

BONNET SHORES BYLAWS MEETING  
130 BONNET SHORES RD  
NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882  
MINUTES MAY 16, 2023

**Call to Order:** Chair Carolyn DiLeo called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Committee members in attendance included: Faith LaSalle, Lloyd Albert, Nancy Cordy , and Carole Duffy. Steve Danuszar was absent.

**Minutes ratification:** Nancy moved to accept the minutes from April 18, 2023; 2nd by Faith. Minutes were approved 4-0 with 1 abstention as Lloyd was absent in April.

There were five residents in the audience and 2 on Zoom. Dave Kaufman was the Zoom Master.

Chair DiLeo explained that once the members of the committee finished a discussion, audience comments would be welcome.

The order of business for the evening included a review of Art. III followed by a return to Art. I and II for wordsmithing as needed. Note: some of the wordsmithing typed in these could have occurred during previous meetings. **All bold indicates new wording.**

**Article III Officers and Committees**

**Sect. 1** Enumeration of.

**treasurer, tax assessor, tax collector, and a fire warden.**

**Sect. 2** Election ...

**including absentee ballots.....their successor.....chairperson...a member...will**

**Sect 2 (a)** Ties

District **election...tie vote,**

**A special election will be held within 30 days of the Annual or Special meeting...shall oversee the special election... result of the special election in.**

**Sect 2 (b)** Recounts

district-**election.....meeting within 24 hours of the adjournment of the meeting.**

(ii) **ballots at the prescribed place and time**

**Sect. 3** Moderator

**The Annual or Special Meeting**

**Sect. 4** Clerk

attend all **monthly ....of all meetings...required by the Open Meeting Act.**

**Sect. 5** Treasurer ( this entire section was included in the April minutes)

**(a) The District will conduct an annual review of financial records by an independent accountant.**

**Sect. 6** Tax Assessor

**The Assessor....The Tax Assessor.....**

**Sect. 7** Tax Collector

shall pay over to the **Treasurer. This individual...**

**Sect. 8** Fire Warden

### **Sect. 9 Election Meeting Committee**

**The Election Meeting Committee consisting of at least seven (7) qualified voters of the district, (including two (2) members of the Council ) will be formed in January through outreach by the Council for volunteers. Their primary task will be to work with the Clerk and District Manager to organize the Annual meeting.**

**Sect. 10 Compensation ( no new changes other than the Sect. number)**

**Sect. 11 Absences**

**with two (2) consecutive or four (4) absences...from office after a public discussion at the next regular or Special district council meeting and the position ...**

Considerable discussion ensued before the wording of this section evolved.

### **Article IV Vacancies**

**Sect. 1 Filling of.**

**to serve for any cause, shall... Council within 60 days of resignation....or Special...district is....the vacancy. If the vacancy occurs within 6 months of an election, the next highest vote getter will be offered the vacancy until the next subsequent Annual or Special meeting of the district.**

Considerable discussion ensued before the wording of this section evolved.

**Articles V-VIII remained as written or previously reworded**

**Article IX Amendment of the By Laws**

**Sect. 1 Method of Amendment**

**Annual or Special meeting.....including absentee ballots.**

Committee attention turned to Article I for wordsmithing,

### **Article I Meetings**

**Sect. 1 Annual Meeting**

**The Annual meeting....last Thursday of July.....meeting shall....whether Special or Annual**

**Sect. 2 Special Meetings**

**Special meetings (as defined as a meeting held outside of the regularly scheduled Council meetings) ... called by the Chair.... Or....called by the Chair**

**Sect. 3 Notice of Meetings**

**Notice of the Annual or Special meeting shall be made by mailing notices to all named in the list of qualified voters. The notice may be given by mailing a written or printed notice of the time, date, and place where the meeting is to be held not less than 10 days and not more than 21 days before the day of the meeting. Mailing may be by electronic mail, U.S.Postal Service, or any other service designed to provide notice to the person named in the list of voters. Notice shall also be posted on the District's official website and bulletin boards not less than 10 days and not more than 21 days before the day of the meeting.**

**Any notice or agenda of an Annual or Special meeting may be made by electronic mail and sent to the electronic address on file with the District for each Qualified Voter. The**

**Qualified Voter is responsible for providing an electronic mailing address to the District. Any Qualified Voter who wants to continue to receive any notice or agenda, other than by electronic mail, must give written notice to the Clerk stating that the Qualified Voter wants to receive such materials via U.S. Mail**

(a) Additional Notice of Meetings

**any Special.... At least 10 days**

(b) The Annual Meeting notice shall include:

(1) Agenda

(2) Budget

**(3) Report of Tax Collector**

**(4) Report of Treasurer**

(5) Dates of regularly scheduled BSFD Council meetings

(6) Slate of Declared Candidates

**Any referenda to be presented for consideration**

(c) case of **Their** absence.....**Chair**

Resident ,Richard Mercier, offered input for this section as he felt “snail mail” needed extended time for delivery.

**Sect.4** Quorum

Voters,qualified as hereinafter provided present in person.

**Sect. 5** Voting at Meetings ( set aside for now)

**Sect. 6 Qualified Voter List** (set aside for now as clarification is needed about who prepares this list for the Annual meeting, etc.)

**Article II** District Council

**Sect. 1** Number and Qualifications

**Sect. 2** Elections and Term of Office

The members of the district council shall be elected at the Annual meeting. Successors to the members of the council whose term shall expire in the year fixed for the Annual **meeting** shall be elected to hold office for a term of three (3) years **and may be eligible for one additional (3) three year term. At the expiration of such term, they shall be ineligible for re-election within (1) one year. Vacancies shall be appointed by the Council to serve the remainder of an unexpired term. Chair of Council shall serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive years. In the event of a delayed election, the candidate with the highest vote total will have the option to choose their term of office from terms available.**

Extensive discussion ensued pertaining to this section. It must be noted that given the delayed election occurring in 2023, there will be three (3) positions for three (3) years and two (2) positions for three (3) years.

Furthermore, Faith cited resident Joan Fandetti’s, concern about qualifications of potential Council candidates. Faith and Joan raised the possibility that all future Council members could reside out of state for part of the year. Carolyn cautioned about creating a divide among residents. Nancy interjected that the candidate criteria should be about qualifications for the position and a candidate’s commitment to focus on community needs.

**Sect.3** Powers

Things as are not by law, **or** the Charter or these ByLaws...and the other powers conferred by law, the Charter and these ByLaws

(a) - (d) no changes today

However, this section drew discussions from the members of the committee, folks present and Richard on zoom. Faith is seeking a fiscally responsible Council with specific guidelines in the ByLaws advocating for a 10% cap on spending. Lloyd agreed that the spending caps should probably be measured by % s rather than the mil rate. Carolyn added that there should be public hearings held for possible over budget spending. Richard agreed that the public needs to be informed before any large monetary expenditures are undertaken by the Council. Bill DelGuizzo joined in with comments about the extreme expense of undertaking building projects, today. Finally, Faith suggested that perhaps special projects could be funded by donations and that she would research spending caps by other fire districts.

**Sect. 4 Meetings and Notice Thereof.**

A meeting of the district council shall be held **immediately following the results of the annual election or as soon as convenient after a Special meeting.** At said meeting the Council shall organize and elect a **Chair** and **Vice Chair** from its membership.

Regular meetings...the **Chair**... shall be given by the **Chair**....Notice of all meetings of the district council shall be given **its members at the address** listed with the Clerk

**Sect. 5 Quorum** no changes today

**Sect. 6 Compensation** no changes today

Next meeting will be on June 20, 2023

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM was agreed to by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Duffy