

BONNET SHORES DISTRICT MANAGER - MONTHLY REPORT

August 2021

1. Administration –

A. Speeding/Accidents on Bonnet Point Road – As you may know, there were 3 incidents/accidents this past month on Bonnet Point Road near Old Town Trail. On 2 occasions a car left the roadway and both times ended up in the *same* yard. The 3rd incident just so happened to occur in front of this same yard when a dog was hit by a car. This incident was the result of the dog getting loose and running into the road and not related to any other road “issues”. The other 2 accidents may have involved factors such as speeding, obstructed views (from overgrown brush) and also the possible “errant” driving of one of the vehicle operators. As a result of these incidents and in an attempt to take every possible step to prevent any further incidents in this same area, I met with a couple of residents in this area as well as meeting with town officials to look into the matter. The result was:

1. Town DPW significantly cutting back both sides of Bonnet Point Road from Old Town back to the entrance fork.
2. Installation of an electronic speed sign on Bonnet Point Rd.
3. A request (which has gotten town support and is awaiting Town Council approval) for the installation of Stop signs on both sides of Old Town Trail to advise operators of the need to stop before proceeding onto or across Bonnet Point Road.
4. Increased speed patrols by the Narragansett PD.

All of these actions will significantly increase safety while reducing liability for all involved. It should be noted that the Narragansett DPW and Police Departments, were both **extremely** responsive and helpful in this matter.

B. Overgrown Brush/Private residences– I continue to work with the Narragansett DPW staff to address overgrown brush at various residences throughout the district. While many of the issues which have been reported have been addressed, there are still a few which need attention and which I will continue to monitor.

C. Watermain Break/Community Center - As you may know there was a water main break last Sunday at the Community Center. The break was in the garden area between the parking lot and building and as such was the responsibility of the Fire District to have repaired. I contacted Suez to notify them of the break and request that the water be shut off to stop the flooding and to allow for the needed repair work. Upon doing so it was discovered that the “stop” at the street had, for some unknown reason, been “split” so that it regulated the flow of water to both the Community Center building and the home at 118 Bonnet Shores Rd. As such, temporary measures had to be taken to allow for the occupants of 118 to have water which was made possible thanks to the cooperation of the owner of 120 BSR. I contacted Carol (BSFD Chair) as well as Phil Smith, both of whom responded immediately. Phil dug the area where the broken pipe was and also referred me to a commercial plumber who was available

to do the work needed the following day. The work was completed and the pipe has been repaired. The trench has been filled in and the only remaining work that is necessary will be to have a landscaper repair the damage done to the garden. It should also be noted that Suez water has begun the process of replacing the “stop” at the road so that the CC and 118 BSR will be able to be turned off *independently* in the future. The cost for the repairs needed to date total \$1,060 (without landscaping) which includes \$810 for the plumber and \$250 for Phil Smith. I would also note that some of the repair work done by the plumber included slight upgrades to the existing piping (since it was accessible) which will hopefully be beneficial going forward.

2. Facilities

A. Kelly Beach –

1. **Staffing** – It continues to be a struggle to maintain lifeguard coverage but we have been fortunate so far to not have any days where at least one guard wasn't on duty (the minimum required). This may change as staff start to return to school. If we do not have a guard on duty we have a banner to hang on the back of the lifeguard chair to advise that “No Lifeguard is on duty” and “Swimming is at your own risk”. On a positive note, I wanted to point out that the lifeguard training and drills we did a few weeks ago really paid off. Within days of doing drills for missing persons, water rescues, etc. we had 2 small children reported to be “missing” at the beach on 2 different occasions. I am happy to report on both occasions the children were located by Kelly Beach lifeguards in a timely and professional manner without incident to the missing child or parent! (according to compliments received!)

2. **Trash & Seaweed Removal** – As I noted in my last report, the cleaning of seaweed and removal of trash from Kelly Beach continues to be a challenge as a result of the “channel” flowing between the BSBC and Kelly Beach. As a result we have experienced some delays in getting the beach cleaned but the staff of the BSBC have been very helpful in getting the job done. For those who may not be aware, the problem we are now experiencing is a result of our being unable to “close” the channel (as we have done for many years prior) as a result of a complaint filed that was filed with CRMC. This has now caused significant hardship and in my opinion has also created what I would consider a “safety issue”. When the stream is flowing it “dumps” into the ocean right where people swim. The water from the pond is high in fecal coliform (due to animals, fish, etc.) and combined with high temps creates a water quality issue. We are fortunate that water tests have not shown bacteria counts that reach the level requiring closure of the swimming areas, but it is definitely a possibility during the summer if the water continually flows. I will continue to monitor the situation and advise accordingly.

B. Little Beach –

1. **Seaweed Removal** – I continue to work with Bob Barber to coordinate the removal of seaweed from Little Beach. Bob and I are in daily contact to determine if cleaning is warranted and so far it seems to be working as I have not had a single complaint about seaweed accumulating, rotting or smelling (as compared to previous years). Bob is contracted to clean through Labor day and I will continue to work with him in this regard.

2. New Stairs – Thanks to Phil Smith (and a grant by the RI Interlocal Trust) the long-awaited new stair case has been built at Little Beach. To say that people are very happy with the stairs would be an understatement! I have heard from a number of people to thank us for the stairs and compliment what a nice addition they are. As usual, the district owes Phil a large debt of thanks!

3. Parking issue – I was notified by the Chair yesterday that she has received complaints about the number of cars parking along the road adjacent to Little Beach. As a result, Carol asked that I have boulders placed along the roadside and install “No Parking” signs. I met Bob Barber this morning and the boulders have now been placed. I will purchase and install “No Parking” signs as soon as possible and will put up “temporary” signs in the meantime.

C. The Battery –

As discussed at the July meeting, I contacted the company that cleared the new trail at the Community Center to get a quote to clear the overgrown brush at “The Battery”. I met the owner (Cole) to look at the area and determine the scope of the work. There is quite a bit of overgrowth due to the fact that the residents who used to maintain the area moved a few years ago and I don’t believe any maintenance has been done since they left. The quote I received is for \$1,150. It is my understanding this matter is on your agenda for discussion and possible approval. If approved, I will coordinate with the landscaper to get the job done as soon as possible.

D. General Maintenance in the District – Due to length of this report I will limit my comments on “general maintenance” in the district but would like to note that I will be presenting the council with a proposal in the coming months to consider hiring a part time person to assist with “District Maintenance”. As many of you know, currently we rely on volunteer labor (Phil) for many matters related to maintenance. While Phil Smith has been incredibly helpful, his time is limited not to mention I believe there reaches a point where it’s not reasonable or fair to expect a volunteer to handle the work load. I believe it may be time to consider hiring someone on a part time basis (with an emphasis on summer) to handle the ongoing repairs, preventative work, emergencies, etc. that arise throughout the district. There are not only routine/ongoing “issues” (ie. KBBowdwalk upkeep, lifeguard chair repair, sign installs & replacements, but also general maintenance throughout the district including things like upkeep of “open” spaces such as the Battery, ballfield, islands, etc. The community center is badly in need of work to clear the overgrown playground and volleyball court, benches are rotted/broken (throughout the district and “memorial owners” do not upkeep them) and **many** other maintenance issues including weeding/trimming, mowing and landscaping, upkeep of Camden dock/phragmites clean up, upkeep of the entrance fork and signs, and the list goes on and on. In the next few months I plan to prepare a detailed list of all of the tasks that can and/or should be done and present it to the council to consider for next summer. The bottom line is Bonnet Shores is a beautiful place to live and I personally feel we could do a MUCH better job in having it look its best.

Programs –

As you may know we did not have camp this summer due to the pandemic. It was decided that because of this we would try to have a few programs where children and families could participate, however, because of the new concerns relative to the “Delta” virus, we are limited on what activities or programs

could be held as most would need to be outdoors to protect unvaccinated children. We have had a few new programs with those held this month included in the following...

A. Swim Lessons – We recently concluded our first ever “Swim Lessons at Kelly Beach”. I am very happy to report that the program was a big success. All sessions were full and those who participated seemed to enjoy the program. Thanks goes to 2 of our lifeguards, London Armitage and Bobby Rondeau who led the program!

B. Yard Sale – The Annual Yard Sale was held on Saturday, July 24th and was also a big success! We ended up with over 40 participants! I noted the high traffic on that day which hopefully resulted in good sales for those involved.

C. Bulky Clean Up -The Annual Bulky Clean-up was held Saturday, July 31. It was reported that “a large amount” of trash was removed. MEGA did miss one street (Clara Lane) but upon my contacting them they returned within a few days to collect the items left.

D. Scavenger Hunt – This is a new program which started this week and from the early reviews seems to be a big hit! One comment received just last night said “Thank you for a wonderful time! We had an absolutely great time and learned SO much about the area that we never would have known. All our kids said it was the best day of our two week vacation! It was so organized and thoughtfully planned. We hope to continue this tradition every summer!!! Teams (consisting of children, adults, & seniors!) travel to various locations throughout the district to find hidden “letters” which they use to solve a word puzzle. There are also fun Trivia questions involving “Bonnet History” (which thanks to Lee Listro and Janice McClanaghan) have stumped some while taking others down “memory lane”! Lastly, there are “Photo Challenges” which require teams to take creative team photos at various locations which have resulted in some **very** entertaining photos being submitted! [NOTE: of course had I known the ONE TIME A YEAR the pumping station is emptied is THIS WEEK, I would not have used this as a location but will say people have taken it in stride as noted by one of the team photos submitted - see attached!] I am hoping to be able to share other participant photos at the completion of the program for all to enjoy. The Scavenger Hunt is currently running now through Labor Day with teams selecting one day during this time to participate (for safety to limit possible crowding at locations). Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event. Anyone interested in participating or learning more about this fun program should visit the website, which thanks to Joe Ianucci, there is a separate page just for Scavenger Hunt general info, rules, and registration form. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD...I'd love to have a big turn out as the program took quite a bit of work and is one I think everyone would enjoy!

As you can see it continues to be REALLY busy in Bonnet. I believe I have covered the more substantive matters 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

