



TOWN OF BARRINGTON

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Barrington Announces Selection of New Director of Planning, Building and Resiliency

Teresa Crean brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in resilience and climate change

BARRINGTON, RI – The Town of Barrington today announced the selection of the next Director of Planning, Building and Resiliency, Teresa Crean. As Barrington expands its capacity to plan for the impacts of climate change, Crean’s work as a coastal community planner at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography’s Coastal Resources Center and RI Sea Grant for the past fourteen years will greatly benefit the community.

A resident of North Kingstown, Crean will be joining the Barrington team as of January 10, 2022. She will fill the vacancy created by the selection of the current planning director, Philip Hervey, who will serve as Barrington’s Town Manager starting on January 1st.

“Ms. Crean is joining us at a consequential time in Barrington’s history,” said Barrington Town Council President Mike Carroll. “Because we are surrounded by water, Barrington must become more resilient to face the challenges climate change will bring in the coming decades. Ms. Crean will be an important part of helping us prepare for that while maintaining the character of our community.”

Crean has worked in the environmental and land use planning field for 23 years, including coastal resilience and adaption planning, renewable energy planning, coastal community planning, and marine spatial planning. In recent years, the town has worked with Ms. Crean on multiple resilience planning projects, including the URI Coastal Institute’s “Climate Demonstration Site” project, which focused on Barrington, Bristol, and Warren.

As one of the most vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change in Rhode Island, the Town of Barrington recognizes the vital importance of planning and preparing for rising seas, worsening coastal erosion, more frequent and intense storms, and more extreme heat.

“Teresa will be a great addition to the Barrington municipal staff. Her skill sets and experience align wonderfully with our future challenges with climate change, sea level rise and resiliency,” said Town Manager James Cunha, who is retiring at the end of the year.

“Barrington will benefit from her expertise in coastal and resilience planning, as well as extensive connections working with the State’s coastal communities on resilience issues,” said incoming Town Manager Phil Hervey.

In addition to resilience planning, other focus areas for Crean will include affordable and senior housing, sidewalks and bike facility upgrades, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, parks and trail improvements, and the future development of the former Carmelite Monastery and Zion Bible Institute properties.

“I’m excited to serve the town of Barrington and collaborate with residents on planning efforts that consider long-term coastal resilience, connectivity, access, and housing options, and bring my years of coastal community planning experience to carry on Barrington’s strong record of implementing meaningful projects,” Crean said.

Crean earned a Master of Landscape Architecture, with a focus on ecological design and planning, from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources from the University of Michigan, and is a graduate of Leadership Rhode Island, Class of 2018. She is an AICP-certified planner (American Institute of Certified Planners).

Her professional achievements include winning the 2019 Northeast Sea Grant Regional Outstanding Outreach Achievement Award for the Rhode Island Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (BeachSAMP), for which she served as project manager. This multi-year effort required development of policies, extensive mapping, and stakeholder engagement to ensure future planning efforts in Rhode Island consider exposure and impacts of coastal hazards on critical infrastructure and other assets.

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TERESA CREAN