

Bonnet Shores Fire District

*Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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, Carolyn DiLeo, Anthony DeAngelis, Bob Anderson, Steve Danuszar and Bill DelGizzo. 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

R. Anderson made motion to approve the construction plans for 38 What Cheer Road, seconded by B. Delgizzo, motion carries 6-0. B. DelGizzo discusses the possibility of community review for building plans in the future. The owners address the size and scope of the project. Nancy Cordy of Bonnet Pt. Rd discusses the fact that it is only new building permits that are required to be submitted to the council.

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. Each person 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.

Approval of Minutes

August 18, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes, C. DiLeo discusses corrections to be made: old business (B) record storage to be on website or dropbox; new business – Land Trust does control the pond. S. Danuszar made motion to approve, second by R. Anderson, motion carries 6-0

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, biweekly deposits are on going. No Questions.

Tax Collector

Michelle Travis introduced herself. Currently working with Laurie McCarthy to process revenue into igov system. Currently have processed \$205,000.00, or 52% of the budget. She will be looking into the igov process for allowing tax payers to make direct payments online to streamline tax collection and cut down on mailings.

John Carvallo, 7 Muratore Lane, thanks Michelle for accepting the position.

Land Trust

George Monahan read the Land Trust report for the August 30, 2021 meeting. At that meeting 2 motions were passed: one addressing the Wesquage Pond water quality, and one establishing a committee to identify and pursue land acquisitions that would be ideal for Land Trust expansion. The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2021.

District Manager Report

Lisa DiBello shared her report, and discussed water main break updates, operations procedures, security, community center use and cleaning – looking for suggestions from community for cleaning services. Kelly Beach is officially closed for the season – would behoove the council to start scouting for 2022 beach staff early. She requests all persons and groups looking to use the community center/ community center parking lot coordinate with her first to avoid double booking.

Harbor Master

Working to enforce no swimming off the floating dock. Still looking to fill two more positions on the Harbor Committee, ideally one more mooring holder and one additional participant. A.DeAngelis asks about dinghy on the beach progress – there is one remaining kayak he is looking to contact the owner of. He talked about his idea for next year, numbering dinghy stickers to match mooring numbers.

R. Anderson asked about the number of unused moorings – that number is still unknown, possibly near 50%. In January 2022 letters will be mailed alerting current mooring owners that they need to have a boat registered in their name on the mooring, or else it will be forfeited.

Old Business

- A. Fire District record storage, executive minutes ratified – There is a discussion of storing documents, and the need for protocol of ratifying and storage of executive minutes. District Manager Lisa DiBello has reached out to past four chairs to ask for executive minutes available, Janice McClanahan responded with records in her possession. Tony Lupino, Lake Road, comments that ratified executive minutes need to be made public once ratified.
- B. Joy Lane Update – The town of Narragansett is on record that they feel they have the right to abandon Joy Lane. BSFD would need to retain an attorney to prove otherwise. There is a discussion about resident concerns for development, and the need to organize BSFD records with the goal of answering questions around road ownership, and the need for an action plan for title and deed search. Tony Lupino, Lake Road – discusses if the town needs to prove ownership of the roads. A.DeAngelis makes a motion to charge road committee to research the topic of road ownership, 2nd by B. Delgizzo, motion carries 6-0
- C. Bonnet Liquors, water runoff and request to install fence update – Stone has been installed, the fence is on the way.
- D. Lawsuit – no current updates, court date: September 21, 2021 – B. DelGizzo discusses that after the 21st the council will be briefed on their responsibilities, and suggests an executive session to learn the burden of the pending litigation.

Nancy Cordy, Bonnet Point Rd – asks to clarify how many pending lawsuits there currently are, the answer is two, and she asks if there is an update on the 2nd one. She also comments on the need for the BSFD to meet with their attorney after the 9/21/21.

Faith Lasalle, Col John Gardner – says that she has access to the lawsuit filings. There is a discussion about the ability for council members to view the documents, if that would be inhibited by volume, and they should be viewed by the council’s attorney.

There is a discussion about the 2nd lawsuit, and the ethics issue possibly preventing BSBC owning council members participating in meetings regarding this lawsuit.

Mark Michelson, Withington Road – Comments that he would like the BSFD attorney present at monthly meetings to give legal updates.

- E. Manager report posting – There is a discussion about the timing of the e-blast after the report has been sent by the manager. It’s agreed the manager will send report to the council, for proofing by the council at the monthly meeting, and then e-blasted/ posted following the meeting. B. DelGizzo makes a motion to e-blast and post to the BSFD website the BSFD Manager’s monthly report, seconded by R. Anderson, motion carries 6-0.

New Business

- A. Introduction of Jess Bishop, who will be testing pond water – She is with URI watershed monitoring. C. DiLeo has pond testing procedures, there is a discussion about the regularity of testing, the healthy history of the pond water, and there is a suggestion that the test results be e-blasted with the manager’s reports in the summer months to help the public understand the water is clean, and safe to enjoy.

- B. Procedures & operations manual updates, council will participate in development. Add chapter for long range plans – C. DiLeo shared various procedures she found in the operations manual. There is a discussion of updating sections. A. DeAngelis shared a handout for procedure suggestions for posting meeting notices. C. DiLeo suggests procedure manual for maintaining pond water level as part of the long range plan.

- C. Breachway opening – Discussion of procedure, engineering recommendations and CRMC – There is a discussion about contacting ES&M, if BSFD needs CRMC to evaluate the depths of the culverts.

John Carvallo, Muratore Lane – comments that observation is necessary to monitor pond levels.

Anita Langer discusses the recommendations, and the belief that the large culvert needs to be lower and deeper. Lisa DiBello discusses the pond assent allows BSFD to open the breachway oceanside as many times as year as possible, but once a year pond side.

Paula Childs, Lake Road – hands out the same pamphlet Carolyn has discussed, discusses maintenance, and feels that observation is not enough, and she feels the breachway should always be open.

Lisa DiBello clarifies that she did not refuse to open the breachway with adequate time before the most recent storm, and the procedure for opening the breachway.

B. DelGizzo comments that discussion leads to productivity and procedures

- D. Benches in disrepair – Discussion regarding who fill fund maintenance or possible reconstruction of memorial benches; the idea of “adopt-a-spot” requires insurance; if the district will purchase the benches or if private citizens should assume responsibility, and

in what order to address them. A. DeAngelis makes a motion to investigate the scope of the project and prioritize repair/ replacement. The motion is tabled.

Mike Michelson – Comments that the council should contact the families who have sponsored a memorial bench, and offer them the option to retain & maintain their benches with the estimated cost.

Public Comment

1. Carol Fortin of Cross Road, Supports allowing the public to speak once, but not for 60 seconds. She feels it is not respectful of the public's opinions, and feels the council needs to do more to work together, and to define their goals. B. DelGizzo agrees that the 60 second rule is not productive, he feels the council should interact with public comment, and agrees for the council to develop goals. C. O'Donnell discusses the common goal of the council to work together.
2. Nancy Cordy, Bonnet Point Road – Clarifies that the upcoming council meeting is on Saturday 9/18/21
3. Paula Childs, Lake Road – Asks that road safety becomes a top priority. Asks for an update on progress. Asks for a comprehensive, proactive plan for safety. There is a discussion about stop sign approval and other safety ideas through the town council, as well as developing a long range safety plan.

Adjournment

C. DiLeo made motion to adjourn, seconded by C. O'Donnell, unanimously passes at 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk