

Meeting Recording:

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Bonnet Shores Fire District Little Beach Committee Meeting

Place: Virtual Technology via Zoom

Date: Wednesday September 24, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Summary and Minutes

Attendees: Janice McClanaghan, Anita, Langer, Marlene Bellini, Bill DelGizzo, Anthony Salvatore(arrived late)

Janice opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Committee makeup:

Janice began with a discussion of the makeup of the committee. In order to follow Open Meeting laws, the committee will always meet either on Zoom or at the community center with proper notification to the district members. After some discussion and opinions from Anita, Bill and Marlene, it was decided that the committee members would be **Janice McClanaghan, Anita Langer, Marlene Bellini, Bill DelGizzo and Anthony Salvatore**. All other members of the district would be volunteers and are strongly encouraged to participate in discussion and provide input and expertise. It was decided that there would be discussion after each agenda item and that questions from the public would be answered (different from the actions of the council wherein only comments are accepted). Open discussion and input are encouraged and it is very important that this be a community led project and support.

Janice reminded everyone of the time restraints with CRMC. They are traditionally slow to issue their rulings and all of what we want to do must be approved and must receive an assent from CRMC. It will be important to obtain solid prices from the contractor (Harry) to clean the beach as soon as possible but certainly no later than the end of 2020 in order to go before the council for its blessing and in order to go to CRMC for the necessary permits.

There was also a discussion about how to identify this committee. After much discussion it was determined it will be called Little Beach committee and will be a line item under the Beach Committee along with a line item for Kelly Beach on the Budget. Bill stated that there must be transparency for the residents to see that the dollars budgeted for either Little Beach or Kelly Beach are not co-mingled.

Comments: Carolyn DiLeo reminded the committee that Dr. King proposed to begin Phase 1 this fall with part of the study and that funds should be allocated to allow for this process.

Grants investigations:

Bill DelGizzo has been touch with Senator Whitehouse's office and has been assigned a point person for these types of projects.

Jeff Renzi (former Bonnet resident) with 30 years of experience working with grants has been in touch with Dr. King and Wenley Ferguson both of whom he will follow up this next week to further talk about grant opportunities.

Dr. King has started a study for the town and also looked at Little Beach in order to show us what the first phase will look like.

Mary Flynn has been in touch with Deluca from the Town of Narragansett to set up a meeting at Little Beach and determine if there are funds available from the town.

Bill also indicated that it is likely that the district will also need to fund some of improvements.

Bill also asked Janice to put Little Beach on the Council meeting in October to see if surplus \$ are available. It's possible that with funds having been saved this year from the furlough of the district manager that we can allocate those funds to Dr. King.

Bill has also spoken to several residents at Little Beach. One resident, Walter Manning, is building in the area and has plans in place to remove most of power lines that will be buried under ground which will afford us a huge advantage if we move forward with plans to enlarge the beach. Other residents expressed enthusiasm and hope that we will do more than just clean Little Beach.

There was also discussion about possible confusion about phases in this plan. Dr. King's study has four phases

1. Baseline studies
2. Develop and Evaluate Conceptual Alternative engineering plans for the study area
3. Develop a conceptual shoreline architectural plan
4. Developing an engineering and landscape plan and permitting

But the Fire District plan will be to

1. Clean Little Beach beginning in May
2. Begin Phase 1 of URI plan
3. Modeling to determine what can be done
4. Evaluate what can be done

It is possible that the Fire District plan 1. And 2 can be done simultaneously (#2 in part)

Janice reminded everyone that what's important for May is have \$ formalized for

1. Budget 2021
2. \$ available for summer beach clean up

There was a comment from Janice that some of the budget must go to annual meeting. Bill responded that's not true except if you want to kill the project. There is no need to put any of this at the annual meeting. The process includes Budget workshops and open discussion from the public, the council approves the budget. . For example, prior expenditures for Little Beach dredging, trash cans, laws suits, etc. were not approved at the annual meeting. It's a myth. The only budget to be approved by the annual meeting is the Land Trust budget.

Anita commented let's not confuse items. It's the Dr. King's phases and the Little Beach phases. Two distinct phases. How much do we need to allocate for this clean up and how much for Kelly Beach. We have a fixed cost from the Beach club of \$6500 for ten years. One is more complicated than the other as it involves more issues.

Mike Tortalani has given Janice a copy of a disc from hurricane Sandy and Bob which she will pass on to Bill.

Janice brought up another concern. Some of the houses along Colonel John may have deeds up to high property line. Anita said she checked the records and found none so far but even if they did, a 1977 law by the state takes precedence. The attorney informed us that law states that all roads are public highways so the issue would be moot.

Ramp issues:

This is a two sided issue. The right side(dingy side) is less problematic and appears that adaptations can be made to accommodate the heavy equipment. The left side (beach side) is a bigger problem. After multiple conversations with CRMC will not permit the pouring of concrete to extend the ramp and the rocks cannot be moved and replaced each time cleaning is to be done. We might be able to run slabs along the wall or makeshift slabs with crushed stone. Still need more ideas and study to come up with solution. It was suggested that we ask Manning for his thoughts. Tom Lonergan suggested that perhaps they could build up the sand on the side of the current ramp and then remove when done and that was considered as a possibility. Janice said Harry's equipment did not have that capability.

Seaweed disposal

Anthony did extensive research and the equipment to remove it is currently owned by Harry. .The contractor(Harry) has 30 years of experience in this area and wants the public to understand that it will never be a pristine beach. That is not the nature of the area. Bill would also like to hear from Phil since he has been doing this job for several years. The problem still remains where it will be dumped. It is not

practical to put at community center. In prior years, Casey Farm has taken but they no longer want it. Anthony got a price to take to the dump of 6 cents per pound but it's hard to calculate actual cost.

Kathy Daly asked about Kelly Beach but it was explained that they dump up by the dunes which is away from the water line. We can't bury on our beach as there is no room away from the waterline and it will only resurface.

Janice asked Marlene to call around to the farms to ask about taking our seaweed. Marlene had spoken with URI and the problem seems to be that the seaweed has salt and sand mixed in which makes it unusable.

Bill is concerned that we are putting up roadblocks to cleaning the beach which will result in doing nothing. If we clean as often as possible it will be smaller amounts and that should be easier to remove.

Carolyn DiLeo suggested we put at community center during May, June, July closest to URI border. The smell might not disturb neighbors. Janice will look into that option but wet seaweed weights 10 times more than dry and it still smells.

John Rizzo called Shartner Farms during the meeting and they will take the seaweed. A 10 wheeler, 35,000 lbs for \$35. Janice asked Marlene to follow up on this.

Marlene sent an email to RI Farm Bureau to get their input.

Anita asked the cost for Harry to clean the beach. At this time, the cost is \$15,000 for the season but that is daily clean up and because of tides, our job would be fewer times so Janice is asking for an adjusted cost. The question also was raised how we will get seaweed into a 10 wheeler. Bill thought Phil could probably do.

Anita recapped this discussion with the following to try to solve the problem for 2021. Our goal is to:

1. Get the seaweed off the beach
2. Get it into a 10 wheeler
3. Find someone to take it away.

There were no more questions or comments from the public.

The next meeting is October 14, 2020 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn DiLeo