

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Chair Michael Vendetti called the meeting to order after the council returned from Executive Session at 7:50 pm. In attendance were council members John Pariseault, Anita Langer, Daniel Johnson, Christopher Mannix and Natalie McDonald. Also in attendance were Tax Collector Richard Mercier and District Manager Lisa DiBello. Council Member Janice McClanaghan and Treasurer Mary McGinn were absent.

Dunne Road Race

Michele Dunne made a request on behalf of the Never Dunne Foundation for a road race in Bonnet Shores in honor of her late husband. She requested the date of May 19, 2019. She indicated that May is Brain Cancer Awareness Month and the event is to honor her husband who died of brain cancer.

Anita Langer moved, seconded by N. McDonald, to allow the Never Dunne Foundation to use BSFD facilities and roadways for a 5K Run/Walk Event on May 19, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously.

Request by Reagan Dunne

Reagan Dunne, daughter of Michele Dunne, requested the council's permission to construct a Free Little Tackle Box at Little Beach. M. Tortolani expressed concerns about vandalism. L. DiBello suggested that Reagan meet with M. Tortolani and the Harbor Committee.

J. Pariseault moved, seconded by N. McDonald, to approve Reagan Dunne's request, subject to input from the Harbor Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

N. McDonald moved, seconded by C. Mannix, to approved the October 17, 2019 monthly meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 4-2, with A. Langer and D. Johnson dissenting.

Anita Langer moved, seconded by D. Johnson, to approve the October 20, 2019 Reorganizational Meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 4-0, with C. Mannix and J. Pariseault abstaining.

Period of Public Comment

- Paula Childs listed her concerns with the council's operations. Those concerns were the cancelled meetings in January and February of 2019, safety on the causeway, lack of transparency, the Clerk's minute-taking and late cancellations of council meetings.
- Michelle Caraccia spoke about her concern with the breachway blockage in the summer months.
- Elaine Casey said she was pleased with the dredge project, but concerned about the full cost of the project.

Committee and Other Reports

Harbor (M. Tortolani): Notices have gone out to boat owners regarding the mooring fees for the upcoming summer season.

Roads (C. Mannix): The committee is currently addressing visibility at intersections, illegal parking and speeding. The committee is also looking into bringing back a constable to deal with those issues, especially illegal parking.

Walkway (D. Johnson): The committee named Dave Stenmark as its contact person. It has held six meetings since November. It has met with Bob Donnelly to navigate the legal process at the town Planning and Zoning Boards. It is seeking a \$45,000 loan to get the project started that would be reimbursed via grants and donations. It is seeking a separate BSFD bank account for walkway-related expenses.

Tax Collector (R. Mercier): Collections are at \$376,000 out of \$379,000. The Tax Sale is on June 20, 2019 after the Town Tax Sale, which begins at 2:00 pm.

Land Trust (L. Mercier): The Trust is still working on Audobon properties. The Roger Williams University presentation, coordinated by Marlene Bellini, will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 am. The next meeting of the Trust is next Wednesday.

District Manager (L. DiBello): We have a new sign at the fork! The trash bid has not been awarded. The current trash contract is extended through May 1, 2019. Patriot is the lowest bid at this point. A \$600.00 donation was made to the Summer Camp. HVAC work is underway.

Old Business

Trash Bid

- J. Pariseault moved, seconded by C. Mannix, to award the trash bid to Patriot and allow District Manager L. DiBello to renegotiate terms and bring back any revised award to the council. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Washington Trust Line of Credit

- N. McDonald explained the need for an increase in the line of credit from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This increase would make payment of the dredge-related bills easier as the reimbursement process with the state may be slow. A discussion ensued regarding whether this increase would be used for dredge-related bills only or could be used for other purposes. N. McDonald moved, seconded by C. Mannix, to increase the Washington Trust Line of Credit from \$25,000 to \$75,000 through March of 2020, with a caveat that \$25,000 will be used for general purposes. The motion was approved, 5-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

Creation of a proprietary fund and bank account for the purpose of expenses related to the Walkway and other potential BSFD safety mitigation projects

- D. Johnson moved to approve a \$45,000 loan for the walkway committee, distribution of a Q&A from the walkway committee via the BSFD e-blast system, creation of a separate bank account for the walkway project and creation of a separate website for the walkway project. A. Langer seconded the motion. D. Johnson indicated that the committee needed “seed” money for the project. M. Vendetti indicated that he was not in favor of the taxpayers devoting funds to the walkway project. The motion failed, 3-3. D. Johnson, A. Langer and J. Pariseault voted in favor of the motion. N. McDonald, M. Vendetti and C. Mannix voted against the motion.

Adjournment

C. Mannix moved, seconded by M. Vendetti, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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