

Bonnet Shores Fire District
Little Beach meeting 11/11/20
Via Zoom 22 participants

Here is the link.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kGyBEdBausddTGL1II6_R_G7IEOy-6BcejQ6SQVYI98doagd6a6Wb0Gq4NA1SRFM.1p-2waH2BhYzAhL2

Attendees: Janice McClanaghan, Anita Langer, Marlene Bellini, Bill DelGizzo, Anthony Salvatore

Janice called the meeting to order at 7 pm

Janice asked for approval of the minutes for the 10/14/20 meeting. She had one correction. The surf rake proposal is \$180/day not \$174/day as stated.

Motion to accept as amended made by Anita, seconded by Marlene. All approved.

Janice asked that the committee appoint Carolyn DiLeo, Secretary for the Committee.

Anita made the motion to appoint Carolyn Secretary to the committee, Marlene seconded. All approved.

Janice moved up an agenda item due to constraints on Steve Ryder's time:

Discussion of process for survey monkey distribution:

Steve Ryder and Jeff are investigating various options for the distribution of the survey. Jeff has spoken with Survey Monkey. There are a couple of plan options. The free option has too many restrictions but their Flex Plan with a monthly cost of \$19 based on the parameters we require will work. Since this is a monthly plan, the plan can be discontinued at any time with no penalty. If we decide to do only one survey within 30 days, the total cost will be \$19. There is some question whether we can distribute the amount of surveys necessary and Jeff will double check the max allowed. Steve asked for a copy of the survey and Janice will forward to him as soon as it is approved by the committee.

Steve Ryder checked on Mail Chimp as they provide a survey feature along with SoGo Survey. The committee will leave it to them to choose the best vehicle for the survey.

Update on grant investigations regarding studies:

Jeff filled us in on what's happening at Senator Whitehouse's office who has contacted Melinda Hopkins, State Mitigation Officer at R.I. Environmental Management Agency. She is reviewing our initial proposal and the potential eligibility under FEMA grants.

Update on surf rake proposal/alternatives:

Janice has spoken with Barber Rakes to inquire about leasing equipment or the purchase of used equipment. At this time, neither is an option. In addition, the sales rep informed Janice that their equipment will not work for our needs and referred her to a contractor: John Peckam. After conversation with him and after he looked at the job, he informed her that he would not do the work and suggested raking by hand. Janice has been in conversation with M & S Landscaping (he does work in

Bonnet and is familiar with the beach). His initial proposal is for 9 clean ups at a cost of \$18,000. The timing of the clean ups is flexible. He is not sure it will all work but he is willing to work with us. He will rake the beach, and take it away. The advantages of working with a landscaper are the following:

1. No CRMC assents needed
2. No ramp costs
3. No dumping fees
4. No truck costs
5. No concerns about material in the seaweed.

We may also be able to defray some of his costs if we use our back hoe to help him reduce time it takes to do the job.

Janice is also still trying to get a response from Harry with firm prices and to modify his estimate. She has done an analysis of the tide schedule and it is unlikely Harry's original estimate makes sense. His quote was \$24,840 or \$180/day but with the tide and limitations, this is becoming all the more unrealistic. Janice and Anthony agree that he may not want to do the job and is avoiding us.

At this rate M & S Landscaping is looking better. Many of the costs we would need to incur will drive the price higher. In addition, Phil is looking into a newer tractor, another added cost.

Anthony said it might end up costing more as his quote is for only 9 clean ups and as Bill pointed out that may not be sufficient. Our goal is to do a regular cleaning. The dates and number of clean ups may vary but the aim, as Anita mentioned is to do it more like twice a month during June, July and August. The actual cost could end up at \$28,000. It's possible to limit time frame to late May through Labor Day which may reduce this price.

Carolyn DiLeo remarked that we knew it was going to be trial and error this year and that M & S may give us an opportunity to do just that without worrying about so many of the other issues and additional costs. If we look at the added costs we were to incur to modify ramp, dump the seaweed, trucking costs, etc., M & S price may be more reasonable. Marlene agreed and thinks this will get us started.

Bill reminded the committee that we must ask the 2000 taxpayers what they want. The decision cannot be made based on this committee of five. They taxpayers are entitled to voice their wants. We need to give them guidelines, cost to do what has been proposed v the district doing it. Bill also said we should put this job out for bid just as any other municipality would do. . The bid must be more specific to ensure that the contractor doesn't walk away after 1st time. Janice, Bill and Anita suggested that we go out to bid with other landscapers and that Janice agreed that she will work on an RFP.

Update on ramp issues:

Definitely a problem without modifications but no further discussion at this meeting.

Budgeting for 2021 seaweed cleanup:

Do not have firm numbers yet. Will wait till bids come in and have more information to work with.

Review, and edit survey for distribution:

The committee reviewed the survey that had been sent to them and several suggestions were made for changes. It was determined that this survey would look for a response from approximately 800 residents and would focus on the long term issues at Little Beach. It was noted that residents are interested in what will be done about seaweed in 2021 so an opening statement will clarify that the district is determined to find a way to clean the beach regularly but Marlene is not sure that it is sufficient. The committee wants the residents to voice the opinion on the future of Little Beach and that this is the purpose of this survey. It will be distributed as soon as possible with a 10 day turnaround.

Steve and Jeff will work together to determine which survey tool best meets our need. Each household will be given a unique identifier so that the final results are clean of duplications.

Motion made by Anita, seconded by Bill to approve the document with some minor changes. Janice, Bill, Anita, Anthony voted Yes, Marlene voted No.

There being no comments from the public, Anita made a motion to adjourn and Marlene seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Carolyn DiLeo
Secretary