

# BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, July 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Pier Middle School So. Pier Rd. Narragansett, RI

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

- A. Meeting was called to order by Moderator, Ray LaBelle at 7:30 p.m. In attendance: Council Chair, Lenny Mercier; Council members: Janice McClanaghan, Matt Mannix, Mary McGinn, John Pariseault; Tax Collector, Helen Patience; Treasurer, Natalie McDonald; District Manager, Erin Rooney; Harbormaster, Mike Tortolani; and Clerk, Carole Duffy.
- B. *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited and a moment of silence was observed for deceased Bonnet Shores' residents and the men and women in our Armed Forces.
- M. Mannix offered a brief memorial for Doris Baris and Marybeth Holland.

### II. Proper Notice and Quorum Attested To

- A. Clerk Duffy responded affirmatively

### III. Ratification of 2010 Annual Meeting minutes

- A. The Assembly ratified the minutes with no discussion.

### IV. Nominating Committee Report

- A. Committee Chair, Donna Monaghan, recognized the members of the Committee (Bill Dickinson, Bruce Fournier, Steve McCooey, Janice McClanaghan, Mary McGinn and George Vine). D. Monaghan then presented the following slate of officers for 2011-2012: **Council** – 3 yr. term: Paul Farley, Lenny Mercier, & Natalie McDonald; 2 yr term: Terry Fracassa; **Land Trust** – 3 yr. term Ray LaBelle; **Moderator**, Ray LaBelle; **Clerk**, Carole Duffy; **Tax Collector**, Helen Patience; **Treasurer**, Mary McGinn; **Fire Wardens**, Donna Gunning and Gerry Morisseau; **Tax Assessors**, Roz Thomas, Marion Donnelly and Maryanne Vine.
- B. Nominations from the floor for regular officers... There were **no** nominations from the floor; therefore, the Moderator asked the Clerk to cast **one vote** for the unopposed slate of candidates.

### V. Nomination of Taxpayers to Serve on Nominating Committee ( 5 needed)

Terry Duffy, Diane Golini, Mimmy Logee, Ray Mello, Donna Monaghan, Steve McCooey, & Daniel Rigney, Jr.

### VI. By-Law Amendments

- A. M. Mannix explained the rationale for the proposed By-Law Amendment. (Article I, Sect.1) See attached rationale and ballot

### VII. Ballot Vote

- A. District Officers (These ballots did not need to be submitted as there was no opposition.) Nominating Committee Members and By-Law Amendment

### VIII. Tax Collector

- A. Helen Patience reported: total assessment: \$530,189,500; assessments abated: - \$6,702,700; total taxable assessments: \$523,486,800; total collectable taxes- \$245,888.00. The Assembly accepted the report; see attached.

## IX. Treasurer

- A. Natalie McDonald reported for the 10 months ending April 30, 2011: total revenue: \$281,000 approximately 87% is tax revenue; tax dollars expended this year...55% trash; 10% beach maintenance and lifeguards; 35% legal, insurance, etc... Summer camp, harbor and social activities pay for themselves. The most significant expenditure for this year was the dredging at Little Beach @ \$22,500 which was half of the anticipated cost. Surplus of \$14,000 and undesignated cash balance of \$62,000 along with designated fund reserve balances of \$60,000. For the future: no tax increase and the 2011-2012 budget was attached to the spring Newsletter. The Assembly accepted the report; see attached.

## X. Ratification of Compensation

- A. **Motion** was made and seconded to accept the following rates of pay: Tax Collector (\$5000); Treasurer (\$3500); and Clerk (\$3000). **Discussion:** none. **Motion** passed.

## XI. Land Trust Report

- A. Land Trust Chair, Terry Duffy, reported that the Land Trust acquired lots from three families: Archambeault's, Mancini's, and the Trust of Mary Mowry. **Motion** made was to allocate \$1500 for the Land Trust for 2011-2012; 2<sup>nd</sup>; **no discussion; Motion** passed.

## XII. State of the District Report

Council Chair, Lenny Mercier, thanked fellow Council members, members of various Committees, and residents who volunteered to work on various events and projects with the overall results... a great year for Bonnet Shores.

### A. Financial

- For 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, the Council has been able to maintain services with no tax increases acknowledging ongoing fiscal constraints in RI.
- We have negotiated a new trash pickup contract maintaining same fixed costs while keeping the same quality of service
- Community Center facelift: fresh coat of interior paint, new floor finish, an addition of a flat screen TV along with a security cabinet built by resident volunteer, Larry Marcella. Larry, also, had a hand in up grading the various bulletin boards throughout the district. His efforts are greatly appreciated.
- Our backhoe/tractor allows us to undertake more of our own projects on an as needed basis; such as: raking and removal of large amounts of seaweed at Little Beach and clearing snow around hydrants in the winter. Thanks to volunteer, Phil Smith.

### B. Environmental

- Many residents volunteered on Earth Day to collect litter from our streets and beaches and Council member, John Pariseault, spearheaded a monthly overall cleanup of the district

- Members of Beautification Committee & Land Trust cleaned, replanted, and mulched our common areas to provide eye pleasing flower gardens.
- Members of the Harbor Committee oversaw the dredging project which allows boats to use the dock during all tide levels.
- There were upgrades to a few roads in Bonnet along with replacement of missing street signs. A three way stop signage was installed at Bonnet Pt. Rd. and Col. John Gardner. A “traffic calmer” consultant made a presentation to the Council about possible solutions to the ongoing pedestrian/car traffic issues. This discussion will continue in the fall.

#### C. Legal

- Members of the By-Laws Committee met throughout the year to review some identified Ordinances and By-Laws... Ordinance X (Harbor), Ordinance II (Parking), Ordinance VIII (Rentals) tabled and By-Law ... Annual Meeting date.

#### D. Social and Recreational

- Many events were planned and executed by the Social Committee. These included: the annual Holiday party, BSBC barbeque, game night, card playing, fall soiree, Don Bousquet, and more. Response from the community has been overwhelming; even more than anticipated in most instances.
- The Annual Bonnet Days event was planned and carried out by members of the Committee and by all accounts this year’s program was a huge success. Walkers, runners and especially the children look forward to this event which is much appreciated by all participants.
- Summer Camp is in full swing with the first session almost done and the second beginning on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, BSFD is extremely fortunate to have had the past, the present, and the future Council members who work tirelessly for everyone. Our District Manager, Erin Rooney, manages to keep things in order and running smoothly. Committee members and volunteers, who are also diligent, continuously strive to make our community better. Bonnet is a strong and wonderful community ... like no other. Thanks, to you all. Thanks, also, to our departing Council member, Lloyd Albert.

#### XIII: Old Business:

A. None

#### XIV: New Business

A. None

#### XV. Election Results... Clerk cast one vote

**Council:** Paul Farley, Natalie McDonald, Lenny Mercier, Terry Fracassa

**Moderator:** Ray LaBelle **Clerk:** Carole Duffy **Tax Assessors:** Roz Thomas, Marion Donnelly, Maryanne Vine **Fire Wardens:** Donna Gunning, Gerry Morisseau **Tax Collector:** Helen Patience **Treasurer:** Mary McGinn **Land Trust:** Ray LaBelle

**Nominating Committee:** \* denotes elected

\* Donna Monaghan (63) \* Terry Duffy (57) Daniel Rigney Jr (27)

\* Steve McCooey (55) \*Mimmy Logee (39); Ray Mello (34)

\*Diane Golini (45)

**Amendment Article I, Section 1** Yea-72 Nay- 10

XVI: Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> and Assembly voted unanimously in favor. 8:25p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Carole Duffy, Clerk

Minutes Ratified on

*Carole Duffy*

*[Signature]*

*June 28, 2012*



Bonnet Shores Fire District  
Annual Meeting – 7/21/11  
Treasurer's Report

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At the last annual meeting we voted to change the fiscal year from June 30 to April 30. Therefore it was a short 10 month (versus 12 month) reporting period. Therefore, this is the Treasurer's Report for the 10 months ended April 30, 2011.

We ended the 10 month period with a surplus of \$14,000, this surplus although unbudgeted was due to the shorter time period. The surplus was carried forward as available funds for this current year's budget

- Total revenue for the period was \$281,000, approximately 87% is tax revenue.
  - 55% is typically spent on trash pick up
  - 10% on beach maintenance and lifeguards
  - 35% on insurance, legal and general management of the district
  - Social activities and summer camp pay for themselves and do not consume tax dollars
  
- The most significant capital expenditure this past year was the dredging of Little Beach. The actual anticipated cost to dredge was budgeted at \$50,000, plus \$9,000 per year for the next 5 years to replace the required moorings with environmentally friendly moorings, council had decided to finance the cost over 5 years. After various bids were received, the dredge came in at almost half that anticipated - \$22,500, and the cost to replace the moorings at \$4500 per year rather than \$6000 per year. Rather than proceed with finance, the project was paid in full with now only the need to fund the replacement of the moorings over the next 5 years.
  
- The District ended the year with undesignated cash balances of \$62,000
  - we require at least this amount in our operating accounts at year-end to carry us through until we start receiving our tax revenue, around the second week in August
  
- Designated fund reserve balances totaled an additional \$60,000. The designated balances cover a variety of projects such as a harbor improvement fund, land trust, historical committee and capital fund balances.

**Looking ahead**, the council has put together this year's budget, which for your reference is published in the Summer Newsletter.

Tax revenue has been budgeted to remain the same, with no increase on prior year.

Capital Improvement in the coming year is budgeted at \$25,000 with four planned projects:

1. \$6,000 is budgeted to replace 4 moorings as part of the overall Little Beach dredging plan
2. \$9,500 is budgeted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 5 year lease commitment to purchase the John Deere Backhoe. Total purchase price of the backhoe will be \$47,400.
3. \$7,500 is budgeted for an extension of the existing garage at the community center. This extension will house the backhoe as well as provide some dry storage for documents, and
4. \$2,500 is budgeted for the purchase of a new mower deck for our existing John Deere tractor

This being my last Treasurer's Report for the foreseeable future, I'd like to say I have enjoyed this position and working with the existing council, I will work with the new Treasurer to ensure a smooth transition and I wish the new Treasurer all the best.

**Proposed By-Law Amendment: Change the Date of the Annual Meeting**

Requires: Amendment of Article I, Section 1

Current Version: “The annual meeting of the district shall be held on the **third Thursday of July** in each year at such hour and place within the town of Narragansett as shall be decided by the district council. In the event of the failure to hold said meeting at any time or for any cause any and all business which might have been transacted at such meeting may be transacted at the next succeeding meeting, whether special or annual.”

Proposed New Version: “The annual meeting of the district shall be held on the **last Thursday of June** each year at such hour and place within the town of Narragansett as shall be decided by the district council. In the event of the failure to hold said meeting at any time or for any cause any and all business which might have been transacted at such meeting may be transacted at the next succeeding meeting, whether special or annual.”

Rationale for Amendment:

In 1999, the Fire District moved the Annual Meeting from late June to early July with the goal of increasing attendance. However, this change has led to some unintended consequences. First, the Annual Meeting used to be a forum for residents and taxpayers to discuss their goals and provide recommendations for the summer season at the start of the season. With the meeting held in late July, those recommendations come too late, as the summer is already half-over. Second, the Annual Meeting precludes a July monthly meeting of the council, further reducing feedback regarding the summer from Bonnet residents. Finally, the recent change to the Fiscal Year was made as part of a two-step process – to change the fiscal year and the date of the Annual Meeting. With the fiscal year now ending on April 30, rather than June 30, it would better serve the community to have the Annual Meeting moved closer to the fiscal year end.

- The Fire District Council voted, 6-0, at its May 18, 2011 monthly meeting to forward this amendment to the voters for approval at the 2011 Annual Meeting



## 2010 By-Law Amendments

Amend Article VI, Section 1 to read:

“The fiscal year of the district shall end on the thirtieth day of April in each year.”

**APPROVE** 134 ✓

**REJECT** 3

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Proposed Amendment to Article III, Section 2:

“Section 2 (a). Ties. In the event that an election held for district council, district land trust, district nominating committee or for any other district office enumerated in Article III results in a tie vote, whereby two or more candidates each receive the same number of total votes at an Annual or Special Meeting of the district, the candidates with the same number of votes will partake in a game of chance to resolve the tie. The Clerk of the district shall oversee the game of chance. The winner of the game of chance shall win the election for that office and be seated in that office. The Clerk of the district shall provide the result of the game of chance in an addendum to the minutes of the Annual or Special Meeting.

In the event the election for the Clerk of the district results in a tie vote, the Moderator of the District shall oversee the game of chance to determine which candidate shall serve in the office of Clerk.”

**APPROVE** 103 ✓

**REJECT** 33

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Proposed Amendment to Article III, Section 2:

“Section 2 (b). Recounts. Any candidate for district council, district land trust, district nominating committee or for any of the district offices enumerated in Article III may request a recount of the votes cast for the office at an Annual or Special Meeting of the district. The candidate requesting the recount must make the recount request before the Annual or Special Meeting is adjourned. In response to the recount request, the Moderator of the district must conduct and oversee the recount before the Annual or Special Meeting is adjourned. The recount process shall take place in the following manner:

- (i) All candidates for the office being recounted may identify up to two (2) qualified voters of the district to participate in the recount
- (ii) These designated recount participants shall recount the ballots during the Annual or Special Meeting
- (iii) The Moderator shall not count or recount any ballots, but shall resolve any disputes
- (iv) The Moderator shall tally the results provided by the recount participants

The Moderator’s tally of the recounted ballots shall provide the official and final result for that office. The clerk shall include both the results of the original count and the results of any recount in the minutes of the Annual or Special Meeting.

If the election of the Moderator is being recounted or the Moderator is unable to perform the recount, the clerk of the district shall conduct and oversee the recount.”

**APPROVE** 106 ✓

**REJECT** 29