the request from the Bristol 250 Committee to plant a Bristol 250 Tree and Garden at Rockwell Park. Deputy Superintendent Larson stated the 250 Committee was interested in planting an Elm Tree with the plaque mounted on a rock. Landscape Gardener Steven Schriver put together a proposal that the committee was in favor of with multiple locations to choose from. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to refer back to the 250 Committee, strictly the Memorial Tree Program as advertised in our policy. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

c. Presentation from UCONN Conservation Ambassador Program Participant, Esha Osioh, on storm-water quality testing data and recommendations

Nothing to report.

d. Approve the Bristol Blues Baseball 2026 Game Schedule

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Bristol Blues 2026 Game Schedule. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Bristol Blue Baseball 2026 Game Schedule.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion approved.

e. Approve the Bristol Blues Baseball 2026 Event Schedule

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Bristol Blues Baseball 2026 Event Schedule. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Bristol Blues Baseball 2026 Event Schedule.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

f. Approve the Bristol blues Baseball 2026-2028 Contract

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Bristol Blues Baseball 2026 - 2028 Contract. Superintendent Medeiros stated that there are minor changes to the contract, including any extra games outside the 22-game schedule are subject to all the usual rental and staffing rates that are applied to all groups, and the Blues to maintain their 501c3 status in good standing. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Bristol Blues Baseball 2026–2028 Contract.

Seconded by Commissioner Bradley; all in favor; motion carried.

g. Accept a \$5,000 donation from Jim Cleveland for the wildflower field at Pigeon Hill Preserve

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the \$5,000.00 donation from Jim Cleveland for the wildflower at Pigeon Hill Preserve, bringing the total amount of donations from Mr. Cleveland to \$25,000.00. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Donovan to accept the \$5,000.00 donation from Jim

Cleveland for the wildflower field at the Pigeon Hill Preserve. Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito; all in favor; motion carried.

h. Capital Improvement Project addition: Bristol Municipal Golf Course

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu presented the addition of a Bristol Municipal Golf Course to the Capital Improvement Project. The city is currently in negotiations with Chippanee Golf Club, while also doing some diligence, such as exploring future management options and alternative ownership structures. The effort is partly aimed at preserving open space, noting that the only other offer placed was a large-scale housing development. Discussion followed.

i. Long-Term Sustainability of Bristol Cemeteries

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu presented the update on the long-term sustainability of Bristol Cemeteries. There have been meetings with the West Cemetery Association, and legal, financial, and regulatory reviews are underway. The city will be holding a public meeting the first week of May that will be advertised in newspapers and social media, in order to notify anyone who has family or loved ones buried at West Cemetery. The transition may also include Peacedale Cemetery and could involve support from the Parks Department. Discussion followed.

j. Prioritization Workshop for Park Safety and Public Awareness on Littering Campaigns

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the workshop on Park Safety and Public Awareness on Littering Campaigns. The commission will place stickers on all the top priority items that are posted around the room.

k. By Commissioners

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu pointed out that April 22, 2026, is Earth Day and the city expressed interest in doing a Trail Day to help highlight Hoppers Birge Pond. Clean Harbors offered to help with Earth Day initiatives. Discussion followed.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu spoke to the commission about items related to the Peck Park Project. There is someone who has expressed interest in about a \$200,000.00 donation for lights for the field. Discussion followed.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson updated the commission on the Veterans Council's findings, noting that the riparian buffer at Veterans Memorial Park has been endorsed.

7. Reports and Committee Reports

a. Fund Development & Advocacy Committee

Nothing to report.

b. Policy & Strategy Committee

Nothing to report.

c. Finance Committee

Nothing to report.

d. City Council Liaison Report

Nothing to report.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners