

## **Bonnet Shores Fire District**

*Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2021  
7:30 PM*

*Bonnet Shores Community Center – 130 Bonnet Shores Road Narragansett, RI*

### **Call To Order**

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:34pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair Carol O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marleen Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Anthony DeAngelis, Bill DelGizzo. And Steve Danuszar. Additional present were Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Tax Collector Michelle Travis, Harbor Master Joe Bleczinski, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

### **Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence**

The Assembly recited the Pledge and observed a moment of silence for the members of the community that have passed.

### **Announcements: Procedure of Meeting**

Chair O'Donnell discussed the meeting procedure; it is being recorded by the clerk for public sharing, anyone else who would like to record the meeting may do so in a designated area off to the side to avoid interference.

Saturday December 4, 2021 will be the tree lighting at the BSFD Community Center at 5:00. On Wednesday December 15, 2021 there will be an open house at 6:30 before the next monthly meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

October 20, 2021 monthly meeting minutes, a correction to be made is noted – regarding the Bonnet Liquors fence, the panel was not up at that time. A motion is made by Carolyn DiLeo, and seconded by Marlene Bellini, motion passed 6-0.

### **Treasurer: Updated Financial Report**

Treasurer Laurie McCarthy shared her report. Currently about \$267,000.00 in tax revenue has been collected. The bus bill came in about \$1,500.00 under budget. Carolyn DiLeo asks about posting financials, Laurie agrees to the idea, Anthony DeAngelis discusses ideas.

### **Tax Collector: Update - Collections**

Michelle Travis shared her update. She has spoke with igov and was referred to municipay, the fee is 2.65% per credit card transaction. She has been reaching out to users of municipay for opinions, so far all good reviews. The current plan is to implement municipay for next fiscal year. Carolyn suggests eblasting the plan to the community. Anthony agrees and adds this is the lowest priced provider found for tax collection so far. A motion is made by Anthony DeAngelis to accept the plan of using municipay for tax collection with fees of 2.65% per credit card

transaction and \$1.50 per ACH, with the target start date of May 2022. Carol O'Donnell seconded; motion passed 6-0.

### **Land Trust**

George Monahan shared the Land Trust report, topics of the past meeting included updates on land transfer protocols; property identification for the purpose of creating an updated map of Bonnet Shores; water quality reporting; and the ongoing discussion about the 501c3 status of the Land Trust.

### **District Manager Report – None this month**

### **Harbor Master – Update of all harbor topics, and mooring audit.**

Joe Bleczinski shared his report. Topics included:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> mooring ball washed up on the beach last week, indicated inspections of mooring chains are needed next year
- The dock is out of the water
- 3 kayaks remain on the beach, search for owners still in progress
- A discussion of ongoing research of rules and regulations, and council to review and approve updated ordinances.
- There are 3 main projects for discussion, 1<sup>st</sup>: replacing or repairing the floating dock – the floats are filling with water, and there are planks that need to be replaced. Anthony discussed the safety of the dock currently. Replacing estimates range from \$600.00 - \$1,000.00 for a possible 3-4 year fix. Replacement estimates range from \$7,500.00 - \$10,500.00. Bill DelGizzo discusses the need to budget to prepare for harbor repairs.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> main topic: To set the pilings in correctly. Currently the pilings are driven in 3 feet of sand, and not into the ledge. This year one of the pilings broke free, it was saved because of the cross structure supporting it. The estimates so far are \$22,000.00 and \$42,000.00 to reset all 4 pilings. Bill DelGizzo asks if the pier itself is in the ledge – the answer is yes. Carol O'Donnell gives a suggestion for a company to contact for another estimate.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> main topic: The cement ties that run across the launch ramp have opened up, and are an immediate safety hazard. There is a discussion about flipping them over and resetting them vs. replacing them.
- There is a discussion among the council and the treasurer about budgeting and funding for the harbor repairs in the future.
- Paula Childs of Lake Road comments she feels reassessing mooring fees is a good idea, and wants a list of mooring owners posted on the BSFD website. It's discussed that the mooring waiting list is posted on the website under Harbor.
- Joe says that as of January 2022 anyone with a moored boat not registered in Bonnet Shores will lose their mooring.
- Faith LaSalle asks about the validity of multiple people living in one household owning multiple moorings, and the fairness of how long the wait list is to others in the community.
- There is a discussion about how the quality of the harbor increases the quality of the community.

- Bill DelGizzo asks if there is going to be a craft length minimum for a mooring, Joe replies that he is going to focus on registration for qualification.
- There is a discussion that mooring inspections will be required going forward.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> is the cutoff date for registration turn in.
- There is a discussion of the new sticker protocol for watercraft on the beach to match vessels on the moorings.

### **Old Business**

- A. BSFD record storage – work in progress: There is no update to share, still a work in progress.
- B. Roads – Deed copies, information to council: No new update.
- C. Bonnet Liquors – Update: The fence panels are up.
- D. Benches in disrepair – waiting for pricing & liability information: There is a discussion that BSFD is in fact liable for the benches. Currently waiting on quotes.
- E. Tax ID Update: Steve Danuzar reports that the tax ID needs to be renewed every 4 years, and it has been renewed.
- F. Zoom account training update: The Land Trust would like to zoom meetings.
- G. Use of the Community Center – Girl scout meetings, cleaning fee, waiting for estimates: No representatives from the Girl Scouts. Paula Childs comments that she feels the community center is an under-utilized asset. Discusses the revenue potential if an investment is made to improve the building. All council members agree and discuss.
- H. Legal Update – None: No comments.
- I. Renter Issues – Parking, trash, Speeding: Paula Childs comments that loud cars and speeding is still an issue.

### **New Business**

- A. Ocean State Road Race permission to run in Bonnet – Karen Zyons discussed the insurance provided, race stations, and timing of the race (in the morning). Carol O'Donnell made a motion to allow Ocean State Road Race permission to run in Bonnet on 10/23/22, Marleen Bellini seconded, motion passed 6-0.
- B. Recap of the Bylaws Committee meeting. There is a discussion about recording options and moving to zoom. Carolyn discussed exploring ordinances to match town ordinances, ordinances 1-4 to be covered in December. 2<sup>nd</sup> group of 4 to be covered in January. Has been going through old copies of ordinances. Paula Childs comments on golf carts and how ordinances and regulations could help make them be a positive part of the community, they could be a good alternative for pedestrians. Faith LaSalle discusses the legal issues surrounding regulating golf carts. There is a discussion about the need for golf cart regulations. Bill DelGizzo makes a suggestion to add the deed research to the December Agenda, there is a discussion regarding this. There is a discussion about how to enforce ordinances. Faith LaSalle comments that Washington County District court is the body to enforce ordinances, but it is not feasible. It's agreed there is no issue with calling NPD to enforce ordinances because we pay taxes to them.
- C. Little Beach Grant Update – EMA has been contacted, no response so far. There is a discussion about possibly contacting Sheldon Whitehouse. Joe asks what the grant is for, Carolyn explains it is grant from FEMA to conduct a study with URI to evaluate what is happening in the harbor, with the sand and seaweed. Bill says is documents a base line,

and then studies in the lab how to possibly make the shoreline more resilient. The grant amount is \$75,000.00, our portion to contribute is \$18,000.00

- D. APRA Request form Added to Website: The form will be added to the website in the next few days.
- E. Official Facebook account: Tabled. Also noted is that the previous Harbor and Social Committees are no longer committees, just groups of people working together.
- F. Lights for Christmas tree: Phil will put them up with the lift, with Marleen and others.

**Public Comment**

*Identify yourself with address, each person will have three minutes to speak, one time.*

None.

**Adjournment**

Carol O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn, Marleen Bellini seconded, motion passed 6-0 at 9:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk