

BONNET SHORES DISTRICT MANAGER - MONTHLY REPORT

March 2021

1. Administration –

- A. **Ethics Commission** – I was contacted by a staff member of the RI Ethics Commission to seek the name, address, and email address of current council members for the purpose of submitting “Annual Financial Disclosure Statements”. I have provided the commission with the requested information.

- B. **RIIRMT Grant Award** – I am happy to report that the Fire District has been chosen to receive a Safety Grant from the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust. I submitted an application to get funding to increase access at Little Beach. Currently there is a ramp on the “beach side” which drops down to large boulders used as “makeshift stairs” (see photo). I requested funding to remove the existing boulders, construct, and install stairs at the end of the ramp to make access safer and easier. In addition, I included \$500 that can be used (if necessary) to provide for work to be done to improve access of equipment for the cleaning of seaweed, moving of rocks, etc. I will work to get the stairs installed and have notified the Beach Committee of the award.

- C. **American Red Cross Award** – I am also happy to report that the District has received an award from the American Red Cross for our participation in the “Aquatic Examiners Program”. I worked with officials of the American Red Cross last summer to develop standards, training and testing for beach staff to improve safety and reduce liability. The award was presented for our successful participation and final testing in the program.

- D. **National Grid** – It was brought to my attention that some of our electric bills are significantly higher than last year. I wanted to look into this further so I contacted National Grid who has advised that “things look fine on their end” and the increase is likely attributed to a kilowatt increase that was assessed to *all* customers. As part of the review, I also met with a technician from Regan Heating & Cooling who cleaned and inspected the new furnace unit and advised that it is working fine and is actually working at “96-97% efficiency” (NOTE: the furnace is rated to be 95% efficient). I mention this matter to note that we should increase funding in next year’s budget for electricity costs and be sure to include 2x year cleaning of the furnace unit.

- E. **Budget**- In addition to funds necessary to cover increases in utility costs, I have also been keeping a running “list” of items that I will be requesting funding for in the upcoming budget. I will detail the list along with cost estimates in the coming weeks.

- F. **History Committee** – I have been asked to prepare a written piece for the History Committee to detail how the pandemic has affected the Fire District, and in particular how it affected programs, facilities, etc. I will also be doing this in the coming weeks and welcome any input.

2. Facilities

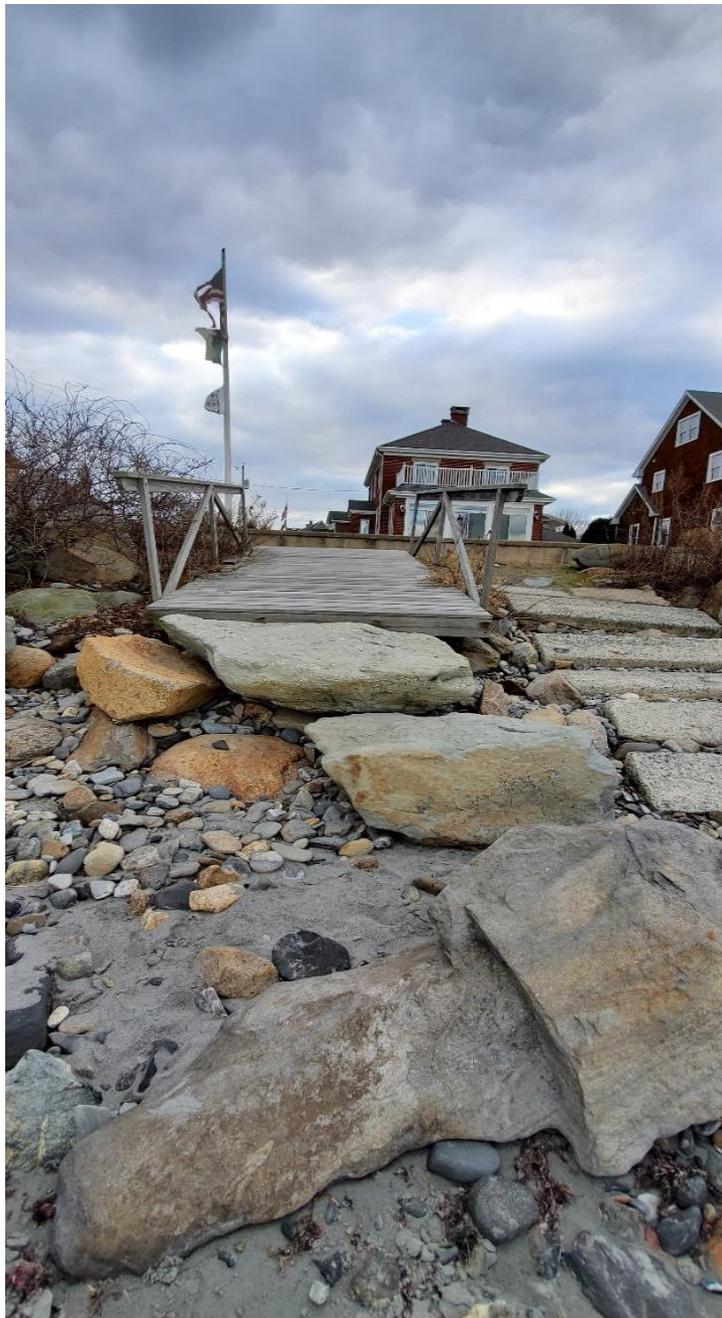
- A. Community Center Rental - I have been asked by a couple people about rental of the Community Center. I have advised all that we are still not allowing rentals (due to the pandemic) but that this may change in the coming weeks. I have been asked to look into what the current state guidelines are regarding gatherings as well as costs that may be associated with doing so. I will begin to look into this in the next few days.
- B. Little Beach – I was asked to review information relative to the proposal to clean seaweed at Little Beach and to gather whatever information I could about the renting/leasing of trucks and equipment. One of the first things I did was to contact the District’s Insurer (RIIRMT) to ask questions about the district hiring private individuals to operate rented or purchased equipment. It was made clear that this was NOT a good idea as the district would have NO insurance coverage for individuals who were “non-employees”. Accordingly, I looked into other options and have presented a thorough report of my findings to the committee.
- C. Land Trust Trails – I was asked if I could provide the Land Trust with aerial footage (video & pictures) to use in their discussions of developing possible hiking trails. I flew the property (via drone) and have presented the committee with photos and video to assist in their discussions.

3. Programs

- A. Summer Camp – I have begun looking into the possibility of having camp this summer. I have contacted all past staff to inquire about their return status. I have been advised that our Camp Director will *not* be able to return this summer so finding a new Director will be a priority, especially with all the extra planning that will be necessary. It will also be imperative that we have a strong Director so we can provide a program that will be safe for attendees and staff. I have reached out to a few people and continue to look for referrals. I will be spending the coming days researching state regulations for gatherings and all necessary steps that will need to be taken.
- B. Yard Waste – Due to the fact we had several storms this winter and more residents are home now than in the past, we have decided to start the yard waste dumpster program a week early. This will not only allow residents to get an earlier start on yard clean up but will also hopefully lessen the load that is typically received the first clean-up day in May. The yard dumpster will be at the Community Center beginning Saturday, April 24 and will run *every other* Saturday until November 13. Yard waste must be deposited between 7am-11am and may consist of small branches, grass clippings etc. Please do not leave anything outside of the dumpster.

As you can see, it’s been really busy over the last few weeks with every day routine matters in addition to all of the aforementioned. I believe this report covers the more substantive matters related to the district but if I have forgotten anything or should you need any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa DiBello, District Manager



Existing ramp and boulders – Little Beach “beachside”