

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eYaYtVT8TMkfry662Zf_4rkUiNrGuAVykENnEYRy2C6ljjM2KLWwAjr_ghao7fm.BrpbAMn3Sx2wFqYC

Bonnet Shores Fire District Little Beach Committee

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

7 pm

Attendees: Janice McClanaghan, Marlene Bellini, Anita Langer, Bill DelGizzo (joined meeting after approval of minutes)

Janice called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Janice asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the September 2, 2020 and September 24, 2020 meetings. Anita made the motion and Marlene seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

1. Update on Grant Investigations

Bill spoke with Senator Whitehouse's office (Karen Bradbury) who has contacted Dr. King and Wenley Ferguson. They have looked at several sources for grants and will bundle us up to be able to make it easier to receive funding. Everyone agrees that it is important that the district be supportive of this project.

Mary Flynn reported that she and Bill met with Mike DeLuca from the Town and he also strongly recommended that we complete the Dr. Flynn study. He also emphasized the need to send out a short survey to all residents to determine level of interest and support. The Town would be supportive of such a project if Fire District showed a financial commitment. Mary also will try to determine what was spent by town to repair damage from Hurricane Sandy as another reason to prevent similar damage in the future.

Janice asked what type of survey to whom it would be sent. Mary described that it would be a few questions. Carolyn and Mary Flynn will work on a survey and have ready no later than the next meeting. It is likely that a service such as Survey Monkey will be used. Jeff Renzi also volunteered so Bill asked that Mary, Carolyn and Jeff work on the survey. Bill will also have Karen Bradbury attend the next meeting to speak about what the Senator's office is doing for us. Bill also recommended that at next week's council meeting, the council members should begin to look at this issue seriously.

2. Surf Rake proposal

Janice has attempted on numerous occasions to contact and meet with Harry regarding a proposal to clean the beach in 2021. She finally received a quote just moments before this meeting. The sparse details:

May 1-Sept. 15 for 138 days, cost to be \$24,840 (\$180 per day)

Janice believes this is much higher than necessary as there are more days than can be raked and she will follow up with him.

3. Ramp issues

Janice spoke with Phil and they have re-looked at the area. CRMC's recommendation will not work and in order to evaluate this further we need to know if Harry's equipment requires a 5%, 20% or 40% grade. We will need to have an engineer look at the area.

She has also asked Phil to look into a lease for a tractor. Anthony had previously received information from a landscaper. A future meeting will be scheduled with Phil and Harry.

4. Seaweed disposal

Marlene reported that she has contact four people:

- a. Heidi Quinn from RI Farm Bureau. Heidi had several questions such as must they pick up or will we deliver. Their BOD is comprised of farmers and their next meeting is next week
- b. Earth Care Farms, Charlestown. They will take at no cost but we must deliver. It must be free of little and inorganic material or they will refuse. They also suggested we contact Narragansett Public Works as they often deliver some of their seaweed to the farm.
- c. Lindy at Casey Farm will accept but we must deliver. They asked for estimate of amount but at this time, we don't know.
- d. Jeff at Shartner Farms- They do composting so will accept at a cost based on size of dump truck.

All are aware we are still in the investigation stage.

Janice asked Harry about amount of seaweed dumpster holds. He estimates that a 12 yd. dumpster holds 15 tons. Based on his experience with our beach, he thought it would be okay and didn't see trash.

Janice and Bill talked about how we will move the seaweed each day it is raked and that \$ need to be figured into the budget. There could be several options, neighbors' landscapers, renting a dump truck, finding a licensed driver and perhaps asking Walter Manning for his thoughts.

Anita suggested that while we may not get this all right the first season, there are clearly several options open to use and we will use the bumps in the road to learn along the way. We ruled out Phil digging a hole as not feasible.

5. Budgeting

It is important to think about how to propose to the council. Time is of the essence as CRMC approvals must be received before any work can be done. The committee was reminded that just as we take care of the harbor, we need to take care of Little Beach. In addition to cleaning the beach which is the #1 priority, we must look at the longer term goal. Both should get off the ground at the same time.

Bill reminded everyone that grants usually require matching \$ so we need to get the council on board. The Study is important to document whats there, currents, sandbar, shoreline, and seaweed beds. The study will also do modeling which will tell us what would happen if we do or do not move forward. He said real estate values along CIG exceed \$35 million so information is

not wasted. Granting agencies like infrastructure and FEMA, State EMA look at areas of the state that are threatened by sea level rise and will grant money to study infrastructure changes to protect those areas. It's important to understand that the Senator's office gets answers and they are very responsive and have signed on to help Bonnet Shores get grant \$.

It was suggested that we ask the Council to agree to an amount to begin the process but it was felt we do not know enough yet and that the Survey is critical to getting this information. So a request to ask the Council to agree to send out the survey will be done.

It is also critical that there be a Council meeting next week to air all of these issues and to determine where the council stands on this project.

Several members agreed that there needs to be a meeting on the 21st of October so that it can be opened up to the Community to ask questions and express their concerns.

Janice asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none so the next meeting is scheduled for October 28 at 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn DiLeo