

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Vice Chair Janice McClanaghan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for members of our armed forces. In attendance were council members Marlene Bellini, Anita Langer, Christopher Mannix and Carol O'Donnell. Also in attendance were Harbormaster Mike Tortolani and District Manager Lisa DiBello. Council members Michael Vendetti and Daniel Johnson were absent. Treasurer Natalie McDonald and Tax Collector Kevin Koehler were also absent.

Urgent Business

Anita Langer **moved**, seconded by M. Bellini, to approve the building plans for 26 Withington Road, subject to state and town regulations. The motion was approved, 4-0, with C. Mannix abstaining.

Announcement

J. McClanaghan announced that the lawsuit regarding the Zone Change at 1007 Boston Neck Road had settled after two years and that she would post the stipulation between the parties on the website. Under the stipulation, the Town of Narragansett must provide notice to the Fire District of future proposed zone changes within the Fire District.

Approval of Minutes

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, to approve the October 16, 2019 council monthly meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 4-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, to approve the November 20, 2019 council monthly meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 4-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

Committee Reports

Beach/Security (J. McClanaghan): The committee is looking for a contractor to help with the removal of seaweed from Little Beach.

Social (A. Langer): Thank you to those, especially Roz Thomas, who organized the Christmas Party at Spain.

Harbor (M. Tortolani): Six dinghies were taken off of Little Beach for safety reasons and are in the back of the Community Center.

Treasurer (J. McClanaghan for N. McDonald): BSFD received \$21,000 from the Beach Club in exchange for granting the easement to the Beach Club to use the causeway to connect its sewer line.

Tax Collector (J. McClanaghan for K. Koehler): So far, \$356,736.00 has been collected and \$22,778.00 remains to be collected.

District Manager (L. DiBello): The Beach Club's sewer project is ahead of schedule. After it is completed, we will be able to open the causeway. The breachway had to be opened up four times in the last month. The Tree Lighting was a success. Trash collection is tentatively scheduled for December 26, 2019 and January 2, 2020, but we will confirm that information.

New Business

Harbor Ordinance and Harbor Plan

- A. Langer explained that the town's Harbor Management Plan is revised once a decade. The BSFD Harbor Management Plan sometimes must be changed based on the town's revisions to its plan. This year, there are two portions of the Ordinance that must be changed.
- A. Langer **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to amend Section 6(E) of the Harbor Ordinance to allow the transfer of a mooring to a direct family member who is a "taxpayer and/or resident" rather than to a family member who is just a "taxpayer." M. Tortolani indicated that the Harbor Committee overwhelmingly expressed the view that Section 6(D) should be changed to allow moorings to be assigned to taxpayers only. He stated that the committee voted, 14-1, for that change. A. Langer stated that the language in Section 6(E) should mirror the language in Section 6(D). M. Bellini and C. O'Donnell expressed concerns that residents who do not own property should not be assigned BSFD moorings. C. O'Donnell questioned whether renters would be able to obtain moorings. Melissa Jenkins stated that renters pay property taxes. Angelo Bellino stated that renters are not property owners and do not pay property taxes. The council did not vote on the motion and agreed to refer the issue of amending Section 6(D) and/or Section 6(E) back to the Harbor Committee.
- J. McClanaghan explained that the Harbor Committee also recommended inserting a section regarding outhauls. This new Section 8 would be inserted between the current Section 7 ("Mooring Specifications") and the current Section 8 ("Appeal"). The existing Sections 8-19 would be renumbered to Sections 9-20. C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell to amend the Harbor Ordinance to add a new Section 8, entitled, "Outhauls." The specific language follows below:

"SECTION 8. OUTHaulS. Outhauls are subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Council. The Council may authorize a municipality to administer an annual permit for such provided said municipality has a Council approved and active harbor management plan and ordinance which contains the following municipal documentation that demonstrates that:

- A. except as provided below, an outhaul(s) is/are to be permitted to the contiguous waterfront property owner; and,
- B. up to two (2) outhauls may be allowed per waterfront property; and,

- C. outhauls are not permitted on properties which contain a recreational boating facility; and,
- D. procedures have been adopted to ensure that permits are issued only consistent with the RICRMP, including the provisions of 300.18; and,
- E. their procedures acknowledge that the CRMC retains the authority to revoke any permits issued by the municipality if it finds that such permit conflicts with the RICRMP; and,
- F. from November 15 to April 15, when a boat is not being secured by the device on an annual basis, the outhaul cabling system shall be removed; and,
- G. outhauls may be “grandfathered” in their current location upon annual harbormaster documentation that such outhauls have been in continuous use at such location since 2004, and, the contiguous property owner(s) agree in writing to such, however, such “grandfathering” is extinguished whenever a recreational boating facility is approved at the location.”

The motion was approved unanimously.

Contract for tax sales

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by C. O’Donnell, to approve the proposed contract for the BSFD tax sale. The motion was approved unanimously.

January and February meetings

The council discussed whether to keep the council meetings in the winter months on the schedule or to cancel them. No decision was made.

Public Comment

- Louise Healy stated that the Beach Club sewer project was going well. She stated that there are two on-site engineers monitoring the project. She stated that CRMC made an on-site visit and has conducted on-site monitoring after a complaint by a resident regarding the project’s progress.

Adjournment:

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by C. O’Donnell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved, 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ratified on May 20, 2020