

**BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT
130 BONNET SHORES RD
NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882**

CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES AUG.9, 2022

Chair Carolyn DiLeo called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Attending members included Lloyd Albert, Faith LaSalle, Anita Langer , and Bob Patterson. Michelle Caraccia , zoom master, and Carole Duffy, secretary.

Motion to Approve Aug. 2. Minutes: Minutes were not approved as Faith explained that she did not feel they were complete as some of her references were not included. Chair DiLeo suggested to Carole that the minutes should not be a summary but rather more like a narrative to allow for more explanation and that a statement should be included in the minutes reminding residents that all meetings can be viewed on zoom during which a verbatim account can be heard.

Bob added that all references to “imprisonment” should be removed from sec. 5.

- Chair DiLeo reiterated that no documents would be shared with the public until reviewed by an attorney.
- The group agreed to reschedule the meeting for the 23rd to the 22nd at 6 PM.
- **Attorney appointment :** Chair DiLeo explained that she and Bob would be interviewing three individuals for the position. She emphasized that the candidates should have no connection with Narragansett or Bonnet. The group wanted to know the names of all the people on an initial list and the names of the interviewees. Matt Callaghan and Mark McSally had conflicts so Mike Ursillo, Mike Marcello, and Bill Conley will be interviewed.
- **Review of Sec. 2 & 3 continuation:** The third draft of Sec. 2 was discussed. Faith indicated continuing issues; Anita said that we have a Charter which is unconstitutional and Bob added that residents' votes cannot be diluted by BSBC property owners. Faith, also, stated that an attorney should be present at every meeting.
- **Sec. 3 :** rewording in the last sentence to say *outcome of such shall be*.
- **Sec. 4 :** The attorney will be asked about putting this section into a Preamble.
- **Sec. 5 :** It was determined that the wording *Fourth District Court at Washington County* should remain. Faith recommended removing references to Narragansett responsibilities for maintenance of public items like electric poles, sewers ,etc. Anita suggested leaving the wording as is in case at some point in the future , leaders in Narragansett change their minds.
- **Sec. 6 ;** wordsmithing to reflect appointing not electing a canvasser.
- **Sec. 7:** A lengthy discussion ensued about the fire district mil rate (under 1 %). New words were proposed for sentence 1> *and/ or imposition of fees of real estate* . This will be reviewed by the attorney. Anita advocated for capturing fees for transfer and commercial properties.
- **Sec. 8:** Faith prefaced her comments by saying that she wants to see language in the Charter that reflects checks and balances on spending by the Council. She referenced RI law 45-12.2 which outlines debt limit/ borrowing. No one knew off hand if there are specific guidelines pertinent to this in the current Bylaws. A brief reference was made concerning the monies involved with the Walkway proposal and it was pointed out that those monies were part of the Land Trust budget. Within Faith’s proposal was a 3% cap based on BSFD property assessment and the # of a billion was thrown out as the property value of the BSFD.
Chair diLeo said that she would speak to the tax assessor about the Oct. 15th reference.
- **Sec. 9:** see wordsmithing in paragraph 2> *duly convened special or annual meeting*. Faith expressed trouble with Sec. 9 and wondered if “home rule” could override a decision by the State Legislature”. Bob referred to research he had done pertaining to Charter Amendments actually

being filled with the Legislature and located two: 1976 & 1982. Chair diLeo added that in 2019 SOS put the Council on notice for not adhering to State voting reg.s and the entreaty was ignored by the Council. My paraphrase of Carolyn... “Perhaps the eventual lawsuit could have been avoided if the Council had responded to the SOS’s notice”. Bill Del Gizzo, added from the audience, that he had raised this non compliance with SOS by the Council for numerous years until finally the Council allowed the Clerk to file minutes with SOS and to organize years of previous minutes to be digitized for future reference.

Another brief discussion ensued as to what would happen if the BSFD was dissolved. All of the land would become State property (harbor, beaches, etc.)

- **Sec. 10:** basically this section about the harbor management is governed and regulated by CRMC

An aside, the Preamble should contain information as to why the Charter is being revised.

- **Public Comment:** On going from audience; none from zoom.
- **To hear verbatim discussion occurring during this meeting , please listen to Zoom.**

- Next meeting: Aug. 16, 2022 @ 6 PM
- Meeting adjourned: Anita moved: Lloyd 2nd. All agreed; 7:45

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Duffy