

Organizational Meeting: Bonnet Shores Fire District Council

Place: Bonnet Shores Community Center

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Choose Chair for Council

Choose Vice Chair for Council

Committee Assignments

Adjournment

2298

**Bonnet Shores Fire District Council
Meeting
130 Bonnet Shores Rd
Narragansett, RI 02882
July 15, 2015**

Organizational Meeting

Call to Order: Clerk, Carole Duffy, called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Attendance: Lenny Mercier, Janice McClanaghan, Terry Fracassa, Mike Vendetti, Bill DelGizzo, and Paul Farley

J. McClanaghan **moved** to nominate L. Mercier for Chair, 2nd M. Vendetti followed by a nomination for Vice Chair, P. Farley. One vote was cast for each position and the decision was unanimous by those in attendance when the vote was taken. 4-0 T. Fracassa and B. DelGizzo joined the meeting after the vote.

Committees were formed and Chair Mercier will forward the list.

P. Farley **moved** to adjourn; 2nd J. McClanaghan. **Motion** passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk, Carole Duffy

Carole Duffy
Ratified on 9/2/2015

4-2

Terry Fracassa
abstained

John Pariseault
absent

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council

Bonnet Shores Fire District Community Center
130 Bonnet Shores Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Monthly Meeting
July 15, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Chair Lenny Mercier called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Those in attendance included Council Members: Paul Farley, Janice McClanaghan, Bill DelGizzo, Terry Fracassa, and Mike Vendetti. District Manager Lisa DiBello, Treasurer Mary McGinn and Clerk Carole Duffy were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance along with observing a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Urgent Business: none

Ratification of May, 2015 Minutes:

Motion: P. Farley made a motion to accept the May minutes; 2nd by J. McClanaghan. **Discussion:** none. **Motion passed:** 6-0.

Chair Mercier welcomed new Council member, Mike Vendetti

Committee Reports

- a) **Beautification:** no report
- b) **Beach Committee / Security**— see Janice McClanaghan's attached reports. Bob Barber recently worked on the breach way.
- c) **Public Works** – Waste removal contract to be negotiated this year. Perhaps L.DiBello can frame a message to homeowners about times for putting barrels at curb and then removal. All of this should be in the 24 hrs. pre and post time frame
- d) **Social Committee:** no report
- e) **Pond:** pond water quality is being continually tested
- f) **Harbor Committee:** Chair Mercier reported that many people have been moved from the waiting list to the mooring list. Water pipe was replaced. Question about forfeiting mooring... eligible for one year past lapse and a boat must be on mooring at least once in the year
- g) **Traffic:** no report
- h) **By-Laws/ Ordinances /Bonnet Days / Benches Report) :** no report

Tax Collector's Report – bills are in the mail

Treasurer's Report- see attached report

Land Trust Report- no report

District Manager's Report: L.DiBello reported that the CC playground had been renewed with 80 yds. of sand delivered and see report

Old Business:

1. BSBC sewer report meeting will take place on August 19th
2. Gardens' adoption: 4 of 13 landscapers who work in Bonnet have agreed to maintain 5 plots and to be identified by signage. These areas include: fork, CC, Camden, Namcook, R. Smith

New Business:

1. Facilities Committee will research storage cabinet for CC
2. **Motion** was made by P.Farley to direct L.DiBello to e-blast realtors about not placing signs in garden areas especially at the fork. **Motion** passed 6-0
3. **Public thanks to Ms. McEntee** for donation of \$1000 for traffic calming and a formal letter will be sent from Chair Mercier
4. Rhetorical question from Council member, DelGizzo about beachgoer capacity of BSBC due to estimate on 7/4/15 of 6,000 people. No response.

Period of Public Comment

1. Status of speed tables... J. Pariseault absent
2. District Manager contract: to be signed and details forth coming
3. Rowdy parties near Lake Rd ??? call police
4. Council member, Terry Fracassa asked about condition of property at building in construction at corner of Withington and Bayberry. District Manager will alert Narragansett Bld. Inspector, Santilli
5. Resident asked about legality of golf carts... call police and District Manager will e-blast the reg.s. B. DelGizzo wants Manager to speak with Chief of police to determine exact ordinance about golf carts.
6. Council member DelGizzo wants a determination made about what BSFD is designated as... municipality or corporation.
7. The **motion** was made by B. DelGizzo and seconded by T. Fracassa about topic in # 6 as to identification of the exact designation of BSFD but once discussion ensued it was decided that the topic had not been placed on the Agenda and advertised so that it would be moved to the next meeting. Exact wording...To get an official opinion from either the AG or Sec. of St about the status of BSFD; corporation, homeowners association, municipality; in writing.

Meeting minutes will be available after ratification on the BSFD website

Adjournment

There being no further public comments or district business, P. Farley **moved** to close the meeting, 2nd by Bill Del Gizzo.
All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Duffy, Clerk

Carole Duffy

Minutes ratified by the Council on: 9/2/2015

3-0

Terry Fracassa

abstained

Bill DelGizzo

"

John Pariseault

absent

To: Bonnet Shores Fire District Council

**From: Janice McClanaghan
Chair –Beach Committee and Security Committee**

Date: July 15, 2015

Subject: Beach/ Security Committee Report

1. **Beaches:** The beaches are open and functioning well due the hard work of our district manager. We are hoping that Little Beach will be open soon, once the tractor is back from repair. At that time we hope that we can also backfill the Kelly beach ramp and make some arrangements with the ramp at Little Beach.
2. **Bus:** The town did agree to run the bus again this year- we are following the same hours and schedule as last year.
3. **Breachway:** We had to open the breachway last week for 24 hours to lower the level of the pond and the dry up the causeway. It was done during the week so as to not disturb the weekend beachgoers.
4. **Contact Information:** The insert asking for contact information will be out in the Bonnet tax bills. Please encourage people to submit information it not only provides the district with contact info in an emergency, but also allows residents to be informed.
5. **Security Detail:** Night security is back on duty along with the beach guard on weekends.
6. **Adopt a spot:** Mailings went out to 13 landscapers that work in Bonnet- 7 responded with two being too busy this year and one backing out later. The four remaining companies are Kc Gardens, G's Landscaping, White Birch and Macera. Roz Thomas has met with the four companies to discuss what needs to be done. Most work this summer will be to maintain anymore major work like transplanting etc will be in the fall. Thanks to Lisa, Roz and Lenny- (who is making the signs) for making this happen!
7. **Bonnet Days:** Bonnet Days was held on Saturday July 11th- It was a great event with 58 runners and walkers and over 25 kids. Matt would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors that made the day a huge success and I would like to especially thank Matt Mannix who organized the event. He put in a ton of effort and it showed. It looks like we may also make some money but Matt is awaiting the arrival of all bills and will give a full report in August. Also part of the day's events was a remembrance to Van Stebbene who died last year- she was the wife of Bob Stebbene , a former council member.

BONNET SHORES DISTRICT MANAGER

MONTHLY REPORT – July 2015

It's been a very busy few months here in Bonnet but I am happy to report that all is running smoothly. I am pleased to provide the following report to provide an update for the months of June and July. This report covers a number of the more significant matters that have occurred over the last 2 months. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

1. Beaches –

- a. Staff - There are a total of 6 lifeguards currently on staff. Both beaches are fully staffed and there have been no significant problems and/or incidents. I anticipate that both beaches will be able to remain staffed through Labor Day. I would point out that at some point you may want to have a discussion about future staffing of lifeguards at Little Beach as a few people have questioned the need and/or expense of doing so. I am not able to make a fair assessment of the situation at this point as I am not sure if the seaweed issue has significantly reduced use of the area or if attendance would be minimal regardless of the seaweed. I have asked lifeguards for an assessment with regard to attendance and have been told by a few of the guards that there have been several week days where not one person has swum at the beach (or surrounding areas) over the course of the entire day. They have reported that occasionally someone will "walk the rocks", paddle board, or go out to a boat which is anchored but that weekday use really is minimal. According to guards, weekend use isn't much better with an estimated 12-15 people total being the most they have seen over the course of a weekend day (which was on the Saturday of the 4th of July weekend). As I said, I'm not sure if this is a result of the seaweed or not but I thought I should bring it to your attention.
- b. Seaweed – as I'm sure you are probably all aware, the tractor has been out of service for several weeks and as such the seaweed at Little Beach has been a constant issue of concern for residents. I have advised all who have called to complain or inquire that the tractor is being repaired and as soon as it is fixed, the beach will be cleaned and the lifeguard chair will be placed on the beach. Until then, lifeguards have been bringing their own chairs or sitting on the bench at the top of the beach. I would note that when the seaweed problem was at its worst it was decided to not have guards working and to post that area as such due to the smell of the seaweed and limited attendance. As tides changed the amount of seaweed and due to concerns expressed by staff over missed work hours, it was decided to staff the area again until further notice.
- c. Kelly Beach Boardwalk Access – I received a complaint from a 74 year old resident from Dunes Road who is disabled and was concerned about the "large drop/step" off the boardwalk to get onto the beach. I explained that the tractor has been out of service and therefore we have not been able to pack wet sand at the end of boardwalk as has been done in the past. I did request that lifeguards sweep and shovel sand to try to reduce the step but this has not proven to be very effective. The resident who called to complain indicated that the packing of wet sand in the past has made the situation better for some but was not strong enough to allow her to access the beach and as such, she has been unable to do so for the last 2 summers. I advised her that I would pass this along to the council for further discussion.
- d. Little Beach Access – I also had a complaint (via email which I forwarded to council members) with regard to the "stairs" at Little Beach. I advised that resident that I would forward her complaint for your consideration and/or further discussion.

2. Summer Camp – I am very happy to report that the summer camp program is up and running and has been VERY successful to date. We have implemented a number of new programs, policies etc. which have been very well

received by most parents and returning staff. The one major "issue" which arose during the week prior to camp was the fact that I discovered that a significant number of camp attendees were NOT in fact Bonnet Shores residents and also did NOT have any family in the community. I had a rather "tense" discussion with one parent who indicated that she and "a large group of her friends" have been "allowed to send their kids for years" and that "she fully expected they would be able to continue to do so" and that she would be "making phone calls to be sure that it did". I discussed the matter AT LENGTH with various council representatives and in the end, it was decided that due to the fact that camp was beginning within days it would be best to allow *all* who wanted to attend (regardless of residency) to do so and that the matter would be addressed by the council in the future. I am therefore looking for your thoughts and direction for the future. The good news is we have received quite a few compliments about the program and parents (and campers) seem to be very pleased overall. The current session of camp will end on July 24 and Session 2 will run July 27 to August 21. Camp attendance appears to be significantly higher than reported numbers from recent years. We have had a TOTAL of 106 campers register to date for daily, weekly or full session attendance. We have an average of 52 campers on a daily basis with the exception of Fridays, which have averaged 55-70 campers. To date, we have collected \$7,135 in registration fees. Total expenses to date (supplies, equipment, and staff) total \$4,023. I anticipate that the program will "break even" and quite possibly even "net" a few dollars by the end of the summer! (Which I should add is even after having to purchase quite a bit of equipment and supplies after finding that little was left from the previous year).

3. Community "Events" –

- a. Bonnet Days – Bonnet Days was held this past Saturday and seemed to be a big success (thanks to all the volunteers and especially Matt and Janice!) The road race and cook out appeared to be well attended and all seemed to enjoy themselves. I anticipate that Matt will provide specifics regarding attendance numbers, budget etc. Congratulations to all involved in this fun community event!

- b. Yard Waste – Yard waste pick up days continue bi-weekly beginning this Saturday, July 18 (now that Bonnet Days is over). I would note that over the last 2 Saturday pick up days I observed 4-6 people arrive *after* the scheduled 10:30am end time (fortunately all but 1 of these people were still able to dump their yard waste before the container was removed). I spoke to Paul about this and at his suggestion I contacted Patriot to see if they could extend the end time to 11:00am. Unfortunately however, they advised me that in order for them to remove the container on the *same day* and dump it at the state landfill, they need to leave Narragansett *no later* than 11:00am to make the landfill before it closes. Therefore, we cannot extend the end time and as such it will remain at 10:30am.

- c. Yard Sale – The Annual Yard Sale will be held this **Saturday, July 18**. There are 23 residents registered to participate this year (as of now). The "official" map will be available for pickup at the end of the week at the Community Center. Please note, the yard sale has been advertised in all (6) RI Central newspapers (N.Times, Standard Times, Chariho Times, etc.) during the course of this week for a total cost of \$31. Hopefully the weather cooperates and the day is a success for all involved!

- d. Bulky Pick-Up Day – Bulky pick-up day is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 22** (to coincide with the yard sale 7/18 so unsold items can be discarded). As in the past, Patriot will pick up all acceptable items at no extra charge to residents. A list of prohibited items has been provided to Steve R., Bill D. and Jean A. and flyers are also available at the Community Center. I will also plan to post info in the bulletin boards the week of the pick-up.

- e. Blood Drive – The Annual Blood Drive will be held this **Thursday, July 16 from 3:00pm – 6:00pm** at the CC. I have been working with Jennifer from the RI Blood Center to plan and advertise the event. PLEASE BE SURE TO SPREAD THE WORD TO FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS TO ATTEND! I was told that only (3) donors participated last year.

Not only does the RI Blood Center spend a good deal of time and money to advertise and administer these blood drives, but there is a critical need right now during the busy summer months so donations are really needed! I am planning to donate and would challenge council members, summer staff, neighbors and friends to join me!

4. Facilities -

a. Playground Area – The playground area maintenance work has been completed. The existing sand/dirt base was excavated to remove all old sand/dirt and weeds and 80 yards of fine grade sand was spread (please see attached “before” and “after” photos). The old “dome” shaped climbing unit (which was beyond repair –please see attached photo) was removed as well as several concrete “foundations” and “pilings” which were discovered just under the old sand base. One larger concrete foundation still remains in the playground area but will be removed in the near future (backhoe unable to remove due to size, must bring in jackhammer to complete). Work was done by Coppa and Son at a total cost of \$2,800 (which was the low bid by over \$2,000). Funds for the project came from the existing playground fund which now has a remaining balance of approx. \$3,000+/-) If/when funds permit, the Council may want to consider replacing the “dome” play structure which was removed with a comparable piece of equipment.

b. Landscaping – The “Adopt an Island” project is underway (special thanks to Roz Thomas, Janice McClanaghan, Lenny Mercier and the beautification committee!) A total of 4 landscapers agreed to participate in the program: K.C./Coppa Gardens, G’s, White Birch and Macera Landscaping. Landscape companies will be responsible for the maintenance and improvement of 6 islands (previously identified) at no cost to taxpayers. In exchange for their donated time and services, a “sponsorship” sign will be placed in each island identifying the name of the landscape company who has “adopted” the area. Lenny is making decorative wooden signs which will have metal “plaques/signs” mounted on them with each landscaper’s name and phone number.

c. Speed Sign - The speed/radar sign has been purchased and is here at the Community Center. It will be installed after it is determined what the best location for placement is. Special thanks to Rep. Carol McEntee for her sponsorship of a \$1,000 legislative grant to defray the cost of the project (\$3,000 total). Please note, I was asked why the legislative grant application was submitted for this project and not the playground project (or something other) and I wanted to be sure to advise you that not only did the appropriation have certain “restrictions” as to what the funds could be used for (i.e. public safety, etc.) but also because of the fact that Rep. McEntee had just been elected to her position the week before the grant application was due, she was only able to contact me 48 hours prior to the submission deadline to inquire if I would be willing and able to complete the application in time. Therefore, it was decided that since I had already researched all of the specs and pricing for the speed/radar sign and since it fit the “public safety” element of the grant, the decision was made to apply for the funds for this project.

d. “Drive Signs” – (2) “Drive Like Your Kids Live Here” signs (that I was asked to purchase) are also here at the CC. They will be installed (along with the speed/radar sign) after it is determined where they should be placed.

e. Tick spraying – The basketball, volleyball, playground, ballfield and surrounding areas were sprayed by Narragansett Pest Control for tick control the week before summer camp began (after several ticks appeared on people who were in or around the playground area!) All neighbors were notified of the spraying in advance and the playground and surrounding areas were closed for a few hours to allow for spraying. The spraying appears to have been very effective (so far) as we have not had a single report of a tick on any campers! We may spray again in August after the area is re-evaluated.

f. Complaint – Vacant house across from the Community Center – I contacted Bob Brier after I noticed that the house located diagonally across the street from the Community Center looked like it had fallen into disrepair and that the lawn had not been mowed in many weeks and/or months. Bob registered a complaint with the Town and notified me

that the Town had issued a summons to the owner to either have the property cleaned and yard mowed within 72 hours or that the town would do so and then place a lien on the property. House vacant.

g. Complaint – I received a complaint from a neighbor of 144 Bonnet Point Road with regard to overgrown bushes blocking signs. I contacted Cindy in the Building Officials office who issued a summons for the owners to clean and/cut the shrubs or as stated above, the town would do the work and place a lien on the property.

h. Complaint – I called the DPW to request that they cut the weeds/shrubs at the intersection of Richard Smith and Treasure Road which are blocking the STOP sign. I called on June 26 and was assured it would be “taken care of”. As of yesterday (2+weeks) it had still not been addressed so I placed a follow up call today. I just wanted to advise you in case you had noticed it yourself or heard from residents about it.

i. Bench Program – I have received a couple of calls with regard to the “memorial bench program”. A few callers were upset that memorial benches were no longer out in the community. I explained that it was my understanding that benches were removed due to Superstore Sandy and were not returned out of concerns for maintenance. One caller suggested that perhaps the memorial bench program could be re-instituted and that if there is a concern with regard to maintenance that perhaps a “maintenance agreement” could be entered into with all donors requiring that they provide for annual upkeep and maintenance (as needed) and that failure to do so would result in removal of the bench. I advised that I would pass this on for the council to consider.

j. Bonnet Shores Beach Club – As most of you probably know, Zach Stedman (Mgr) is no longer with the Beach Club. Zach and I worked very well together in the few short months I have been here. I have met the interim manager (Mike Kelleher) and I believe he and I will continue to enjoy a successful work relationship. I would note that Mike and his staff were kind enough to “rescue” one of the Kelly beach lifeguard chairs for us when it was toppled over and rolled into the water over the busy July 4th holiday weekend.

5. “Other” – I felt I would be remiss if I didn’t note how appreciative I am of all the support and assistance I have received since arriving in May. There have been a number of council members and residents who have gone out of their way to provide guidance and/or help in one way or another and I just wanted to say THANK YOU for all of the help! I really appreciate it.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa DiBello
Bonnet Shores District Manager