

## **Bonnet Shores Fire District**

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024  
7:30 pm

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

Council Vice Chair Leslie McKnight called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for members of our armed forces. In attendance were council members Faith LaSalle, Anthony Girardi, Steve Danuszar, Jane Duran and John Chereskin. Also in attendance were District Manager Mark Gillooly, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy and Tax Collector Helen Patience. Council member Carol O'Donnell was absent.

#### **Urgent Business**

None.

#### **Announcements**

J. Duran announced that the meeting was accessible via Zoom, but that there would be no participation via Zoom.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

J. Chereskin **moved**, seconded by F. LaSalle, to amend the minutes of the Sept. 5, 2024 Organizational Meeting to include the sentence, "C. O'Donnell agreed to serve as Chair as the council transitions during the coming year." The motion was **approved** unanimously.

J. Duran **moved**, seconded by S. Danuszar, to approve the amended minutes. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

*Treasurer (L. McCarthy):* The quarterly budget versus actuals will be shared with the council. The Annual Meeting expenses have not all come in yet.

*Tax Collector (J. Chereskin):* The outgoing Tax Collector indicated that 75% of the 2024-2025 taxes have been collected. Delinquent notices have been sent out to taxpayers who have not paid their bills since 2010.

*Land Trust:* L. McKnight stated that the Land Trust Organizational Meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 2, 2024.

*Harbor (M. Gillooly):* There four open moorings. Mooring fees of \$12,600.00 have been collected. The dock will be removed in mid-October.

*District Manager (M. Gillooly):* The Camp was a success. Kelly Beach had lifeguard coverage throughout the summer, except for Labor Day. The Beach Club was thanked for the trash detail at Kelly Beach. The last Little Beach cleaning was in mid-August. The District Manager indicated that he does not have office hours.

*Charter (F. LaSalle):* Many recommendations have been made regarding the charter. Some of those recommendations have focused on caps on spending and better fiscal controls. F. LaSalle described the following process for amending the charter: (1) The Fire District Council approves a resolution requesting a Charter change (this step is strongly recommended but not necessary), (2) The General Assembly votes to approve the Charter change, which enables a vote at a Fire District Annual Meeting, (3) The Fire District voters vote to approve the Charter change at an Annual Meeting and (4) The Fire District files the Charter change with the R.I. Secretary of State.

*Social:* None.

#### New Business

##### *Pull straws/cards for terms*

- Due to the fact that all seven council members were elected at the Annual Meeting without staggered terms, the council members planned to draw cards to determine who would serve the one-year, two-year and three-year terms. Prior to the draw, council members C. O'Donnell and S. Danuszar volunteered to take the one-year terms. Therefore, the remaining council members drew cards for the remaining term lengths, resulting in the following:
  - ✓ L. McKnight and J. Chereskin will serve three-year terms (up in 2027)
  - ✓ A. Girardi, J. Duran and F. LaSalle will serve two-year terms (up in 2026)
  - ✓ C. O'Donnell and S. Danuszar will serve on-year terms (up in 2025)

##### *Governance*

- J. Duran **moved**, seconded by A. Girardi, to require all council and Land Trust members to attend Open Meetings Act (OMA) training. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

##### *Working Groups*

- The council will form working groups to determine how work will be conducted and to determine whether or not to form committees. F. LaSalle **moved**, seconded by S. Danuszar, to approve the working groups and the individuals identified in the agenda to lead those working groups. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

##### *Website RFP*

- L. McKnight **moved**, seconded by F. LaSalle, to forward the website RFP to potential vendors. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

##### *FEMA Little Beach Grant*

- J. Chereskin **moved**, seconded by J. Duran, to authorize payment of \$50,920.80 for FEMA/ Little Beach. L. McCarthy explained that this authorization will allow for

payment and that reimbursement of a percentage of the funds will come in the future. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

*Zoom and Email passwords changed*

- L. McCarthy explained that it appeared that Zoom had been hacked twice during previous council meetings. Therefore, Zoom passwords needed to be changed.

*Change passwords on cameras*

- The District Manager confirmed that the camera passwords had been changed since the Annual Meeting.

*Dropbox*

- S. Danuszar **moved**, seconded by J. Duran, to reduce the number of Dropbox licenses to three. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

*Name plates for new council*

- S. Danuszar **moved**, seconded by J. Duran, to keep the existing nameplates. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

*Remove PayPal account*

- J. Chereskin **moved**, seconded by A. Girardi, to table this item. L. McCarthy stated that the process of changing the status of the account was underway. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

*Mission Statement for the Fire District*

- L. McKnight proposed a mission statement for the Fire District. A. Girardi **moved**, seconded by S. Danuszar, to table the discussion of a mission statement. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Public Comment

- Janice McClanaghan indicated that the Annual Meeting process should be streamlined. She indicated that three Tax Assessors to check in voters was not sufficient.
- Clerk M. Mannix indicated that it was an unusual meeting that led to high turnout because all seven seats were up at once, which had not happened in decades.

Adjournment:

J. Duran **moved**, seconded by A. Girardi, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Matthew M. Mannix  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk

\*Ratified on October 16, 2024\*