

# Proclamation

## PORTLAND BROWNSTONE QUARRIES

**WHEREAS**, many volunteers, consultants, members of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning and Zoning Commission and town staff worked cooperatively over several years to reach a master plan phase to revitalize Main Street and connect downtown with the riverfront and quarries; and

**WHEREAS**, approved by a Town Meeting vote held on May 17, 1999, the Town of Portland purchased the so-called “Malloy Property” consisting of the old Brownstone Quarries (a/k/a North Quarry) and parcels on Brownstone Avenue fronting the Connecticut River for \$1,050,000 – with (\$400,000) cash and credit from the tax liens on nonpayment of water/sewer fees and taxes due to the Town. One year later in 2000 the Town acquired the South Quarry; and

**WHEREAS**, John Monroe of the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers and Trails Program was enlisted to support Portland in its planning for the care and use of the Quarry Property. Mr. Monroe assisted with information gathering, visioning and information sharing; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Annual Quarry Focus Day was held on April 8, 2000 with the purpose to introduce the quarries and riverfront land to the residents of Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2000 the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Secretary of the Interior designated the town-owned quarries as a National Historic Landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brownstone Quorum became the guardians of the Quarries and Riverfront Park, celebrating them as destination for entertainment and recreation such as trail walking, picnicking, hosting festivals and concerts. Thanks to the Brownstone Quorum, enhancements to the area include a post and beam pavilion, a performance stage, gazebo overlooking the river, a labyrinth, Riverwalk and pollinator gardens; and

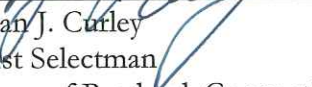
**WHEREAS**, in 2019 Darlene Rice and Dean Soucy purchased the property located at 311 Brownstone Avenue, revitalizing the property and renaming it as, “Brownstone Quarry View,” quickly emerging as a one of its kind destination for all; and

**WHEREAS**, none of this would be possible without the dedication, commitment, and perseverance of those involved over the decades.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman of the Town of Portland Connecticut, hereby proclaim the June 3, 2023 as Portland Brownstone Quarries Day, and urge all citizens to recognize the contributions to make Portland a vibrant community in which to live, work and visit.

**PRESENTED** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June in the year two thousand and twenty-three.

By,

  
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Ryan J. Curley  
First Selectman  
Town of Portland, Connecticut



**Portland Board of Selectmen:**

John H. Dillon  
Michael S. Hernandez  
Robert W. Hetrick Jr.  
Shaun P. Manning  
Michael A. Pelton  
Ralph R. Zampano