

TALKING POINTS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
REGARDING BRISTOL'S FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- The Town Council could commission a bi-annual review of Bristol's Comprehensive Plan, particularly with regard to the future development of the Robin Rug properties on Thames Street. Existing Comprehensive Plan language lacks the necessary clarity and specificity to ensure that the Town's desire for mixed use, adaptive reuse and reduced mass, as well as the need for open public access to the harbor, is achieved. The Comprehensive Plan could be updated by active public group participation working with the Town's Director of Community Development and Director of Planning.
- With the current rate of residential development in the Downtown area, parking in this area will become a concern for all residents and visitors to Bristol; the Town Council needs to develop an action plan to address these concerns.
- The Town Council could explore and evaluate the creation of a Bristol Land Bank, managed by a diverse group of appointed Bristol residents, for the purpose of acquiring open space and/or waterfront property for the future use of the town for the enjoyment of its residents. Funding for this Bank could come in the form of a small tax (<1.0%) paid by the buyer on the purchase price of Bristol property.
- The Town Council needs to encourage the Harbor Commission to protect water quality and the rights of Bristol's fishermen as the demand for moorings and slips increases. Bristol Harbor must remain accessible to all its residents and moorings and slips must be managed to ensure townspeople have first priority.
- The Historic District needs to be expanded, minimally to Poppasquash Road on the north, to Wood Street on the east and to the corner of Hope and Wood on the south to ensure that future development in this historically significant area is managed within the same quality guidelines and spirit as in the existing District. The Historic District Commission could oversee the installation of sidewalks, appropriate street lighting, landscaping and benches to encourage and support walkability in the expanded District.
- A complete Market Analysis of the Downtown Retail Business District (including Wood Street) could be sponsored by the Town Council to ensure that the future "needs" of the townspeople are served through the identification and recruitment of appropriate "need-based" businesses to the District; the Council could consider reestablishing the Economic Development Commission to spearhead this analysis. The Town Council could also charge the EDC with the responsibility of identifying and recruiting businesses with quality employment opportunities to the Kaiser Industrial Park Project on Wood Street. The Commission should report its recommendations to the Town Council as soon as is practical.
- The Director of Community Development and Mosaico CDC could create a group of residents and merchants representing the Wood Street area to determine how best to enhance and protect the future viability of this unique and ethnically-diverse neighborhood and retail core. Consistent with this initiative, the Director of Community Development could work with the Town Council to ensure that the Kaiser Industrial Park project is developed to create quality employment opportunities supporting the viable and unique character of the neighborhood.
- Roger Williams University could be further integrated into the "lifeblood" of Bristol as a cultural, intellectual and athletic asset. The Town Council could appoint a committee of townspeople to work with the University to co-sponsor events to expose townspeople to the advantages of having a vibrant academic center here in Bristol. Focus Groups comprised of townspeople and students could meet to identify issues that create barriers between the two communities and work with the Council to resolve them.
- The Economic Development Commission could evaluate the feasibility of a small hotel on Metacom Avenue to meet the future needs of the Heritage Passage Project as well as the growing needs of Roger Williams University's administration, faculty and student body. To reduce traffic in the Downtown Business District, the EDC could consider creating free shuttle bus service from this hotel to downtown, the museums and to the Prudence Island Ferry Dock where ferry service to Newport and Providence could be made available to visitors.

