



**Friends of Historic Bristol**  
P.O. Box 27  
Bristol, RI 02809-0027

**ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 9th 2020 6PM**  
**495 HOPE STREET, BRISTOL, RI**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Dear Friends of Historic Bristol:

Tonight I report that in such a short time, Friends of Historic Bristol (FHB) has moved from a start-up non-profit to a well-defined organization recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a strong Mission. How we were able to do this is simple: our dedicated volunteers, friends, and board members. As we keep a distance tonight with the current impending threat of COVID-19, I'd like to thank all for your continued involvement and thousands of volunteer hours to see this happen everyone here brings tremendous passion and unique skills it is without question this organization has assembled an excellent board which has respect and trust among its members.

My report tonight will be brief and focus on six key areas for FHB moving forward:

1. **Continued Communication:** FHB currently has direct contact with over 600 dedicated individuals (Friends) living in Bristol and beyond. We will remain in contact with this group on important topics including updates concerning Bristol and with FHB. We will continue to build this mailing list, one e-mail at a time our goal is that all interested citizens of Bristol are on this e-mail list.
2. **Governance:** We have adopted a Consent Agenda which has allowed the Board to streamline meetings and optimize Board skill-sets, allowing the focus to be on substantive issues and conversations in order to move the organization forward.
3. **Strategic Plan:** A retreat for the strategic planning process occurred on September 14, 2019 at a bucolic location in Tiverton. The day-long activity included SWOT Analysis and identification of key accomplishments which lead to the tweaking of the organization's Mission to better align with core Vision & Values. By far, the strategic planning process allowed for a full analysis of the

organization's past, present, and future activities positioning FHB to create exciting next steps to include dialogue with new key stakeholders such as businesses, residents, and property owners.

The Strategic Planning Process resulted in:

**Our Vision:** For Bristol is to be an informed and inclusive community that preserves Bristol's cultural assets and maximizes the quality of life for all citizens through:

- Smart-Growth
- Involved Citizenry
- Economic Vitality
- Caring Relationships
- Government Accountability

**Our Mission:** Friends of Historic Bristol (FHB) is a volunteer nonprofit organization that engages the community to enhance the quality of life and advance the vitality derived from Bristol's cultural, historical and architectural heritage through initiatives and educational programs.

4. **Successful & Steady Incremental Growth through "Friend-Raising" & Awareness:** Through the concept of small intimate gatherings at private residences, we will continue this successful and fun approach in 2020 . FHB plans to hold a gathering at a beautiful and rarely seen property on High Street. The success of these small gatherings of 30 people has been instrumental in spreading the Mission of FHB as well as identifying new people to join membership, which has been enormously successful.
5. **Much in the Pipeline:** Among our most unknown work publicly are the volunteer hours dedicated to studies yet to be released. FHB has recruited a number of experts in particular fields (both locally and nationally) to accomplish key studies FHB considers priority items to benefit Bristol citizens. These include:
  1. "Flood Zone Mapping & Its Effect on the Local Bristol Economy"
  2. "A Main Street Program for Bristol"
  3. "Empty Storefronts and Tax Abatements"
6. **Guest Speaker Series:** The reaction to FHB's hosting of Donovan Rypkema in 2019 was very well received nearly packing Saint Michaels Church. Donovan Rypkema is one of the world's leading figures in economics as it relates to historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and city planning. Following on that success, FHB Board approved

expenses to sponsor an Annual Speaker for each October. The current possible speaker has been narrowed down to two possibilities and is planned for October 2020.

Again, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to be involved in such a worthwhile pursuit with Friends of Historic Bristol. I sincerely cherish meeting those dedicated to our amazing and fabulous community and welcome the opportunity to meet new faces to discover how our journey through our very short time on earth link us to Bristol, RI.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bergenholtz  
Chairman of the Board  
Friends of Historic Bristol