

8-18-21 Bonnet Shores Fire District

*Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes
August 18, 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 7:30pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair Carol O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Anthony DeAngelis, Bob Anderson, Bill DelGizzo, and Steve Danuszar. Additional present were District Manager Lisa DiBello, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, 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.

Urgent Business

None

Chair to speak to procedure of meeting

Chair O'Donnell explained before a vote is taken on any agenda items, owners will have the opportunity to speak. She requested each person that speaks should identify themselves along with their address, speak once, briefly and courteously. Public comment for non-agenda items will be held at the end of the meeting, with a one minute time limit.

Robert Anderson spoke about social media posts targeting him regarding a legal matter from late 2020. He explained he does not have a criminal record, and would like to resume focusing on progress within the community and council.

Chair O'Donnell explained email blasts to encourage committee participation from owners.

Approval of Minutes

July 21, 2021 Working Minutes and July 21, 2021 Monthly Minutes, motion to approve by C. DiLeo, second by R. Anderson. Vote passes 7-0 to accept the minutes.

August 2, 2021 Committee Minutes, motion to approve by C. DiLeo, second by A. DeAngelis. Vote passes 7-0 to accept the minutes.

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, updated financial report. Working with A. DeAngelis to streamline bill payment processes and recording.

No questions.

Tax Collector

Steve Danuszar reports roughly 1/3 tax bills have been collected so far. Plan to make payments online for incoming tax collector. B. DelGizzo asks how many delinquent taxpayers do we have, and when was the last time we had a tax sale. S. Danuszar replies there have been no tax sales during his term as tax collector, and he can populate a delinquent list if requested. Chair O'Donnell makes note to create list of delinquent tax payers, and believes last tax sales was in 2018 or prior.

Susan Magill, 26 Wolf Road, states she has not yet received her bill.

Land Trust

Report and new members. Mary Flynn and George Monaghan have 3 year terms and Arthur Hardy and Steve Puerini have 2 year terms. Current pathway activities include building by the Boy Scout Troop.

District Manager

District Manager Lisa DiBello reiterated the topics covered in her monthly report, including; speeding & accidents, overgrown brush, water main break, Kelly Beach staffing, trash & seaweed removal, Little Beach seaweed removal & new stairs, parking issue along Little Beach, possibly hiring someone for general maintenance, programs, yard sale, bulky pick up. M. Bellini comments she noticed landscapers dumping in the yard waste dumpster, and scavenger hunt update.

B. DelGizzo makes a motion for District Manager to eblast her monthly report. The motion is tabled.

Nancy Cordy, Bonnet Pt Road spoke about doing the yard sale earlier next year.

James 39 Lake Road spoke about a dangerous accident he was involved in, due to a motorist running a stop sign. Lisa explains there is a town committee all stop sign requests need to pass through, which then are submitted to the town council. BSFD Roads & Safety Committee will work to address the stop sign issues.

Harbor Master

Still looking for 5 people to join the Harbor Committee. Empty moorings, he will inventory open moorings at the end of August, and which have boats registered to the owner. Moorings unoccupied by an owner owned boat will have a drop date date of 12/2022 or lose the mooring. Watercraft on the beach, only 6 boats were without a sticker and removed last week. Monitoring hurricane Henri.

No questions.

Old Business

- A. Overgrowth – Quote to maintain the overgrowth on Bonnet Battery of \$1,150.00 given to Lisa. Motion to table until next year made by S. Danuszar, second by M. Bellini. Vote passes 6-1, with B. DelGizzo nay.

- B. Fire District record storage – C. DiLeo suggests filing and storing all documents possible, by topic, beginning with roads, via the BSFD website, or lockbox. B. DelGizzo discusses issues with record keeping and location of executive session minutes. Lisa offers to contact past chairs to see if they are in possession of any executive session minutes.
- C. Joy Lane abandonment update by Ray Trainor. In April of 2019, the town said there were no BSFD owner objections, however Mr. Trainor says Carol Lane residents were not made aware of the meeting. There is a discussion about who owns the road. As of today, the drainage has been drawn and approved, and there are no new plans submitted. Chair C. O'Donnell explains BSFD would need to hire an attorney to explore options. John Carvallo discusses road ownership understanding. Motion to table

New Business

- A. Tax Collector position – Resume review from Michele Travis. S. Danuszar makes a motion to accept the resume, R. Anderson seconds. Discussion from B. DelGizzo about importance of Tax Collector position, and possibly outsourcing the position in the future. S. Danuszar discusses how the tax paying process can be streamlined in the future.. C. Fortin asks if she has been interviewed, A. DeAngelis has worked with her in the past, M. Bellini knows her personally. Pamela Childs 12 Mohawk Trail asks if the applicant should be vetted. Vote passes 6-1, B. DelGizzo is nay
- B. Bonnet Liquors – Water runoff and request to install fence and higher curb.
- C. Breachway cleaning – B. DelGizzo discusses maintenance of breachway (possible schedule and budget). Janice McClanahan of Treasure Road explains we have a contract for clearing phragmites. BSFD has a 50 year assent for the breachway, which is near year 48 and must be renewed. Chris Mannix of Aroostock comments on the permit for clearing the phragmites and the window of opportunity for doing so. Mark Michaelson 46 Withington Road asks what committee oversees the pond and breachway. B. DelGizzo discusses that the Land Trust oversees the pond.
- D. No trespass signs – Chair O'Donnell discusses that the Underhills own property down to the mean high tide mark, and they have a right to place their signs on the beach. They do not obstruct any beachgoers from accessing the water or hightide mark. B. DelGizzo asks if the signs are CRMC approved, it's agreed that their sign would not need to be, all agree their sign is well above the high tide mark. Thomas Underhill addresses the meeting, the signs are a means to protect the family from civil liability under the advice of attorney. Lisa addresses the fact that Underhills are excellent neighbors to the BSFD, by respecting beachgoers and also allowing the lifeguards to store all equipment necessary for them to operate.
Michelle Carroccia, 20 Lake Road asks where the mean high tide mark is. It's explained that it is the average high tide mark over the past 18.6 years.
Pamela Childs, Mohawk Trail, asks if people have the right to walk along the beach, Lisa explains yes below the water mark.
Faith LaSalle 98 Col. John addresses the Underhills to thank them for being good neighbors.
George of 35 Dunes Road speaks about difficulty facing liability issues.

R. Anderson comments that this topic was brought to the agenda because of negative social media content. Chair O'Donnell addresses Pamela Childs and Paula Childs for how their actions through social media impact the community.

- E. Ms. Jenkins – Filed a complaint with the Attorney General against the BSFD complaining that the annual meeting violated Open Meeting laws.

Public Comment

1. Paula Childs, 55 Lake Road, addresses R. Anderson and his arrest. R. Anderson responds to remind her that he was exonerated and has no arrest record.
2. Faith LaSalle, suggests that since R. Anderson has been acquitted that the matter should be dropped.
3. Carol Fortin, discusses that the community wants a council that works together, and that the focus of the council needs to be on productivity, not petty fighting.
4. Pamela Childs 12 Mohawk, comments that R. Anderson has not been vetted.

Adjournment

M. Bellini makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by R. Anderson, unanimously passes at 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk