

Bonnet Shores Fire District
Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023
7:30 PM
130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI 02882
Zoom

Call To Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:46pm. Council members in attendance included: Anthony DeAngelis, Carolyn DiLeo, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Steve Danuszar and Bill DelGizzo. Additional present were District Manager Mark Gillooly, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence

The Assembly recited the Pledge and held a moment of silence.

Urgent Business

None.

Announcements:

Clarification: All BSFD official district information is available at www.bonnetshores.org

There has been some confusion about the masonry sign and the intersection of Bonnet Point and Bonnet Shores Roads.

Approval of Minutes:

May 17, 2023

A motion is made to approve the minutes made by Carolyn.

Seconded by Steve.

Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Updated Financial Report

Laurie McCarthy shared her report. The 2024 budget was approved and is available on the website. The balance sheet and the 4th quarter will be posted shortly. Anthony commented that a capital expenditure for an 85" screen on wheels was purchased for the Community Center to assist with meetings. No questions.

Tax Collector: Update

Michelle Travis shared her update. The new tax submission system is live and ready for use. Michelle also submitted her resignation as of June 30, 2023.

Carolyn commented that an e-blast should go out to have all of the instructions for the igov tax payment system. Michelle will get her notes submitted as soon as possible.

Bob Patterson asked about the issue of Michelle resigning and when the 2024 tax letters are sent (typically late July early August).

Land Trust: Report

Mary Flynn shared her report. This included new signage for Wesquage pond, and an update on the pending FEMA grant.

Communication Committee: Report

Steve Danuszar commented that they would like to meet with Linda Kauffman soon to discuss topics regarding the website.

District Manager: Report

Mark Gilloly shared his report. There are currently about 30 campers enrolled and camp will start next week. The harbor has 51 moorings paid for, all of which are either certified or scheduled to be so. Beach tags cost of roughly \$1.33 to the district, and 300 new tags had been ordered. Kelly Beach; trash bins are in place, brush along the boardwalk has been trimmed, the water has been turned on at both beaches. There is a discussion about the logistics of a new AED, and the BSFD lifeguards to use the AED owned by the Beach Club. Four lifeguards have been hired, the certification for all 4 has been delayed, but they should be starting this Saturday afternoon.

Steve asks about the positioning of the bike racks. Carol comments that CRMC has commented that the bike racks may need to be pulled away from the dunes. Mark comments that they will be put closer to the road. Steve comments that he still has no updates from CRMC regarding the harbor updates.

Bill asks what is being done about moorings that have not been paid. Mark clarifies that all unpaid owners have been informed they are overdue, and if and when the situation arises that these moorings are out of compliance for the specified amount of time, steps will be taken to move the moorings on to the next names on the waiting list.

Paul Childs asks if the BSBC plans to park cars at the Community Center over the 4th of July weekend, Carol comments that to their knowledge the BSBC has advertised additional parking for the holiday weekend at the funeral home only.

New Business:

1. Post Harbor Master Position

Steve discussed a letter submitted from Mike Tortellani with roles and responsibilities for the Harbormaster position.

2. Camp 2023 Update

Carolyn discussed that camp is ready to begin, they are more than adequately staffed and prepared to begin. Camp runs from 9:00 – 11:30am Monday – Friday, not including the 4th of July. She also commented that non-camp participants please refrain from activities at the community center during the camp hours.

3. ByLaws Update

Carolyn commented that the meeting held last night produced many new ideas, and she encouraged the council and public to review the meeting and suggestions, and to submit any ideas.

4. Job Descriptions for employees and elected officials

There is a discussion about what roles and responsibilities of the elected officials should be included in the ByLaws revisions. Carolyn commented on the amount of time and responsibility that is required with the district manager, tax collector, treasurer and clerk positions, which the community may not realize. She also mentions that even though Bill asked if it would be possible to include in the ByLaws a reference to the current job descriptions, and there is a discussion about incorporating this idea.

Carolyn asks the council to review the job descriptions for updating purposes.

There is a discussion about posting the harbormaster position for hire, and the previous discussion on the same topic at the May meeting when it was agreed to wait to post the position until September. Carol asks if there are any changes of opinion to post it sooner, Bill suggests to ask Mark, the District Manager for his opinion.

Carol asks Mark for his opinion.

Mark comments that if the council prefers to post the job now, what would their hiring criteria be. Marleen comments that even if the response was one person, that if the person was unqualified, they would not be hired. Mark comments that the Harbor Master position reports to

the council, and he feels uncomfortable with the idea that he would be held responsible for training the new hire. There is a discussion about Mark's feelings about training a new hire, and the council's feelings of how long it may take to find a new hire, regardless of who would be training them. Carolyn comments that she feels it would be unfair to Mark to possibly leave him in the position this summer to be training or shadowed by two new hires (tax collector and harbormaster). Carolyn also comments that she feels the harbormaster position should be filled by someone outside of the community.

There is a slight verbal disturbance in the seated crowd which resolved quickly and amicably. Motion to update the harbormaster job description, and post as amended for a later hire date is made by Marleen Bellini.

Seconded by Steve Danuszar

Mark comments his approval of the idea.

Motion passed 4-2.

Anita Langer comments that the updated harbormaster position description needs to be in compliance with CRMC, and all agree.

5. Memorial Benches – Donation to Land Trust

There is a discussion about the waiting list for memorial benches. Nancy Cordy comments that she did purchase a bench with her own money. Carol comments on the maintenance of benches, and how almost all are being maintained well.

Faith LaSalle comments on her suggestion made at Land Trust meetings, that all memorial benches should explicitly be in memorial of an individual, not an advertisement for a business. She also comments on how the memorial benches can possibly be a fundraiser for the Land Trust.

Carol comments that the cost of a new bench with trex material is well over \$1,000.00 and suggests a Land Trust donation of \$1,000.00 for a memorial bench. There is a discussion about the inventory on file of all benches, but it does not include the condition of all. There is a discussion of how to pick names from the waiting list, Bill DelGizzo suggests a lottery system, and also the idea of a memorial brick walkway. Carolyn comments that a \$1,500.00 donation seems fair, in addition to the cost of the bench. Anthony comments he believes that there should be one flat rate. It's agreed to gather ideas on the topic and discuss further.

Bob Patterson comments on the processes that his church follows to solicit charitable donations, and ideas the district could use as well.

Carol Fortin comments on the different memorial ideas, informing the public, and outlining a process.

Anita Langer comments that historically benches have been purchased by individuals who were required to maintain them and suggested that in the future the district should be the owners and responsible for maintaining them.

6. Deb Panullo – Organization of Social Events

Motion to have Deb Panullo volunteer for coordinating social events.

Made by Carolyn.

Seconded by Bill.

Passed unanimously.

7. Background checks for all employees

There is a discussion about running background checks on the camp counselors, and that anyone under 18 would require the parent's consent. There is a discussion about what would be required. Motion for all adult elected officials and employees submit to a background check. Anthony will

Made by Carolyn.

Seconded by Marleen.

Passed unanimously.

8. Appointment of Joan Fandetti to the Communications Committee

Discussion

Motion to appoint Joan Fandetti to the Communications Committee.

Made by Steve Danuszar.

Seconded by Caroln.

Passed unanimously.

9. Should BSFD have a Facebook account

There is a discussion about

Motion to not create a BSFD Facebook page.

Made by Marleen.

Seconded by Bill.

Passed unanimously.

10. Golf Carts

Marleen discusses that in the state of Rhode Island, golf carts are legal to be driven on roads with speed limits under 25 mph, but there should be some neighborhood rules. There is a discussion about a new bill the governor is ready to sign, which would allow the registration of golf carts, and would require owners to follow the registration rules. There is an issue with golf carts parking at the bike racks. Bill comments in favor of golf carts as a means of traffic control in the neighborhood but is also in favor of rules. There is further discussion for and against golf carts.

Public Comment:

All speakers need to come to the microphone to speak, identify themselves by giving their name and address, speak once, and keep comments to three minutes.

Speakers on zoom must request to comment, have both their microphone and video on, identify themselves by giving their name and address, speak once, and keep comments to three minutes.

1. Bob Patterson – Comments on the topic of the intersection of Bonnet Point Road & Bonnet Shores Road at the entrance of the neighborhood, and the possible redesign proposed by the town's engineering company. The masonry sign would need a right of way permit, and a building permit before reconstruction, and if rebuilt prior to a reconstruction of the intersection, would likely need to be relocated after.
2. Faith LaSalle asks for clarity if this proposal has been accepted by the town, the response is that the redesign would be accepted by the town, but the town has not yet determined if it is necessary. Further discussion is needed in the community and within the council, and the topic will be added to next month's agenda.
3. Carol Fortin comments that she is in favor of the idea to make changes at that intersection to promote safety.
4. Chris Mannix comments with appreciation and condolences for Carol O'Donnell on the passing of her father.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Bill DelGizzo at 9:29pm, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk