

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Chair Paul Farley called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm. In attendance were council members Janice McClanaghan, Marlene Bellini, Christopher Mannix, Anita Langer, Michael Vendetti and Carol O'Donnell.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

P. Farley led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and held a Moment of Silence for members of the U.S. military and those suffering from the Coronavirus.

P. Farley explained that he brought in an outside moderator to moderate this meeting via Zoom.

Urgent Business

Building Plans – 96 Lake Road (Thomas Shola)

- M. Vendetti **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, to approve the Shola plans at 96 Lake Road. The motion was approved, 5-0, with C. Mannix and M. Bellini abstaining.

Building Plans – 14 What Cheer Road (Bill Sibilina Builder)

- M. Vendetti **moved**, seconded by A. Langer, to approve the plans for 14 What Cheer Road. The motion was approved, 5-0, with C. Mannix and M. Bellini abstaining.

Approval of Minutes

The council delayed the approval of minutes to the next council meeting.

Committee Reports

Beach/Security (J. McClanaghan): J. McClanaghan reviewed the need for an assent to remove seaweed from Little Beach. She discussed several remedies to the situation, including breaking up the seaweed, increased raking of the beach and removal of seaweed to Casey Farm, that have been tried over the years.

Beautification (M. Bellini): M. Bellini asked if individuals had requests for fall flowers or plants. She indicated that she would obtain some flowers/plants from Ocean State Job Lot.

Harbor (A. Langer): A. Langer announced that there were five new mooring wait list applications.

Public Works (C. Mannix): C. Mannix announced that he had met with the town's Director of Public Works to address the crosswalk(s) and signage in Bonnet, especially near Dunes Road.

Memorial Benches (A. Langer): A. Langer indicated her interest in coming up with a long-term plan regarding the benches. L. DiBello indicated that there was a request to move a bench and that she would forward that to A. Langer and the council.

Treasurer (Laurie McCarthy): L. McCarthy is working with Richard Mericer, Natalie McDonald and J. McClanaghan to process checks and to facilitate tax collection.

Land Trust (Lenny Mercier): L. Mercier indicated that the next Land Trust meeting will be held on Monday, August 31st.

Old Business

Bookkeeper Appointment

- P. Farley explained that L. McCarthy and Natalie McDonald interviewed and vetted candidates for this position. They recommended that the council select Rosemarie Hogan, at an hourly rate of \$50.00. J. McClanaghan **moved**, seconded by C. Mannix, to hire Rosemarie Hogan as the bookkeeper at the rate of \$50.00/hour, not to exceed the budgeted amount. The motion was approved, 6-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

New Business

Motion to authorize the Chair and/or Vice Chair to engage existing legal counsel on behalf of the BSFD on any and all legal matters concerning the BSFD

- C. O'Donnell **moved**, seconded by M. Vendetti, to authorize the Chair and/or Vice Chair to engage existing legal counsel on behalf of the BSFD on any and all legal matters concerning the BSFD. A. Langer indicated that she would like a more full-time attorney, similar to what the BSFD had in the past. The motion was approved, 6-1, with A. Langer dissenting.

Tax Collector Resignation/Appointment

- P. Farley indicated that the Tax Collector resigned on July 27, 2020. J. McClanaghan **moved** to accept Kevin Koehler's resignation and to appoint Steve Danuszar to the position for the remainder of the term. The motion was approved, 7-0.

Treasurer salary line item

- C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to move \$2,750.00 from Admin Expense to Admin Compensation from bookkeeper to treasurer in the budget. C. Mannix explained that the bookkeeper line item should be decreased because there was less work during the Coronavirus lockdown than expected and that the Treasurer line item should be increased because the proposed change in the Treasurer's salary must be voted on at Annual Meeting. Since no Annual Meeting was held, then the Treasurer's salary of \$4,250.00 must remain the same as the prior year. The motion was approved, 7-0.

Ethics Commission Exception

- Item removed by its sponsor, P. Farley.

Little Beach seaweed concerns

- A. Langer indicated that the Little Beach seaweed problem needed to be addressed and was harming property values. She indicated that she wanted to form a Little Beach Committee. P. Farley expressed a concern about committee meetings and gatherings during the Coronavirus lockdown. J. McClanaghan **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, for J. McClanaghan, M. Bellini and A. Langer to get together regarding Little Beach issues and participate in a committee. The motion was approved, 7-0.

OMA Training

- A. Langer inquired about the Open Meetings Act (OMA) training. P. Farley indicated that he sent links to the OMA and on other OMA-related issues.

Walking Path

- M. Bellini and L. Mercier stated that they will explore options for creating walking paths behind the BSFD Community Center.

Public Comment

- P. Farley stated that the August 19, 2020 monthly meeting may be moved or cancelled.
- The Zoom Moderator explained the usage of the "Raise Your Hand" feature.
- Carolyn DiLeo of 201 Colonel John Gardner Road explained that she had attended a Little Beach session at a neighbor's home recently. She stated that there were fifty people there and they indicated that they wanted the seaweed problem addressed.
- L. DiBello indicated that she was still looking for lifeguards.

Adjournment:

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved, 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ratified on January 21, 2021