

To: Town of Bristol Planning Board
Diane Williamson; Director, Community Development

Cc: Steve Contente, Town Administrator
Nathan Calouro, Bristol Town Council Chairman
Diane Williamson; Director, Community Development

From: AVP William J. Seymour on behalf of President Ioannis Miaoulis,
Roger Williams University


Date: September 30, 2021

In accordance with The Town of Bristol Zoning Bylaw Division 4, Section 28-354, within the EI Zone, “[a]ll higher education institutions shall file an institutional master plan with the Planning Board, which institutional master plan shall be in compliance with the use and dimensional requirements of this division and the Town's comprehensive plan and which shall be approved by the Planning Board as a major land development project.” Property owners within the EI Zone are required to file a Master Plan Update to the Planning Board every five years. The last Master Plan filing by Roger Williams University (RWU) was reviewed by the Planning Board in September 2016. As a result, RWU is due to complete a Master Plan filing with the Town this Fall.

In 2019, RWU began an engagement with Ayer Saint Gross (ASG), an architectural firm specializing in higher education, to assist with our campus master planning process. Through February 2020, RWU had made significant process in formulating a campus plan revision; however, various events have since occurred that have slowed those efforts. The campus master planning process was placed on hold so that our comprehensive strategic and academic master planning processes could proceed first. The strategic planning study culminates this Fall and will significantly inform our refresh of the Campus Master Plan. Additionally, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on RWU operations has dramatically slowed both of these planning processes, preventing larger meetings and convenings from happening.

Therefore, we formally request an extension of the September 2021 deadline with the goal of submission to the Town to occur no later than September 2022. RWU is excited to finalize and implement its strategic and academic master plans which will inform its update of the related Campus Master Plan. We feel that this extension will allow for a more comprehensive submission and allow RWU and Town leadership to coordinate meetings or listening sessions between now and this deadline extension in the spirit of a collaborative process.

Thank you.


William J. Seymour
AVP, Facilities and Capital Projects