

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Chair Michael Vendetti called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm. In attendance were council members Anita Langer, Christopher Mannix, Janice McClanaghan and Marlene Bellini. Also in attendance were Treasurer Natalie McDonald, Tax Collector Kevin Koehler, Harbormaster Mike Tortolani and District Manager Lisa DiBello. Council members Daniel Johnson and Carol O'Donnell were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

M. Vendetti led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and held a Moment of Silence for American soldiers serving our country.

Approval of Minutes

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the May 25, 2019 budget hearing minutes. The motion was approved, 4-1, with A. Langer dissenting. C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the June 27, 2019 Emergency Council meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 5-0. C. Mannix moved, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approved the July 17, 2019 organizational meeting minutes. The motion was approved, 5-0.

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the July 17, 2019 monthly meeting minutes. A. Langer stated that the minutes were selective and that she wanted to fix inaccuracies. She stated that Susan Aufiero's and Carol DiLeo's names were misspelled. She objected to the statement in the minutes regarding the removal of one of the council members. J. McClanaghan indicated that her name should be removed from the Roads Committee Report in reference to her contacting the Narragansett Building Inspector. C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the July 17, 2019 monthly meeting minutes, with the corrected spellings of DiLeo and Aufiero and the removal of the reference to J. McClanaghan in the Roads Committee report. The motion was approved, 4-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

Prior to the committee reports, M. Vendetti cited an email exchange wherein A. Langer copied non-council members on an email regarding council business. A. Langer stated that the same had been done to her in the past. M. Vendetti then asked the council members to conduct themselves in a professional way.

Committee Reports

Beach/Security (J. McClanaghan): The beaches are closed. Beach security has also ended and we are awaiting the bill. The Beach Club pays a portion of the beach security bill. Fall security is ongoing

Social (A. Langer): The Potluck Dinner will be held at the community center on Sept. 25, 2019. BYOB.

Beautification (M. Bellini): Mums were distributed by Marybeth Murphy.

Harbor (M. Tortolani): Met with CRMC regarding revisions to the Harbor Plan. Need to revise the Harbormaster Ordinance. The dock will be taken out in mid-October. Wait list notifications will be sent out next month.

Pond (C. Mannix): Reimbursement of \$101,000 has come in on the dredge project grant. The final \$50,000 reimbursement remains in escrow until the beach club puts in the sewer line.

Roads/Public Works (J. McClanaghan): Ten people attended the last committee meeting. The hiring of a constable was the focus of the meeting and will be a somewhat complicated task.

Recreation (J. McClanaghan): Bonnet Days 2019 was a success! We had 40 adult runners and walkers. We believe this year's winner set a course record. The Kids' Fun Runs had fewer participants than usual as many of the children who have participated over the years are older and took part in the adult race. The cookout, held afterwards, was very well-attended, with food from Tase-Rite. A special thanks to Leo's Pizza for donating pizzas, as Leo's has done for over a decade. All our local sponsors made this event possible and were very generous once again. Be sure to support our local sponsors who support this event. The event essentially broke even this year and generated \$4.63. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who made this event possible. Special thanks go to volunteers Lindsey Amore, Nick Amaral, Mary Beth Murphy, Kathy Kelleher, Marlene Bellini, Jan McClanaghan, Judy Barry, Lee Ann McWeeney, Carol O'Donnell, Chris Mannix and Pat Mannix for their commitment to making this event fun and memorable. Thank you to all those residents who donated baked goods and other food items for the cookout.

Treasurer (N. McDonald): Revenue continues to come in. The grant receivable is budgeted at \$50,000. Security and Beach Bus bills are forthcoming.

Tax Collector (K. Koehler): Bills were due on Sept. 15, 2019. Ninety percent (90%) of revenue is in so far. Past Due notices will go out in the next two weeks.

Land Trust (L. Mercier): The next meeting will be held on October 1, 2019.

District Manager (L. DiBello): Replacement of one microphone (\$60.00 cost).

Old Business

Update on E-Blast System

- J. McClanaghan indicated that Steve Ryder was working with three companies and each of their programs had different capabilities. There will be another update at the next council meeting.

New Business

AG and Secretary of State complaint letters

- M. Vendetti indicated that there have been four complaints filed with the AG's Office and the Secretary of State against the Fire District for compliance with the Open Meetings Act. He stated that the complaints will not be discussed until they are resolved. The Fire District is preparing the necessary responses to the complaints.
- J. McClanaghan **moved**, seconded by M. Bellini, to direct the BSFD Clerk, Council Chairman and Council Vice Chair to answer the OMA complaints made against the Fire District. A. Langer stated it was inappropriate for these individuals to answer the complaints because of conflicts of interest. The motion was approved, 4-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

Discussion of executive sessions and/or work sessions

- M. Bellini indicated that a work session in which the council could answer residents' concerns would be a helpful addition to the meetings. Right now, there is not really a question-and-answer portion of the meeting and a work session could provide that. After a brief discussion, the item was continued to a future council meeting.

Vote of BSFD Council to require all meetings of the BSFD Council be recorded by clerk w/ copy to BSFD Manager and Council

- A. Langer **moved** that the BSFD Council meetings be recorded with copies of the recording sent to the Manager and the Council. The motion was not seconded.

Public Comment

- Tony Lupino stated that the council incorrectly returned from Executive Session. He asked why the meeting was not posted on the sign at the fork in the road at the top of Bonnet. He asked for copies of the complaints regarding the Open Meetings Act.
- Tony Lupino wanted a portion of the meeting to comment on agenda items.
- Paula Childs stated she was dismayed by M. Bellini's work session motion. She asked about the presence of the Narragansett policeman at the council meetings.
- Robert Patterson stated that the validity of the last election was called into question because of the OMA complaints. He also stated he would send a complaint to the Secretary of State's office.
- Russ Bonetti stated he concern with conflicts of interest and the Beach Club. He requested minutes regarding the decision to allow the Beach Club to use the parking lot in July.
- A. Langer stated that she would get an answer from the Interlocal Trust regarding liability and parking issues. She said she would call herself.

Adjournment:

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ratified on November 20, 2019