

BONNET SHORES CHARTER COMMISSION
130 BONNET SHORES RD. NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882
MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2023

The complete agenda of the Oct. 18,2023 meeting including the motion will be attached to this document.

Please note the time stamps throughout the minutes for reference to the zoom recording.

Call to Order: Chair Carolyn DiLeo called the meeting to order at 5PM. Commission members in attendance included: Anita Langer, Faith Lasalle, Bob Patterson, and Lloyd Albert. Secretary, Carole Duffy and Zoom Master , District Manager. 6 people were on zoom and 4 in the audience.

Bob Paterson read his original motion found in Sect. 2(a) of the Commission's recommendations for the Charter. "All persons who reside in the Bonnet Shores Fire District , and who are duly registered with, and eligible to vote in general or special elections in the Town of Narragansett, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors of the Bonnet Shores Fire District". This remains as previously stated. Sect. 2(b) will be deleted which referred to 60 day occupancy in Bonnet.

Sect. 2(c) will be renamed as 2(b)

Sect.2(d) will be renamed as 2(c).

Sect. 11a(2) will be deleted entirely.

Faith objected to the above as the original Bill died in the General Assembly and she expressed that the motion is confusing. Chair DiLeo added that she tried to make the Sections' renaming as clear as possible. 00:11:30

Bob moved the above motion; 2nd by Lloyd. Discussion ensued.

Faith began reading from a prepared notes (to be attached). Carolyn asked where the wording in paragraph 3 came from and Faith responded " it is just good law". Bob said that 2(a) does not need to change as the Gen. Assembly already approved it. Faith wants the language to be clearer. Lloyd interjected that there was a motion on the floor to be voted on tonight and perhaps Faith could present her alternatives at the November meeting.

Bob, again, said that 2(a) remains the same while 2(b) is being deleted in reference to days of occupancy. Faith wants the language to change.

Chair DiLeo called for approval of the motion as written above. Motion passed 4-1. Faith was the 1. 00:23:29

As the meeting progressed Faith asked Bob about the Fire Districts he referred to at the last Charter meeting and he said that he was not prepared to comment. 00:23:46

The group decided to hold the next meeting on Nov. 14, 2023 at 6:30. Nov. 10th is the legal Veterans' holiday so agenda will be posted on the 9th at the CC. Chair DiLeo asked for Faith's alternatives by Nov. 6th. 00:29:21

Faith stated that there were unprofessional comments made about her while she was not in attendance at the last meeting and working together is very important.

Public Comment

Mark Michaelson wanted to discuss his proposals as they relate to the constitutional floor/ resident voting. Chair DiLeo said that he could forward those proposals to her by Nov. 6 to be placed on the Nov. 14th agenda as they were not on tonight's agenda and we must follow OMA procedures.

Move to adjourn was made by Bob and seconded by LLoyd. 5:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Duffy

Bonnet Shores Fire District
130 Bonnet Shores Road
Narragansett, RI
Agenda
Charter Commission
October 18, 2023
5 pm

Call to order

- Motion to consider revising the recommendations of the Charter Revision Committee previously submitted to the Rhode Island General Assembly (“the Recommendations”) (<https://bonnetshores.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Proposed-Charter-Amendments-Changes-12.22.22.pdf>) regarding amendment of the Act to Incorporate the Bonnet Shores Fire District, as amended, as follows:

Section 2(a) of the Recommendations

“All persons who reside in the Bonnet Shores Fire District, and who are duly registered with, and eligible to vote in general or special elections in the Town of Narragansett, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors of the Bonnet Shores Fire District.” remains as previously stated.

“Section 2(b) of the Recommendations is deleted in it’s entirety;

Sections 2(c) and (d) of the Recommendations to be renumbered to conform to the above;

Section 11(a)(2) of the Recommendations is deleted in it’s entirety;

Except as modified herein, the Recommendations to remain as previously stated.”

For context and information:

- This amendment was originally proposed to the General Assembly in January 2023 in Section 2, A. This same wording was also proposed at the 8/15/23 Charter Commission meeting and was voted unanimously to approve. See minutes of August 15, 2023 and the recording posted on website. <https://bonnetshores.org/committee-minutes/>
- At the 10/11/23 meeting, it was decided to re post and re-vote the above amendment. See recording at [Charter Commission Zoom Recording - Oct 11, 2023](#)

Adjourn

BSFD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BSFD Charter Commission Meeting

Time: Oct 18, 2023 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89241310508?pwd=dmVEazhaWWFkMnhDUWZuUmlPRFJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 4131 0508

Passcode: 501026

Bob's Proposal with Faith's additions and deletions

All persons who reside (delete) have a "residence and home" as set forth in the Rhode Island Constitution, in the Bonnet Shores Fire District, and who are duly registered with, and eligible in general or special elections at the Town of Narragansett, at least thirty days before a District election, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors of the Bonnet

Shores Fire District.

Residence for voting purposes is one's fixed and established domicile as defined under R.I.G.L. Section 17-1-3.1

The Charter provision on who is a qualified elector to vote in the District elections shall not be amended or changed without a two-thirds vote in favor of an amendment by the qualified voter as defined above.

Comment: 1) We need to follow the consent order on "residence and home" as this matter was the subject of litigation in the courts; 2) Confusion in the community as what residency means for voting purposes in RI, so we must follow the definition under RI Constitution and voting laws; 3) To ensure a super majority agrees to any further changes in the qualified electorate and such a change is not made simply by a Council.

Faith's section (1)

Every person of the age of majority (18 years or older) who has a "residence and home," as set forth in the Rhode Island Constitution, in the District and who shall be qualified and registered to vote with the proper authorities of the Town of Narragansett at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting or a special meeting, regardless of whether they own property.

Add paragraph two and three above.

CONSENT ORDER

"Every citizen of the United States of the age eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in the Bonnet Shores Fire District for thirty days next preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the

Bonnet Shores Fire District, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting as provided by the Bonnet Shores Fire District Charter, shall have the right to vote for all officers to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors."