

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

7:30 PM

Bonnet Shores Community Center: 130 Bonnet Shores Road Narragansett, RI 02882

Call To Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marleen Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Steve Danuszar, Bill DelGizzo, and Anthony DeAngelis. Additional present were Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Tax Collector Michelle Travis, and Harbor Master Joe Bleczinski, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell joined after the executive session.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence

The Assembly recited the Pledge.

Urgent Business

None.

Motion to go into Executive Session

Special meeting with legal counsel to discuss litigation matters. This meeting may be closed pursuant to R.I. Gen. L. sec. 42-46-5(a)(2) (sessions pertaining to litigation.)

All non council member were asked to leave the building at this time.

Announcements: Procedure of Meeting

Chair O'Donnell outlined the meeting procedure.

During the executive session the council voted to approve settlement terms, they are waiting for the courts approval, and that may impact the annual meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair O'Donnell reported the April minutes had not been submitted.

Treasurer: Updated Financial Report

Laurie McCarthy Reports: The 2021-2022 fiscal year has been closed out, the 3rd & 4th quarters to be posted on website; announcements for working session of budget coming up; budget review date to be determined, once balance sheet in finalized; upcoming budget is a work in progress.

Nancy Cordy raises a hand in zoom to let the council know there is no video or audio working, Carol repeated all business conducted up to this point.

Land Trust – George Monahan shared the report

Tax Collector: Update - Collections

Michelle Travis reports: Collections have slowed significantly; delinquent list has been submitted to the council. BSFD should not incur any costs associated with a tax sale. She is currently waiting for council's recommendation for list to submit to the attorney for tax sale.

Bill DelGizzo asks when the council needs to make a decision on the tax sale list, A DeAngelis says it needs to be tonight to be in line with the town. He clarifies there are two properties from 2019 on the list, and discusses prior recent tax sales. Carolyn DiLeo makes a motion to have the tax sale, Bill DelGizzo seconds, motion masses unanimously.

Joe Thomas – 39 What Cheer Rd – Who bears the cost of tax sale mailings – it's answered that the owner does.

Harbor Master

Joe Bleczynski shared his report. Topics included:

- a. A boat sank in the harbor during the recent stormy weather.
- b. Recent bad weather has delayed mooring inspections. There are about 12 remaining. The inspector's boat has recently sunk and is delayed.
- c. Plumbing at Kelly Beach foot wash has been replaced.
- d. Carol mentions lose handrails that need to be addressed.

Bob Patterson – Wonders why the boat in the harbor sank, Joe explains it was from the sustained gale force winds over the course of 6 days, it was unusual for this time of year.

Joe Thomas – Concerned boaters submitted a list to the council, regarding new regulations and disagreements, and asks if the council has had time to review said list. He discussed his grievances with the mooring inspection requirements. There is a discussion about the requirements about June 1st deadlines, and key usage. Joe explains that most requirements are remaining from previous harbor master. Carol suggests using an electronic keypad, Bill comments on how the district's regulations follow the towns. Carolyn references the harbor management plan, and how these new changes align with that. Carol identifies that the issues with the ordinances and regulations seem not to be with the rules themselves, but rather the new enforcement of them under the new harbor master. Lenny Mercier suggests the formation of a harbor committee again.

New Business

A. Community Center and district upgrades FD in the process of filing for a \$2000 grant, thanks to Rep. Carol McEntee Volunteers; this will enable us to use the funds for materials. Volunteers are needed, this will help to reduce overall costs.

B. St Veronica's parking lot expansion-council position- BSFD council went to the planning board, moved on to the zoning board; the surrounding neighbors are unhappy about tree removal and concerned about water runoff. Carol said she voiced the neighborhood concerns to the board. Church wants 157 additional parking spots – essentially doubling parking area. Neil has a petition for Carol to submit to the planning board. Bill adds the planning board is not wholly in favor of the expansion. Carol asks for council support to speak to the zoning board on behalf of the neighborhood.

Bob Patterson – asks for clarification if the council is the right group to submit an opinion to the boards, rather than a professional opinion. Carol replies that no, she cannot give a professional opinion like an engineer could.

Wendy Peters – 39 Joy Lane – says there is no chain on the parking lot exit through St. Veronica's at this time, and there has not been one for a long time. She is concerned that the church is not addressing this issue for cut through traffic, and also that the water runoff problem is already a significant issue and is worried about it getting worse. There is a discussion between Marleen and Neil about ethical building issues, private property building rights and developing as good neighbors.

Bill makes a motion for the council to follow through with supporting the neighborhoods concerns to the town, Carolyn seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Karen – 10 Old Town Trail – Discusses concerns about ethical development practices.

C. Concerns with Pond level will be handled by Land Trust-Comments

D. Sign up for camp is now open- Director has been hired- Carolyn, Jackie Cannelli Harris (sp?), school teacher w/ background in special ed. Great response for camp interest.

Karen asks about the vetting process and if there is one – yes there is.

Lenny Mercier 158 Bonnet Shores Rd – questions about pond level

Bob Patterson – asks about possible pond level monitoring, Joe B mentions a tide monitoring device

E. Beautification -participation -volunteers needed – Marleen discusses who is doing what around the district, barrel planters, there is a discussion about who will maintain them, and the idea to eblast a list of planters that need volunteers.

F. Social Committee-participation needed – cocktails on the beach will happen, possibly moving indoors in September, October & November. Discussed activities for kids, but there are not enough full time kids in the neighborhood. Community clean up, community yard sale will happen followed by large item pick up; block

party idea – food truck idea died b/c of financial commitment for them to come. Looking for more ideas for community activities and more involvement.

Nancy Cordy asks what the date for the community yard sale is, Marleen says her notes say the 3rd week of July. Nancy clarifies that would be the 16th, Marleen just needs to verify the trash pickup will follow. Nancy also asks about benches, and says that her and her family, along with others would like to replace several. Carol discusses the bench in the basement that she would like to supply to a member of the community, who would like to buy and install it; she asks Nancy to call her to discuss the bench list. Bill discusses need for organization of bench maintenance.

Elaine – 8 Merryweather – would like to get involved with volunteering for the playground projects. Steve says to email Carol.

G. Pickle Ball – permission to paint/play on basketball court – Carol says there is no discussion needed, everyone is in agreement for pickleball to take place on the basketball court.

H. Security is in place – Bill asks about security for camp, Carolyn discusses what is in place for camp procedures. Marleen says there is security in place for checking beach tags on Kelly Beach, and neighborhood drive throughs twice a week will resume for the summer season.

Dave Kauffman – asks if it is going to be the same security person, there is a discussion about the value of the security provided.

Joe B. – asks if there is any security around the harbor on the 4th of July because there have been issues with people setting off fireworks in the past.

I. Bus is in the process – Bill asks about the hours of the bus, and if it could run later than 4pm. There is an agreement that 6pm may be better.

J. Manger position-possible search committee or council direction – Carol reports that they need to build a job description for the District Manager and get community input.

Nancy Cordy – interested in pickle ball, glad it has been approved.

Joe B. – asks if there is a current job description, there is a discussion about how to proceed with drafting a new District Manager job description.

There is a discussion about collecting input and the process of drafting a new job description.

Public Comment

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

Faith LaSalle – 98 Col John – Asks about recent Land Trust minutes.

Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 10:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk