

## **Bonnet Shores Fire District**

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, August 15, 2018  
7:30 pm

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

Council Chair M. Vendetti called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. In attendance were council members Michael Vendetti, Janice McClanaghan, John Pariseault, Daniel Johnson, Christopher Mannix, Natalie McDonald and Anita Langer. Also in attendance were Treasurer Mary McGinn, Tax Collector Richard Mercier, Harbormaster Mike Tortolani and District Manager Lisa DiBello.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

M. Vendetti led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for members of the military.

#### **Urgent Business**

- J. McClanaghan made a motion, seconded by N. McDonald, to approve the building plans submitted for NR 796 (Sullivan). The property is on Brooklyn Road. The motion was approved, 6-0, with A. Langer abstaining.
- J. McClanaghan made a motion, seconded by A. Langer, to approve the building plans for 127 Colonel John Gardner Road (Pereira), subject to state and town approvals. The motion was approved, 6-0, with C. Mannix abstaining.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- A. Langer made a motion, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the July 18, 2018 BSFD Council meeting minutes, with a request for the addition of the section from p. 3 of the CRMC Preliminary Determination submitted by A. Langer, to the discussion on p. 4 of the July 18, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 6-0, with J. Pariseault abstaining.
- J. McClanaghan made a motion, seconded by C. Mannix, to approve the BSFD Council Organizational Meeting minutes of July 10, 2018. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Public Comment**

- Winnie Kelley inquired about the beach bus and whether it had air conditioning.
- Elaine Casey inquired about the status of the Road Safety and Public Works committee(s).
- Paula Childs inquired about the walkway and the possibility of merging the walkway and sewer projects.
- Steve Ryder asked about the possibility of a candidate forum because it was an election year. He indicated that a neighborhood candidate forum for Narragansett town council

candidates was being held in the fall (September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Narragansett Community Center).

- M. Carraccia asked about an update on the causeway project.
- N. Cordy asked about the posting of all BSFD meetings, including committee meetings. J. McClanaghan indicated that the bulletin board at the BSFD Community Center was the required location for posting of meetings.

#### Committee and Other Reports

*Beaches (J. McClanaghan):* Committee meeting was postponed until the Fall. The reason for the beach closure was the stagnant water and the increased heat. J. McClanaghan indicated her satisfaction with the increased presence from the Narragansett Police Department in Bonnet and the effectiveness of the beach security system.

*Social (A. Langer):* Cocktails on the Beach is scheduled for August 29, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The Christmas Party, to be held at Spain Restaurant, is still in the works.

*Pond (J. McClanaghan):* J. McClanaghan, C. Mannix and L. DiBello met with Mark House, the engineering consultant. The dredge of the pond, under the DEM grant, is scheduled for the end of November, subject to engineering consultant recommendations. The committee met with the consultant to discuss any possible amendment to the existing assent. J. McClanaghan indicated that water testing continued and that the window for dredging the pond lasts from mid-October to mid-January. J. Pariseault spoke to the progress report and recommendations from the engineering consultant the council is to receive and discuss prior to any dredging occurring. J. McClanaghan indicated that the consulting firm is still gathering information and testing prior to any dredging.

*Public Works (J. Pariseault):* The committee held an information-gathering meeting in August. The committee's focus is on safety. High, low and medium priority projects were discussed. P. Childs indicated her concern that the walkway was not a high-priority item. J. Pariseault indicated that the walkway is still an option along with many public safety options that the committee should consider. M. Vendetti stated that the seed money (\$60,000) for the walkway was taken out of the budget by the voters at the Annual Meeting and that the council should not behave "recklessly." He further stated that the attachment of the sewer project to the walkway is not a Fire District decision. Finally, the Public Works Committee will provide recommendations to the council in the future regarding safety concerns on Bonnet roads.

*Recreation (C. Mannix):* Camp is wrapping up. C. Mannix thanked L. DiBello, Courtney DuBois and Isabella Bellini for their work this summer with the camp.

*Treasurer (M. McGinn):* The due date for BSFD tax payments is September 15.

*Tax Collector (R. Mercier):* While the town had an average assessment increase of 8-10%, Bonnet's overall average increase was a bit lower (7-8%). Collections stand at 78%. The Special Council Meeting last July delayed the sending out of bills this year. R. Mercier also addressed the town's homestead exemption and its possible application to BSFD taxes. He

stated that he will be looking at the number of homestead properties, estimated at 215, and stated that he will explore the possible application of the homestead to BSFD taxes.

*Land Trust (L. Mercier):* The Land Trust met on August 7, 2018. It selected officers, including naming L. Mercier chair, who will now provide reports to the BSFD Council. He indicated that the Land Trust voted unanimously to withdraw the walkway application that had been submitted by the prior Land Trust to the Town Planning Board. He stated that any future application for a walkway should come from the BSFD Council, not the Land Trust. Nancy Cordy and Dave Stenmark questioned the withdrawal of the walkway application. D. Stenmark said the Land Trust could not vote to withdraw the walkway application because it violated the Open Meetings Act because it was not an agenda item. L. Mercier said he would place that item on the next Land Trust meeting agenda. L. Mercier also stated that Attorney Martha Day was reviewing the draft conservation easement(s) from the Audobon Society to determine whether the Land Trust should go through with the donations from the Audobon Society. He stated that the BSFD Council would ultimately have to approve any transfer of properties from the Audobon Society to the Bonnet Shores Land Trust. He indicated that the next Land Trust meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

*District Manager (L. DiBello):*

- If people or committees need the BSFD Community Center for a meeting, please contact the District Manager.
- Some residents have misplaced their beach passes.
- The Summer Camp went well.
- The pond dredge is moving forward.
- The Little Beach bulletin board has been replaced and is now available for posting of meetings.
- L. DiBello will soon receive traffic data from the Town Manager.
- L. DiBello will work with A. Langer regarding the microphones.

#### Old Business

- The council authorized L. DiBello to send out a letter regarding noise complaints.
- The council discussed the procurement manual. N. McDonald indicated that a working group should be formed to put the manual together and then propose a draft manual to the council. M. Vendetti asked N. McDonald, C. Mannix and A. Langer to work together on a procurement manual and report back to the council.
- A. Langer will follow up with L. DiBello regarding the microphones. Currently, \$800.00 is budgeted for microphone repair in the BSFD budget.

#### New Business

- J. McClanaghan indicated that an e-mail blast needed to go out for overgrown bushes and shrubs because of the safety concerns associated with them blocking drivers' views of the road and intersections.
- J. McClanaghan made a motion, seconded by N. McDonald, to approve the request by the Land Trust for \$500.00 to hire Attorney Martha Day to review conservation easement(s). L. Mercier indicated that the easement(s) are associated with the potential donations of real property from the Audobon Society to the Land Trust. M. Vendetti expressed

concerns about liability, which L. Mercier indicated that other land trustees shared. N. Cordy indicated that these donations were the result of ongoing discussions with the Audobon Society. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Executive Session

J. McClanaghan made a motion, seconded by C. Mannix, to “retire to executive session to discuss the rezoning of real property ‘pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work session pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation’ pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) and appoint Janice McClanaghan as Clerk Pro Tem” AND “to retire to executive session for ‘any discussion or consideration related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes or of the disposition of publicly held property where advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public’ pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(5) and appoint Janice McClanaghan as Clerk Pro Tem.” The council approved the motion unanimously. The council retired to executive session at 9:10 pm.

The council returned from executive session at 9:32 pm. A. Langer made a motion, seconded by N. McDonald, to adjourn the regular council meeting. The council approved the motion unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Matthew M. Mannix  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk