

Comments from public re: Sections 1, 3-10
Received as of Tuesday, November 8, 2022

I just question the phrase "for its corporate purposes "in both Sections 5 and 6.

I understand that the FD was originally set up as a corporation but I'm wondering why this language of "corporate purposes" has remained in the body of this revised document.

I do support Voting in person by ballot and the elimination of proxy voting.

Paula Childs
55 Lake Road

Recall provision - definitely need this

1. All elected offices, bylaws should address recall for appointed members.
2. percentage of voters for recall - what do other municipalities do? Yes, there should be a minimum number which is less than the number of votes needed for a recall. What numbers were used in Narragansett for the library issue?
3. Signatures and future digital means.
4. Must be a resident of the district. Name, address, phone number - bylaws?
5. Same as tax assessor information.
6. Suggest framework in bylaws.
7. Yes to time limit for district to act. Part c yes. Other municipalities?
9. No to intent. Digital means of signature will become the norm. Yes to time limit, but a generous limit like 90 to 180 days. Do other municipalities allow petitioners to withdraw their signatures? That seems like a logistical nightmare.
10. 60 days
11. Same as tax assessor
12. Parallel. Just file with district manager or write in on ballot.
13. What is state law (if any)? Other municipalities?
14. Good point. Based on past history in the district we need to be able to recall anyone when needed, so disagree with section b.

15. Recall for appointed members. Many of these issues will be digital in the future so the "how-to" language should be in the bylaws; the charter should provide the framework but not tie us to outdated means to implement it.

Mary Weber and Sandra Doucette
54 Bonnet Point Rd

In section 7, just what is the real estate transfer fee going to be? Shouldn't a flat fee or a reasonable percentage (possibly based on the mil rate of BSFD taxes for the year of transfer) be spelled out in this section?

Tony Lupino
Lake Rd

Section 10, Section II, subsection A1, the verbiage in the first section is at best confusing. (See attached highlighted sections on page 6 of the Commission's draft). It appears it may include two drafts of the same concept. Not saying I am a lawyer, but I am used to reading legal documents, and if I am confused, others may be as well.

Three: It appears that the verbiage in the latter part of the aforementioned Section 10 eliminates trust's ability to vote. I question whether that eliminates or raises the question (in the latter part of the highlighted section) of the validity of your's, Carol Fortin's, Anita's, mine and Mary's and many others' right to vote since our properties are in revocable trusts. It seems to me that by banning trusts in Section 10, subsection II, the verbiage could be seen to be in conflict with some residents' right to vote. Could this precipitate a legal challenge?

Richard Mercier

I moved to CT and used my home in Bonnet on weekends and vacations in the summer. Now that I have retired, my wife and I spend about 5 of the warmer months in Bonnet. We are still residents of Granby, CT and would lose our right to vote if eligibility is based on residency rather than ownership. However, we have always been impressed by the dedication and talent of the BSFD Council most of whom live in Bonnet year-round. We would be very comfortable with voting rights based on residency.

Tom Lonergan

Section 6. Paragraph 1.

- Probably need more detail on rules for filling a vacancy. Unanimous or Majority vote of council? Other criteria?

Section 7. Paragraph 2.

- I agree on a fee, but what about parameters for the size of the fee?

Section 7. Paragraph 3. 3rd Section.

- Why include fire, policy department when we eliminated that earlier in the Charter?

Section 7. Paragraph 3. 5th Section.

- Suggested Edit.....Purchase and/or Construction of any building, recreational facilities (such as playground, basketball court, etc)?

Dave Kaufman
Bonnet Point Road

1. Section 3- paragraph 2 I think that raising the number of people for a quorum is a good thing.
1. Section 5-Wording on the fine level I think is good.
1. Section 6 - On the issue of tax assessors and canvassers. Is the tax assessors a paid position now? Does that person oversee the canvassers, or is the clerk in charge as in the past? I am concerned that the number of canvassers is vague. Who decides how many are elected for the following year? Some years turnout is low and some years its high. The year of the last election, we had the clerk and 3 assessors and each had a helper and it wasn't enough.
1. Section 9 paragraph 2, affirmative vote of majority, shouldn't it be for both special and annual?
1. Under consideration for drafting a voter approval for extraordinary expenditures - I do think that there should be language to control any large expenditure.

Janice McClanaghan
Treasure Road

Section 7 - I would like to see a maximum established for the flat fee associated with real estate transactions. This feels like an arbitrary way to make money, which I'm ok with, but it should be modest.

Ann Rotatori
Leonard Bodwell

2- Section 6 - Why impose a fee?

4- Extraordinary Expenses - Any amount of debt that would cause more than a 5% increase in taxes should be approved in advance by voters. The last thing we need to have is a council with an unlimited checkbook that can cause indebtedness of future councils. Unless this is already not possible then I would be fine with an extraordinary expense that would cause no more than a 20% increase in taxes for a period of one year.

John Rizzo
Bonnet Point Rd.

Section I: 1 - Is "enjoy all Lights" a typo?

We enjoy "rights and powers" but do not accrue obligations?

3. Section I: 2 -

Who knew that the District could accumulate this much debt? This seems very open ended. Should there be no reference in the charter as to the mechanisms for taking on debt? This section is very specific on procedures to vote but totally vague on procedures to take on debt.

4. Section I: 3 - Perhaps there is a legal reason for it, but I fail to see why specific references to the first meeting in 1932 and placing notices in the ProJo has any relevance in a redrafted charter, likewise Section I: 4. There are changes proposed to this section, so why not limit the section to those changes which still apply?

5. Section I: 5 - If the fine is not to exceed \$100, of which half goes to the District, to whom does the other half go if Municipal Court is not involved? And if Municipal Court is involved and levies a fine in excess of \$100, is this clause intended to cap that judgement? Does the District receive half of the fine levied by District Court or do we get half in addition to what the Court is to receive?

6. Section I: 7 - I thought the town is now responsible for our streets. If so, why say our taxes can be used for street "establishment and improvement"? In Section I: 6 the idea that we could elect police was struck, deservedly so. Why now say our taxes can be used to establish fire, police and life saving departments? Or is it necessary to list this possibility to retain our status as a Fire District?

7. Section I: 8 - "where on" should be written "whereon".

Bill Cole

20 Bayberry

Also I feel the homeowners in Bonnet should have a greater say/voice in large expenditures that are taking place. the large expenditures should be presented at the annual meeting for discussion and voted by those that are there to vote.. There is too much money being spent on many many things that should be discussed by voters before council votes.

Lee Cannon

No address given

Section 5- I would like to see the paragraph about "in addition the District may impose and collect a flat fee on all transfers and sales of real estate located within the District as well as other real estate based fees" removed. This is not necessary. Why is the district so concerned about raising revenue when we already pay taxes to the district? If it remains it should be specific and not vague.

Karen Van Dongen
No address given

Section 1
the borrowing limit in section 1 is (if I understand it) WAY too large...
Neal S. Prescott
70 Wolfe Rd
