

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

7:30 PM

130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

Zoom

Call To Order

Vice Chair Marlene Bellini called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

Council members in attendance included: Anthony DeAngelis, Carolyn DiLeo, 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 of Allegiance and held a moment of silence.

Urgent Business

None.

Announcements:

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

The entrance sign & masonry replacement is expected in the middle of July and Little Beach seaweed cleanup should be underway this week. Thank you for your patience, labor has been a major factor in the delays.

Carolyn asked if there is a contract for Little Beach. There is a discussion about the pending contract for the seaweed cleanup. Steve Danuszar comments via zoom that there is a verbal agreement

Approval of Minutes:

June 21, 2023

A motion is made to approve the minutes by Carolyn.

Seconded by Anthony.

Motion passed 3-1, Marlene abstained because she did not receive them until this afternoon.

Treasurer: Updated Financial Report

Laurie McCarthy shared her report. Proceeds are doing well, the tax rolls from the town were received as earlier this evening. Carolyn asked for the council to receive and review the 4th quarter financials.

Tax Collector: Update

Laurie commented. As of June 30th the tax collector position has been vacant. Laurie has been in contact with igov. They can manage the delinquent tax payments until the tax collector position is filled. There is a discussion about options for fulfilling the tax collector roles and responsibilities, as there has been a history of difficulty hiring and keeping a tax collector. Options included igov, municipay, utilizing an existing drop box to reduce deposits, contacting an attorney and utilizing an escrow account, all with the goal of reducing the in-person roles.

Land Trust: Report

None.

Communication Committee: Report

None.

District Manager: Report

Mark Gilloly shared his report.

He commented on the power washing of the basketball court, exterior painting, and repainting of the pickleball court. He commented on capital improvements of the building that need to be addressed, including the stairs and gutters, they should be addressed in September.

He commented on the major success of the 2023 camp season. Thank you to all involved! Camp remains on budget and self-funded.

Harbor update; things are going very well. Two moorings are available, and people have been contacted for these openings. There are 10 “to-be-determined” moorings, that are reaching the end of their grace period, about 5 are empty due to owner health issues, and about 7 are empty due to mechanical issues. The mooring wait list has reduced from 55 to 33 people since Mark has taken over the responsibilities. There are no questions from the council.

About 20 beach tags have been purchased this year. The Kelly Beach lifeguards passed a recent state inspection with flying colors. Additional trash and recycling bins have been placed by the port-a-john.

Thank you to Narragansett DPW for the recent clean up of 3 intersections causing blind spots.

Carolyn comments on the heavy volume of work that Mark is maintaining with a high degree of excellence.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication Mark!

New Business:

1. Post Harbor Master position
 - a. Discussion: Marlene comments that the roles we are looking to have fulfilled by this position do not meet the title of Harbor Master, all agree. Mark suggests changing the title to “Harbor Manager or Administrator”. Bill comments that he is in favor of the roles staying under the position of the manager. Anthony asks Mark if he feels the additional responsibilities are manageable, Mark replies that at this point, it is, because of all of the work he has put in to creating effective processes to update and maintain the various projects. Carolyn comments that it may be helpful to have some in person office help for Mark, with the day-to-day paperwork. Mark comments that if there was any area he needed in office help with, it would be with the camp program. He said that if it were not for Carolyn assisting with the program it would have been unmanageable.
 - b. Bill DelGizzo makes a motion to incorporate the Harbormaster roles and responsibilities into the District Manager position, and to add the Harbormaster salary to the Manager’s salary. Seconded by Marlene, passes unanimously.
2. Post Tax Collector position
 - a. Discussion: There is a discussion about what the roles may be, pending review of the options Laurie outlined earlier in the meeting. Laurie explained the process of collecting tax payments.
3. Temporary tax collector position & compensation
 - a. Discussion: There is a discussion of finding a temporary tax collector.
 - b. Kristen Deberghess of 35 Stratford Ave. comments that she would be willing to discuss the work needed, and to help with the conversion, she is an accountant that has experience with Quick Books. Carolyn asks if hiring hourly admin support is an option, Anthony comments that having the checks sent to a lock box at the bank where they open the check is an option, and there are other options to consider as well.
 - c. Richard Mercier comments that if a PO Box system is going to be put in place, that decision needs to be made before the tax bills are mailed, to have the right address for remittance.
 - d. There is an agreement to hold a special meeting to address this.
4. Camp 2023 Update
 - a. Addressed by Mark earlier.

5. ByLaws Update
 - a. A meeting was held last night and
6. History Group Update
 - a. Frank Lennon who is researching the Bonnet Battery spoke with Carolyn. Interesting fact to share, the Battery was defended by ROTC recruits during the Civil War, and they believe the British did not land in Bonnet. There will be more information coming soon!

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. Kristen Deberghess commented on the state of the seaweed on Little Beach, the bidding process, and a written statement of accounts regarding the status of the contract that was approved by the council at the April meeting.
2. Faith LaSalle commented that her and her husband have also expressed concern for the previously proposed idea to remove the seaweed by pushing it back into the ocean, vs trucking it out.
3. Kathy Daley of 75 Bayberry comments her frustration over the seaweed, and the accusation that a council member stopped the cleaning of the beach. And asks if there is a legal recourse available.
4. Bill DelGizzo comments on the need for the District Manager's position to have increased autonomy, and the council chair position to have better clearly defined responsibilities.
5. Paula Childs of 55 Lake Road reads prepared remarks commenting on the recent settlement reached between the BSFD and BSBC, and the comments by the Land Trust made at their recent meetings to address the settlement.
6. Bill DelGizzo comments that when the settlement terms were being discussed in the council's executive session, a vote to approve the settlement was contingent on the agreement that the settlement would go to the Land Trust first, before agreeing to settle.
7. Bob Patterson of 8 Parkman Road comments on the bidding process for the seaweed cleanup, and the issues raised by Kristen earlier. He also comments on the settlement agreement, and that the parking arrangement included the use of the field, not just the parking lot.
8. Louise Healy representing the BSBC comments on the settlement. She explains that the BSBC does not sell parking passes for anyone. Carolyn comments that the BSBC fees include parking after the last round of fee increases. Louise explains that is not the case, and that the increase in fees covers guest expenses. She also explains that there is no intent to use the field or any grass surfaces for parking, and that the Community Center parking would only be for employee parking on the pavement in lined spaces only. She continues to explain the desire for the BSBC and the BSFD to foster goodwill through the terms of this settlement agreement.
9. Anita Langer comments that any agreement reached should be discussed with the Land Trust and abide by the Land Trust Charter. She comments that the Land Trust charter specifically states that the Land Trust charter does not allow Land Trust property to be used for commercial purposes. And she comments on the nature of the settlement agreement process.
10. Faith LaSalle comments that there are two types of Land Trusts, and the Bonnet Shoers Land Trust was created by legislature, and operates as an arm of the municipality, it is a subsequent public body of the BSFD Council, and that it is possible for an agreement to be made.
11. Kristen comments again on the nature of the Land Trust charter and the BSBC.
12. Chris Mannix comments on the animosity against the council at tonight's meeting.
13. Bill DelGizzo comments on his vote in favor of the settlement agreement, and how he feels all of the terms are mutually beneficial for the residents of Bonnet and the BSBC. He also comments that all of the comments regarding the settlement tonight should be made to the Land Trust Council.

14. Paula Childs comments on record keeping, and the minutes of the executive session regarding the settlement.
15. Richard Mercier comments to ask how Paula knew
16. John Carvahlo asks Louise Healy about the sales of passes and asks Marlene when the next annual election will be held.
17. Anita asks Bill and Carolyn asks if the word perpetuity was discussed, and Bill explains that yes, the concept was.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Carolyn at 9:24pm, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk