

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2019
7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Vice Chair Janice McClanaghan called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. In attendance were Council Chair Michael Vendetti (arrived at 7:30 pm) and council members Anita Langer, Christopher Mannix, Marlene Bellini and Carol O'Donnell (arrived at 7:40 pm). Also in attendance were Tax Collector Kevin Koehler and Harbormaster Mike Tortolani. Council member Daniel Johnson, Treasurer Natalie McDonald and District Manager Lisa DiBello were absent.

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by M. Bellini to move the agenda item under New Business regarding the October 26, 2019 Breast Cancer fundraiser to the top of the agenda. The motion was approved, 4-0. M. Vendetti and C. O'Donnell arrived at the meeting shortly after the vote on this item.

Breast Cancer Fundraiser – October 26th, 2019

Erin Colman requested the usage of the BSFD Community Center for an upcoming fundraiser to fight breast cancer. It will be held on October 26, 2019. She requested a waiver of the rental fee. A. Langer **moved**, seconded by C. Mannix, that the fundraiser be permitted at the BSFD Community Center and the rental fee waived. The motion was approved, 4-0. M. Vendetti and C. O'Donnell arrived at the meeting shortly after the vote on this item.

Approval of Minutes

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by M. Bellini, to approve the August 21, 2019 monthly council meeting minutes, with the addition of J. McClanaghan's recommendation that the BSFD Treasurer obtain a BSFD credit card during the E-Blast discussion on p. 3 of the minutes. The motion was approved, 4-1, with A. Langer dissenting. C. O'Donnell arrived at the meeting shortly after the vote on this item.

Committee Reports

Beach/Security (J. McClanaghan): The beach bus bill came to \$8,190.50. The security bill for the beach guard will come in soon and the Beach Club will be billed one-quarter of that cost.

Social (A. Langer): The Potluck Dinner will be held at the community center on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 6:00 pm. BYOB. Halloween costumes optional.

Harbor (M. Tortolani): The dock at Little Beach came out of the water two weeks ago. All boats are out of the cove. Six individuals are giving up their moorings this winter, so there will

be movement on the waitlist. Rowboats and dinghies must be off the beach and shore by December 1, 2019. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Roads/Public Works (C. Mannix): The next committee meeting will be held on November 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Tony Lupino questioned the council regarding an audit, stating he would file a complaint with the Auditor General. C. Mannix stated that he discussed the possibility of conducting an audit with the Treasurer Natalie McDonald. He stated that an audit is required if an organization has over \$500,000 in account activity during the fiscal year. The reimbursements for the dredge did not bring the Fire District's total account activity to \$500,000 because the reimbursements came in separate fiscal years. C. Mannix also indicated that the DEM reimbursements were provided to the BSFD after the work had been performed, documented and paid, which means that the grantee fronted the cash. For that reason, according to General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the Fire District is not required to conduct an audit. Tony Lupino replied that he would file a complaint anyway.

Tax Collector (K. Koehler): Ninety-two percent (92%) of taxes have been collected. Approximately \$8,500 in taxes has been collected since last month's meeting.

Land Trust (G. Monaghan): The Land Trust met on October 1, 2019. All trustees were present. The attorney(s) are still working on the Audobon land transfer.

District Manager (J. McClanaghan summarized report): Duct work is ongoing in the BSFD Community Center. The fire alarms are being fixed. The monthly meeting sign, usually posted at the fork, is missing. The generator will be inspected next week. Six trash barrels in the back of the Community Center were destroyed recently. This vandalism, together with the doors sometimes being left open after events, leads to security problems. The security guard is not a 24/7 operation and the community may want to obtain a security camera. The breachway was opened prior to the most recent northeaster.

Old Business

Update on E-Blast System

- Steve Ryder reported that he has been reviewing options and the MailChimp system. He said it will take a few weeks to get the data ready. He stated that the real work is somewhat minimal and that he touched base with the Beach Club webmaster to share ideas. M. Bellini expressed concerns about protecting individual passwords.

New Business

Motion to Amend the Charter Under Section 2 on the Voting Rights within the Bonnet Shores Fire District to Comply with Secretary of State's Letter of August 22, 2019

- A. Langer stated that we need to link the right to vote in the BSFD to residency because the current taxpayer requirement is unconstitutional. A. Langer **moved** the following

resolution: That until such time as the Rhode Island General Assembly amends the charter of the Bonnet Shores Fire District to comply with the decision of the Rhode Island Supreme Court in *Flynn v. King* (433 A.2d 172 (1981)), in all future Bonnet Shores Fire District general or special elections, those persons who reside in the Bonnet Shores Fire District and are eligible to vote in a general or special election in the Town of Narragansett shall be permitted to vote, whether or not they own taxable property. The motion did not receive a second.

Public Comment

- J. McClanaghan stated that the BSFD is still responding to a complaint made by individuals to the R.I. Attorney General's Office. She stated that the BSFD is different from the Fire District cited in the *Flynn* case because the BSFD is a recreational fire district.
- Tony Lupino stated that the BSFD often describes itself as a quasi-municipality.
- M. Vendetti stated that there are no elections in the Fire District until June of 2020 and that we are in the process of getting responses and opinions from the R.I. Attorney General's Office regarding these issues.
- Tony Lupino criticized the council's decision to disband the Walkway Committee and the Bylaw Committee. He also criticized the Fire District's failure to conduct an audit. He also stated that his comments during meetings are watered down in the meeting minutes.
- Nancy Cordy stated her concern over the formal complaints being filed against the BSFD. She stated that she was disturbed by the Clerk's response to the Stenmark complaint. She indicated her displeasure with a lack of response from the council.
- C. Mannix and M. Vendetti indicated that the police detail was needed because of disruptive behavior and that the policeman present at the July monthly meeting broke up an altercation.
- Nancy Cordy indicated that recording the meeting on facebook is a deterrent to disruptions.

Adjournment:

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by A. Langer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ratified on December 18, 2019