

**THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED NEEDS ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, The Blackstone River spans forty eight miles from Massachusetts to Rhode Island, its watershed includes thirty nine communities, and its watershed health is vital to the ecology, economy, and history of our region; and

WHEREAS, The Blackstone River has been home to indigenous communities for millennia and is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Despite significant progress, there is much more to do to assure a healthier and more resilient Blackstone River Watershed over the next 50 years to continue to address its industrial past, ongoing urbanization, and the impact of climate change; and

WHEREAS, The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program worked collaboratively with local stake holders to develop the final needs assessment report that describes current high priority needs and 20 recommended actions that can be completed within five years to help restore and sustain the Blackstone River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield recognizes the importance and value of the recommendations brought forward in the report and supports the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative created to implement them; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports increasing free and equitable public access to use and benefit from waterways; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports the accelerated management of the water chestnut to support habitat and recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports the increase for permanent land protection; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports development of a wetland restoration strategy; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports planning and installation of low impact development practices such as rain gardens; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports advocating for the completion of new sections of the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway to engage residents in accessible recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports the increased maintenance of the waterway for wildlife, recreation, and safety; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield supports the recognition of Operation ZAP when 10,000 volunteers cleaned up 10,000 tons of trash from the Blackstone River in 1972, and its 50th anniversary in 2022, including the group's work to support the above goals through local green ups and clean ups on August 27, 2022 and a celebration in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on September 10, 2022; and


WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield looks forward to working collaboratively with the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and its partners on these initiatives to preserve the health and resilience of the river and its watershed for generations to come.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF SMITHFIELD, RI AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Town of Smithfield supports the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report and the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, appreciates the efforts of all the groups involved in its creation and continued maintenance, and intends to include these priority actions into local municipal goals, as relevant, such as open space and climate resiliency planning.

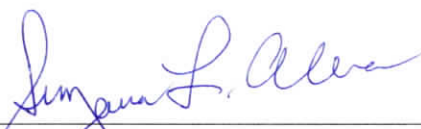
SECTION 2: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by the Town Council.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Town of Smithfield this 18th day of January, 2022.



Lyn Antonuccio, Acting Town Clerk

By the Smithfield Town Council



Suzanna L. Alba, President
Smithfield Town Council

