



Summary Report
**Report of the Secretary
on 2021 Achievements
submitted to the
FHB Annual Meeting
Held on February 28, 2022**

Friends of Historic Bristol held its fourth Annual Meeting on February 28, 2022. During the meeting, the Report of the Secretary was received. This report focuses on the accomplishments of the organization during 2021 as its Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and members sought to implement its Vision, Mission, and Initiatives.

During 2021, Friends of Historic Bristol carried out the following initiatives:

- February 1, 2021: Consultants from the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Summit, paid for by FHB, brought the major parties who are researching and/or related to the issues of slavery and its aftermath in Bristol together to discuss how best to communicate Bristol's "hard history" related to the treatment of enslaved black people and indigenous peoples. More than 40 people attended the video conference and made progress in finding better ways to collaborate and communicate. A report was written and posted on the FHB website. [Read the Summit Report HERE \(opens a PDF in a separate window\).](#)
- June 9, 2021: During the spring of 2021, FHB carried out field research on the location of empty storefronts in the historic district of Bristol, and on municipal tax abatement policies and practices that may impact commercial properties in the downtown historic district. Approximately 24 unoccupied commercial storefronts were identified. With the assistance of the tax assessor, it was found that none of the property tax exemptions could be considered as an abatement for lack of occupancy and that, therefore, the study concluded that the Town is not providing financial support via tax abatements to property owners with vacant commercial storefronts. The results were posted on the FHB website [here](#).
- June 8, 2021: FHB sent out a public service community e-alert regarding the Walk-Through of the Robin Rug complex, available both in-person and via live-ZOOM at 7pm.
- June 10, 2021: FHB sent out a public service community e-alert regarding the Bristol Planning Board meeting presentation on the "Concept Plan Review/Pre-Application" for the Bristol Yarn Mill proposal that included a request for an

amendment to the original Change of Zone conditions" issued in 2008 which limited the project residential units to 98.

- June 15, 2021: FHB researched and produced an Analysis of the 151 proposed Bristol Yarn Mill units, by square footage and number of bedrooms, for each of the four floors of the Robin Rug redevelopment project, in both summary and for each unit on each floor. Unit sizes range from 546 to 1,929 square feet. This report was provided to the Town for distribution to the HDC, Planning and Zoning boards and was posted on the FHB website. [See the Resources Report here](#)
- December 20, 2021: Caroline Jacobus submitted public comments to the Planning Boards' Technical Review Committee regarding 6 issues relating to the apparent failure of the Brady Sullivan LLC proposal for the redevelopment of the Robin Rug Complex to meet Bristol codes or other areas of concern, including:
 1. Residential Density Requirements
 2. Commercial/Institutional/Public Use Requirements
 3. Affordable Housing Requirements
 4. Fiscal Impact
 5. Traffic Congestion
 6. Dimensions of Parking Spaces and Driveway Lanes
- December 20, 2021: Marianne Bergenholtz submitted public comments to the Planning Boards' Technical Review Committee regarding the Application Form for Zoning Map Change which includes a change to density, specifically to areas east of Thames Street proposed for parking. An alternative is to require deed restrictions to parking needs only for each current unit on the parking area lots. This will prevent future additional high density development on the unimproved lots, which is a concern.
- January 13, 2022: Caroline Jacobus submitted public testimony to the Bristol Planning Board regarding the need for Affordable Housing to meet the housing needs of Bristol citizens and others, and the apparent failure of the proposed Bristol Yarn Mill project to address the need for more affordable housing and general housing for families, in spite of the current Bristol code which requires at least 20 percent of the units on site must qualify as affordable housing and that "payment in lieu" is no longer an available option.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Jacobus
Secretary

Our Vision

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 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.

Initiatives

- *Work to create a collaboration of business owners, industry owners, civics groups and local government to develop proven, winning strategies and tools we can use to boost our local economy.*
- *Celebrate our industrious working-class heritage through initiatives that honor it.*
- *Initiate ideas that promote and support heritage tourism.*
- *Inform our community of projects that jeopardize the integrity of our culture and heritage.*
- *Alert the community with a Call to Action when our community assets are in danger.*
- *Gather and provide data to determine economic impact of preserving our community's heritage resources.*
- *Promote the Smart Growth policies embodied in Bristol's Comprehensive Plan that preserve the character and viability of our Town's Historic District.*