

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Special Meeting

Tuesday April 4, 2023

5:30 PM

130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 and Zoom

Call To Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order. Additional in attendance were Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Anthony DeAngelis, Steve Danuszar Bill DeGizzo, District Manager Mark Gillooly, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence

The Assembly recited the Pledge.

Urgent Business

None.

Motion to go into Executive Session

Everyone must leave the room. Appointment of Executive Session Clerk. Motion. Vote.

Special meeting to discuss BSBC litigation matters. This meeting may be closed pursuant to R.I. Gen. L. sec 42-46-5(a)(2) (sessions pertaining to litigation). Motion. Vote. *** Possible Vote to Settle ***

At this time two members of the public refused to leave the room. To ensure peaceful procedure, the Narragansett Police Department was called. Shortly after the call was made the two people exited the building.

The council returned from executive session at 6:30pm.

Executive Session Comments

None.

Announcements & Clarification

The Bonnet Shores Fire District (BSFD) does not currently subscribe to any social media accounts, unofficial websites and unofficial subscription email blast services. Any social media and subscription service accounts referencing the BSFD and neighborhood, are unofficial, privately held, and regulated accounts. All BSFD official district information is available on the bonnetshores.org website and through our email subscription service only.

The fire district council and manager continuously receive messages of concern following opinions that are posted on social media sites and email subscriptions that are unaffiliated with the fire district in any way.

There were two requests under APRA:

One requesting executive meeting minutes – Denied

One requesting a copy of our trash contract – Approved and Sent

New Business

A. Letter/ clarification from BSFD Attorney Thomas Dickinson & Secretary of State Amore, concerning Chair & Vice Chair positions. Motion. Discussion. Vote.

- a. Carol discussed legal documents provided by the Secretary of State and the BSFD legal council to clarify the legality of the extended council service by herself and Marlene Bellini, as outlined in the BSFD Charter.

- b. Bob Patterson discussed these term lengths and his opinions on the continued service of Carol O'Donnell and Marlene Bellini. Tom Dickenson replied to further explain the documents. A discussion continued.
 - c. Motion to accept the attorney's opinion to accept the chair and vice chair made by Steve, seconded by Anthony. The motion lands with 2 in favor, 2 required to abstain (Carol & Marlene), and one Nay, Bill DelGizzo. The motion fails without a majority vote of the members present.
 - d. Bill DelGizzo comments, he feels the conclusion should be left to a judge, not an opinion from an attorney.
 - e. Faith LaSalle comments, that it is common for a governor to permit board members to remain in place when term limits have expire but no replacements have been elected.
- B. Motion on position of Council on Charter Commissions Proposed Voting Amendments. Discussion. Vote.
- a. Bill DelGizzo comments about the lack of clarity of the agenda items.
 - b. Tom spoke to address the council's position if it they are allowed to have an opinion on the committee's decision, and believes they have the option to.
 - c. Bob Patterson argued that the council does not have the right to use their authority to deny the proposed charter changes.
 - d. Anthony commented that not all members of the district may agree with the proposed changes.
 - e. Bob responds that many public meetings were held to hear public opinion.
 - f. Tom Dickenson commented that the language of the judgement does not specify certain aspects that are being argued right now.
 - g. Faith LaSalle commented that the council should have the right to express a formal opinion. She also mentioned that many members of the public that did not want short term residents given the right to vote, and that many long-term residents would have their vote revoked with the current proposed changes.
 - h. Bill Comments that he felt Faith's opinions on the committee were to reduce the voting pool.
 - i. Faith commented that her position was to ensure voting was given to domicile residents.
 - j. Bob comments that he feels the council voting against the proposed changes would be going against the court.
 - k. Joe Thomas, 39 What Cheer Road – Commented on his original understanding of the work of the charter commission, vs how he observed the scope of the meetings and the topics that were addressed, and the decisions made.
 - l. Paula Childs, 55 Lake Road – Commented that the voting rights issue hinges on residency. And argued that
 - m. Motion on the position of the council on whether or not the council supports the proposed charter amendments, by submitting an opinion to the general assembly.
 - n. Bill DelGizzo makes a motion not to support, as he feels it does not abide by the language of the judgement. There is no second.
 - o. Carol makes a motion to not support the proposed commission revisions. Steve Danuszar seconds.
 - p. Marlene makes a motion that the council does not support the charter commission's proposed revisions, and to have the commission and council have a meeting to explore other options, specifically Faith's alternative proposal available on the website. Anthony seconds. Bill DelGizzo is a nay. The Motion carries 4-1.
 - q. Anthony asks the public what would be the harm to ask the committee to revisit the proposed changes.
 - r. Bill DelGizzo moves that items B & C be tabled, and the matter be brought to court. There is no second.
- C. Motion on position of Council on a proposed alternate Charter proposal.
- a. Informational correspondence from BSBC.
 - b. Amendments. Motion. Discussion. Vote.

- c. Item “C” is tabled.
 - d. Carolyn DiLeo comments via zoom. She says that the meeting and topics B, C & E are in violation of the law. She feels all 3 items should be tabled. Carolyn said that the proposed alternative revisions were rejected by the council. She argues that the public should have had more information available on the agenda prior to the meeting.
- D. Land Trust: Motion to Appoint Steve Danuszar liaison to the Council. Discussion. Vote.
- a. There is a brief discussion about Council liaison roles on committees.
 - b. Motion to appoint Steve Danuszar liaison to the Land Trust by Marlene, seconded by Anthony, Bill DelGizzo is a nay, the motion passes 4-1.
- E. Harbor proposal. Motion. Discussion. Vote.
- a. Harbor proposal – Steve commented that the 2020 Harbor Proposal has not yet been approved by CRMC, who also suggested the district file for an extension. Steve comments that he thinks the minimum boat length should be 12 feet, not 14, and that a grace period of one season for a mooring unused by the owner should be permitted. These recommendations to keep from the 2020 proposal were suggested by CRMC. It’s been agreed with boaters in the community that the mooring inspection procedure follow a 3 year cycle with regular maintenance throughout each year. Mark asks for clarification from the council regarding enforcement of mooring inspections, and the ability to send out mooring reports. The Narragansett harbormaster in willing to enforce uninspected moorings, and owners who refuse to comply.
 - b. Bill comments that his conversation with Kevin from CRMC was that any boat that should not be taking up public space and belongs on a mooring. There is a discussion if the good faith of the 12-14 foot length rule would be adhered to, and not exploited by mooring owners to use dinghy type vessels as placeholders, and it is agreed that would most likely not be the case.
 - c. There is a new regulation regarding kayaks and PFD use, which would also be available for CRMC to enforce.
 - d. There is currently and unregistered kayak on Little Beach.
 - e. Joe Thomas comments that mooring owners have paid fees for the mooring, and that mooring owners have historically been able to “loan” the use of their moorings to others.
 - f. There is a discussion about going down the mooring list in order to offer available moorings to people on the waiting list.
 - g. Bill asks if a boat registration numbers will be present on the mooring owner list, and Mark comments that it will.
 - h. Stephanie Caldwell, 104 Camden Rd – asks how long a person will have once their name is up to receive a full time mooring to get a boat registered to it, the answer is one year.
 - i. Elain Casey 39 Lake Road, asks about temporary mooring status, and that if someone is using the temporary mooring, will they be able to receive and transition to a full time mooring when their name is called, and the answer is yes.
 - j. Mike Tortellani comments, that he feels the town shouldn’t be involved with the mooring inspections or enforcement, out of fear that they would ask for a portion of the mooring revenue.
 - k. Joe Thomas comments with an idea about maintaining seriously interested parties on the waitlist. He suggests that when a name reaches the top 10 spots that a \$100 fee as a show of true interest be assessed. He also suggests that if someone chooses to go to the bottom of the list, that they reapply with the \$20 fee, rather than just cycle their name again.
 - l. There is a discussion about Joe’s suggestions and the possible roles the harbormaster of Narragansett may possibly hold when enforcing regulations.
 - m. Mike Tortellani comments again that he feels
 - n. Marlene asks Joe for his opinion of how he thinks harbor regulations should be enforced, and he comments that having a district harbormaster has historically
 - o. Mark comments that the harbormaster has clarified that if a mooring owner refuses to comply with inspections, that citations are issued.

- p. A motion that the sharing of moorings be at the discretion of the harbormaster, that the BSFD is fully supportive of the harbormaster on the topic of mooring inspections, made by Bill - seconded by Marlene, passes unanimously
- q. Proposals be considered to limit mooring waitlist size and length (as was brought up by Joe Thomas), TABLED
- r. Motion to agree that the minimum vessel length be 12 feet and exclude dinghys, row boats and similar. Made by Marlene, seconded by Steve, passes unanimously.

Public Comment

Please come up to the microphone, identify yourself with address, 3 minutes to speak. If you are on zoom you must turn your video on to be identified.

There is no additional public comment.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:19pm by Carol, passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk