

The State of Rhode Island

## Town of Glocester

Resolution #2022-03

*Blackstone Valley Tourism Council - Operation Zap*

**Whereas;** the Blackstone River became the first industrialized river as well as the first polluted river way in the Western Hemisphere, and

**Whereas;** Samuel Slater, on the Blackstone River in 1790, launched the American Industrial Revolution, and initiated economic freedom for the United States where the use of the Blackstone River's waterpower offered the strength needed to power hundreds of textile mills along its 48 mile length and these mills employed thousands of people that arrived from all over the world, in search of their American Dream, and

**Whereas;** while this economic opportunity catapulted the Blackstone Valley businesses into a world economy for almost 200 years, it also left a legacy of environmental degradation, an environmental condition that has denied ten generations the use of the Blackstone River for drinking, swimming or eating its aquatic life, and

**Whereas;** *Operation ZAP*, an environmental movement in the Blackstone River Valley, was organized in 1972, with a mission to clean the Blackstone River making it possible for future generations to enjoy living along a clean river way, and

**Whereas;** *Operation ZAP* coincided with the founding of *Earth Day* and in the United States Congress' passage of the *Clean Air* and *Clean Water Acts*, and the founding of *Save the Bay*, and was conceived and organized by David M. Rosser of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the then President of the *Blackstone River Watershed Association*, where on September 9, 1972 Mr. Rosser, with the help of hundreds of community leaders and businesses, organized more than 10,000 people to remove tons of refuse from the banks of the Blackstone River and begin the creation of riverfront parks, and

**Whereas;** since that time the Blackstone River has seen millions of dollars of federal, state and local money spent on continuing the clean-up efforts, and has become cleaner for fish and wildlife, and


**Whereas;** the *Blackstone Valley Tourism Council* is organizing an effort, with dozens of local volunteer groups and individuals, with the goal of organizing 10,001 people, to celebrate the people and groups that have helped clean the Blackstone River, and

**Whereas;** it is time to be a part of this environmental movement, this time through out the entire Blackstone River Watershed, to clean up and green up the 25 Blackstone River Watershed communities from Worcester, Massachusetts to Providence, Rhode Island, and

**Whereas;** the Rosser family, is working with the local organizers of ZAP50 to insure the environmental legacy is continued, and is a time to celebrate the people who worked on *Operation ZAP* in 1972 and the organizations and people who continue the work to bring the Blackstone River back to health, and therefore

The Town of Gloucester joins *ZAP 50*, to be with the 10,001 people that will assemble on August 27, 2022 to clean the Watershed and will assemble again on September 10, 2022 at the Old Slater Mill National Historic Site in Pawtucket, to celebrate.

The Town of Gloucester commits its leadership and will promote participation to assist in mobilizing its citizens to "turn out" to join the 50th Anniversary of *Operation ZAP*. We call upon all to honor the work performed in 1972, honor the groups and agencies for the past and current ongoing efforts, and ensure that the *Operation ZAP of 1972* goals are realized.



Councilor William E. Reichert, President  
Councilor Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice-President  
Councilor Stephen W. Arnold  
Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr.  
Councilor David R. Laplante



Jean M Fecteau, CMC , Town Clerk

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2022