

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-0002

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 2024-H 7060 and S-2415
Sapowet Marsh Management Area

WHEREAS, The Town has a vested interest in protecting public access and use of coastal waters and the preservation of this ecologically important, undeveloped, area off the coast of the Town for passive outdoor recreation;

WHEREAS, The Town's Comprehensive Community Plan recognizes that the "visual quality of Tiverton is the heart of its character and charm" and that "[p]rotected open space . . . contributes to the scenic and rural character of the community." The Comprehensive Plan further provides that the "scenic, natural coastline is a crucial element of Tiverton's character. The combination of beaches, shellfish beds and fishing areas, salt marshes and ponds serves to maintain the natural balance and function as a natural, recreational and economic resource for the Town."

WHEREAS, The Town of Tiverton supports House Bill 2024-H 7060 (the "Bill") and its Senate Companion (SB 2415) which would preserve the Sapowet Marsh Management Area as "open space" for use solely as passive outdoor recreation;

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Bill is to protect and preserve the two hundred ninety-six (296) acres of the Sapowet Marsh Management Area, also known as "Sapowet Marsh," by designating it as "open space" as defined by R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-36-1, and limiting use of the area to "passive outdoor recreation,"

WHEREAS, preservation of the Sapowet Marsh Management Area will further preserve and develop the scenic rural character of Tiverton.

WHEREAS, The Sapowet Marsh specifically is an extensive and scenic coastal wetland and wildlife habitat and is one of four areas in Town identified as distinctive or noteworthy in the State of Rhode Island's 1990 landscape inventory of scenic areas. In addition, the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program identified Sapowet Marsh as a rare species habitat. Sapowet Marsh is unquestionably a significant environmental, scenic and recreational resource;


WHEREAS, the Town of Tiverton recognizes that the Rhode Island General Assembly and Coastal Resources Management Council have jurisdiction over the coastal waters of the State of Rhode Island; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Tiverton supports and urges passage of House Bill 2024-H 7060 and Senate SB-2415.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Tiverton's General Assembly Delegation, and

the Chair of The House Municipal Government & Housing Committee and appropriate Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government

WHERETO: The following bear witness:



Michael Burk, Town Council Vice-President Date 2/12/24

Presented by Councilor Edwards V