

## **Bonnet Shores Fire District**

*Working Meeting: Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2021  
9:30am*

*Bonnet Shores Community Center – 130 Bonnet Shores Road Narragansett, RI*

### **Call To Order**

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 8:41am. Council members in attendance included: Chair Carol O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Anthony DeAngelis, Robert Anderson, Steve Danuszar and Bill DelGizzo. Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Additional present were Past Chairs Janice McClanahan and Lenny Mercier, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

- A. BSFD & Counsel clarification – Past Chairs to speak.  
Janice McClanahan opined possible difficulties facing the current BSFD council members, such as career demands, stigma in the community attached to serving on committees – it is agreed by all that council members remain committee chairs per the by laws. She recommends having a group put together to bid and review the upcoming trash contract, and to review BSFD manager's contract by November 15, 2021. It is agreed an executive session is necessary for the manager's contract review.  
There is a discussion about combining trash and maintenance, making maintenance a budgeted item, developing reserve budgets for maintenance items, why this structure is not already in place, and looking into maintenance contracts. There is discussion about issues with community participation on committees. Lenny Mercier discusses volunteer hesitation due to possible feelings of frustration at the pace of progress, the social environment of being a volunteer, and the need to have opinions heard.  
There is a lively discussion about issues insighted by threads on Facebook. There is an incident in the audience between Paula Childs and Matt Mannix regarding personal space.
- B. The deadline for committee response is agreed on October 2, 2021. C.DiLeo makes a motion to eblast for committee participation with the deadline, R. Anderson seconds, motion passes 7-0.
- C. Clarification of Committees  
L. Mercier discusses the importance of keeping committee inclusion and interest simple. There is a discussion about committee size, and weather it should be five or seven members, and how best to diversify. There is a discussion about leaving personal bias out of committee participation, and also how to use zoom to increase community participation. R. Anderson makes a motion to set the committee size at seven people, C. DiLeo seconds, unanimously approved 7-0.  
It is agreed any over subscribed committees will come before the council for discussion, where the committee chair will make a recommendation with a justification for each

individual they suggest for inclusion. There is a discussion about how anyone who attends committee meetings has power through participation.

C.O'Donnell discusses an ethics issue brought to her attention about her being the liaison for the BSBC committee because she is an owner. It is agreed A. DeAngelis will assume the role.

There is a discussion about Beach/ Pond/ Land Trust. The purpose of the Land Trust is to hold green space without taxation. L. Mercier discusses his opinion that there was no additional liability with the BSFD acquisition of ponds from the Audubon Society. There is a discussion about how the Beach & Pond committee will work with the Land Trust, how B. DelGizzo's role as liaison to Land Trust will function. There is a discussion about the two committees formed under the Land Trust – Land Acquisition Committee and Wesquage/ Pond/ Watershed Oversight Committee to work in conjunction with the district. There is a discussion about how the Land Trust is funded through the council and the annual meeting.

There is a discussion and an agreement that Little Beach/ Pond will be chaired by B. DelGizzo. Kelly Beach will remain a BSFD manager item with support from the council. Public Works committee to review the trash contract.

Communications – no changes. Discussion about committee statement of intent.

History & Documents – no changes.

Social & Beautification – no changes. Discussion about using surveys to see what events the community would like. Laurie McCarthy discusses funding social events at the beginning of each year. There is a discussion about the importance of social events.

Finance – no changes.

Harbor – There is a discussion about the possibility of Carol chairing the Harbor committee, TBD.

ByLaws – Add operations manual, review & update documents & ordinances. Voting amendments pending court rule.

Trash/ Maintenance – manager to handle, also going under roads.

M. Bellini makes a motion to accept all chairs as noted, with the exception of waiting on clarification on the Harbor committee, second by A.DeAngelis, motion passes 6-1 with B. DelGizzo opposed.

### **Adjournment**

C. O'Donnell made motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18am, seconded by M. Bellini, passes 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk