



# BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT

Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882

*Established 1932*

**January Monthly Meeting: Bonnet Shores Fire District Council**  
**130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 – And Zoom**  
**Wednesday January 17, 2024**  
**7:30pm**

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm. Council members in attendance included Chair Carol O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Anthony DeAngelis and Steve Danuszar. Additional present included District Manager Mark Gillooly, Tax Collector John Chereskin, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

## **Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence**

## **Urgent Business – None**

## **Announcements, Clarification:**

**All BSFD official district information is available at [bonnetshores.org](http://bonnetshores.org).**

## **Approval of minutes:**

October 31, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes – motion to approve made by Marlene, Carol notes a typo on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line, motion to approve as corrected by Marlene, seconded by Steve, motion passes unanimously.

## **Treasurer:**

Laurie shared her report, topics include ordinary expenses are on track. Current legal fees for this fiscal year are \$629.00. 2 expenses that have come up are beach expenses, Kelley Beach raking, port-a-john and other maintenance is \$19,000. Roughly \$13,000 for culvert and breachway maintenance. Current bank account balance is \$418,792.00.

Laurie requests the Council approve a CPA for the Tier 3 district filings; Rob Salmani quote for \$800 per quarter. CPA filing is not required until tier 2, however is a best practice for the district. 2 other CPAs that were contacted declined to quote.

Motion to approve CPA Robert Salmani made by Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anthony, passes unanimously.

## **Tax Collector:**

John shared his report, including tax reports were sent to the council at the end of 2023 calendar year, 97% of 2024 taxes have been collected, 49% of prior year's budget has been collected. John met with Laurie to reconcile; all account reporting was accurate. 149 properties are currently delinquent. John has met with and has plans in January to meet with the town tax collector to further his efforts to contact the delinquent property owners.

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## **Land Trust:**

Terrence Beatty – Land Trust – next Meeting will be next Thursday 1/25/42. Key topics for the land trust include reinstating the 501c3 status, spearheaded by Dave Kauffman; possible property encroachments and how to resolve current disputes, and most importantly develop a policy for future issues. Carol asks if the bylaws draft sent to the council is the final draft, and the answer is unclear. Discussion and vote is tabled until the next meeting following further clarification.

## **Social Committee:**

Steve shared a report for the Social Committee, including that Deb Panullo and the committee is looking for volunteers and participants to hopefully organize a Bonnet Days event but there is a lack of support from the community at this time (volunteers and organizers needed). Drinks on the beach are planned to resume this summer. A meeting will be held soon, but no tentative date as of right now.

## **Communications Committee:**

Steve shared for the committee, including that the last meeting was around October 26<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting may include restructuring the committee members and creating standardized processes for district communications.

## **Charter Commission: No Report**

## **District Manager:**

Mark shared his report. This past weekend's storm deposited 2 feet of sand on the Causeway. The removed sand from the roads and BSBC parking lot is being stored at the BSBC, as a courtesy. This sand will be screened and restored to the beach in the spring.

2. The snow plower used in the past did not respond to Mark's requests for help this year. Mark contacted a new snow plower at the recommendation of Bill DelGizzo, and they are doing an excellent job.

3. Quote from DiStefano Brothers for new flooring in BSCC, \$12,000, the CC would be inaccessible for 1 full week, and would have a full curing time of a few weeks after that – for light traffic only. This is the only bid at current time. Carol comments that this is the only company in the state that offers this type of concrete flooring service. Steve asks for a description of the process; Mark reads the description from his report.

## **New Business:**

1. 2024 Road Race – Motion to approve the road race on October 27, 2024, is made by Marlene, Anthony asks if they have an insurance policy, Mark comments that last year they had over 200 volunteers to support the race, including Boy Scout Troop 1, and it was difficult to get the volunteers, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve, approved unanimously.

## **Public Comment:**

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Carolyn DiLeo Comments via zoom – that the announcement needs to be changed that this meeting happened on November 14<sup>th</sup> and a quorum was reached. She disagrees with the motion to approve the hiring of the CPA earlier in the meeting. She is also concerned about the color of the new floor being picked, and she says there are other companies in the state that provide this service, and that additional bids are necessary for the bidding process.

Anita Langer comments via zoom – that additional bids are a necessary part of the process for decisions to hire contractors; She asks Laurie if the legal fees of \$629 reported earlier, and asks if that was for the 2023 – 2024, and comments on her estimated rate, and thinks Tom Dickenson is not charging enough, and she comments that she feels the council is not working cohesively, that District money being spent is

Tony Lupino of Lake Road – Asks what is currently happening with Coastal Resources/ CRMC for the causeway & pond situation. At the end of public comment (Mark was in the office at the time of Tony's question), Mark comments that he doesn't have the answers Tony is looking for at the moment, because this is a new situation with the seawall, Mark attempts to explain that he has reached out to the town who coordinates with CRMC and is waiting for CRMC to come to the District for conversations and evaluations.

Lloyd Albert of Camden Road – Comments about the effects of the winter storms on Little Beach, Kelly Beach, the Causeway, etc., and asks Carol if there has been progress on a plan to engage the local municipal resources and departments for the management of property damage in the community from storms. Carol responds that she was told by the land trust when she began looking into using grant funds for these purposes, she was told that the pond and the culvert were land trust property. Anthony asks Mark if he received complaints from the community about the recent cleanup efforts. Mark responds that he received some calls from concerned residents about their homes and property values.

Bob Patterson of Parkman Road – Comments on Anita's mention of the council being disrespectful, he complains that the agenda for tonight's meeting wasn't posted to the community sooner, he complains that his petition that was submitted for a special meeting was not responded to.

Christiana Quinn, Mohawk Trail – Comments that the petition that was submitted in October was not responded to.

Matt Mannix, Col. John Road – Shares his view that the BSFD is not a municipality, he comments that an annual meeting cannot be held without a qualified voter list and makes a recommendation to the council for charter revisions and using the current voter list to hold a special meeting, and he offers his help to pass his proposal.

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Faith LaSalle, Col. John Gardner Road – Asks the council to direct a joint meeting of the charter commission with the council.

Kathy Daly, Bayberry Road – Asks how long the public needs to wait for answers to questions asked at meetings.

Paula Childs, Lake Road – Complains about her public records request cost, she comments that there have not been invoices from Tom Dickenson for several instances, and insinuates he is working for free.

Nancy Cordy Bonnet Point Road – Comments that on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> she sent an email to the entire council, to ask for certain items to be put on the agenda, and that the only response she received was from Carolyn DiLeo and that her requested agenda items were not included.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 8:48pm. Motion to adjourn is made by Anthony, seconded by Marlene, passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Caldwell