

Town of Cumberland

1  
2 **RESOLUTION:**     IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM  
3                             COUNCIL'S ZAP 50 INITIATIVE

4  
5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:**

6  
7 **WHEREAS:** *Operation ZAP* was organized in 1972; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS:** *Operation ZAP* began the environmental movement in the Blackstone  
10 River Valley; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS:** The Blackstone River became the first industrialized river and first polluted  
13 riverway in the Western Hemisphere; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS:** Samuel Slater, on the Blackstone River in 1790, launched the American  
16 Industrial Revolution, and initiated economic freedom for the United States; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS:** The use of the Blackstone River's waterpower offered the strength needed  
19 to power hundreds of textile mills along its 48-mile length; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS:** These mills employed thousands of people that arrived from all over the  
22 world, in search of their American Dream, and;

23  
24 **WHEREAS:** While this economic opportunity catapulted the Blackstone Valley  
25 businesses into a world economy for almost 200 years, it also left a legacy of  
26 environmental degradation; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS:** This environmental condition has denied ten generations the use of the  
29 Blackstone River for drinking, swimming, or eating its aquatic life, and;

30  
31 **WHEREAS:** The landscape along the Blackstone River has taken over five decades to  
32 attempt to bring back to health; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS:** The mission of *Operation Zap* in 1972 was to clean the Blackstone River  
35 making it possible for future generations to enjoy living along a clean river way; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS:** *Operation ZAP* coincided with the founding of Earth Day and in the  
38 United States Congress' passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and the  
39 founding of Save the Bay, which is dedicated to protecting and improving our  
40 Narragansett Bay and all the waters that flow into it; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS:** *Operation ZAP* was conceived and organized by David M. Rosser of  
43 Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and then President of the Blackstone River Watershed  
44 Association; and

**Town of Cumberland**

45 **WHEREAS:** On September 9, 1972, Mr. Rosser, with the help of hundreds of  
46 community leaders and businesses, organized more than 10,000 people to remove tons of  
47 refuse from the banks of the Blackstone River and begin the creation of riverfront parks;  
48 and

49  
50 **WHEREAS:** Since that time the Blackstone River has seen millions of dollars of  
51 federal, state, and local money spent on continuing the clean-up efforts; and

52  
53 **WHEREAS:** Since that time the Blackstone River has become cleaner for fish and  
54 wildlife; and

55  
56 **WHEREAS:** the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is organizing an effort, with  
57 dozens of local volunteer groups and individuals , with the goal of organizing 10,001  
58 people, to celebrate the people and groups that have helped clean the Blackstone River;  
59 and

60  
61 **WHEREAS:** Dozens of people have worked to develop a Blackstone River Watershed  
62 Needs Assessment that points to a future where residents will be able to eat the fish, drink  
63 the water, and swim in the Blackstone River; and

64  
65 **WHEREAS:** It is time to be part of this environmental movement, this time Blackstone  
66 River Watershed-wide, to clean up and green up the 25 Blackstone River Watershed  
67 communities from Worcester, Massachusetts to Providence, Rhode Island; and

68  
69 **WHEREAS:** the David Rosser family, is working with the local organizers of ZAP50 to  
70 ensure the environmental legacy is continued; and

71  
72 **WHEREAS:** This will be a time to celebrate the people who worked on *Operation ZAP*  
73 in 1972 and the organizations and people who continue the work.

74  
75 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CUMBERLAND TOWN**  
76 **COUNCIL OF CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND AS FOLLOWS:**

77  
78 **SECTION 1:** The Town of Cumberland joins ZAP 50 , to be with the 10,001 people that  
79 will assemble on August 27, 2022, to clean the Watershed and will assemble again on  
80 September 10, 2022 at the Old Slater Mill National Historic Site in Pawtucket, the base  
81 camp of Dave Rosser’s headquarters for *Operation ZAP* in 1972 to celebrate.

82  
83 **SECTION 2:** The Town of Cumberland commits its leadership, necessary resources, and  
84 participation to assist in mobilizing its citizens to “turn out” to join the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
85 *Operation ZAP*.

86  
87 **SECTION 3:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY  
88 UPON ITS PASSAGE BY THE CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL.

89

**R-22-02**

**Town of Cumberland**

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DATE ADOPTED: January 19, 2022

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

Sandra M. Giovanelli,  
Sandra M. Giovanelli, Town Clerk

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92 A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra M. Giovanelli, Town Clerk



Town of Cumberland Routing Sheet for Legislation to Appear Before the Cumberland Town Council

Ordinance Resolution Relating to: IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL'S ZAP 50 INITIATIVE

Author of Legislation: Kelley Salvatore, Town Solicitor / Jeffrey J. Mutter, Mayor

Department: Solicitor's Office / Mayor's Office

(1) This legislation has been approved, and the language is acceptable for publication, by Kelley Morris Salvatore, Town Solicitor

Signed: Kelley M Salvatore Date and Time: 1/14/2022 @ 3:30pm

Please send an electronic copy of this legislation to Tracey Methot-Legal Assistant Solicitor's Office when complete: tmethod@cumberlandri.org & sgiovanelli@cumberlandri.org

(2) This legislation and all attached information, specifically all proposed funding sources, has been approved by the Finance Director, certifying that all financial notes and other financial documentation has been attached.

Check if no Fiscal Note is required.

Signed: Date and Time:

(3) This legislation has been approved by Jeff Mutter of the Mayor's Office.

Signed: Mayor Jeffrey J. Mutter Date and Time: 1/14/2022 @ 3:44pm

(4) This legislation has been accepted for placement on the Town Council Agenda for the meeting to be held on JANUARY 19 2022 by JANE CHRISTOPHER of the Town Clerk's Office. This authorization confirms that all four copies of the necessary document, including a copy in an electronic format, has been attached and signed by the designated department and has been received prior to the designated 3:30 p.m. deadline.

The Town Clerk's Office will issue a Legislation number.

Signed: JANE CHRISTOPHER Date and Time: 3:45pm 1/14/22

This routing sheet must be completed in the order detailed above to ensure complete and timely acceptance for the next scheduled Town Council Meeting.

\*Should a given piece of legislation prove to be extremely time sensitive, the Mayor's signature and only the Mayor's signature below authorizes said legislation to be exempt from the necessary route described above.

Jeffrey J. Mutter, Mayor