

## Bonnet Shores Fire District

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

### Meeting Minutes

#### Call to Order

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

#### Urgent Business

None.

#### Announcements

C. O'Donnell announced that the meeting was accessible via Zoom, but that there would be no participation via Zoom.

#### Approval of Minutes

F. LaSalle **moved**, seconded by A. Girardi, to amend the Nov. 29, 2024 council meeting minutes regarding the charter commission. The motion was **approved**, 5-0, with J. Chereskin abstaining. L. McKnight **moved**, seconded by S. Danuszar, to amend the Nov. 29, 2024 council meeting minutes regarding the consent order language. The motion was **approved**, 6-0. J. Chereskin **moved**, seconded by L. McKnight, to approve the amended minutes. The motion was **approved**, 6-0.

#### Committee Reports

*Treasurer (L. McCarthy):* Financials are delayed because the bookkeeper has been away. The Little Beach FEMA grant reimbursement was for \$32,000 and we are still awaiting the final report from John King. J. Chereskin shared a financial forecasting document showing Fire District anticipated versus actual spending. He recommended that the website repair be delayed until the next fiscal year.

*Tax Collector (Absent):* No report.

*Land Trust (J. Fandetti):* Joan Fandetti reported on discussions with the town's Animal Control Officer and Steve Puerini. She stated that George Monaghan provided Land Trust-related documents and paperwork to the Fire District, which is now in the district manager's office. She

reported that she forwarded a letter from the District Treasurer to her fellow Land Trustees regarding an error in a 501(c)(3) application made to the IRS by a former Land Trustee.

*Harbor (M. Gillooly):* Steve McCooley helped to remove the small craft off the Little Beach area, which now are temporarily being stored in the community center field.

*District Manager (M. Gillooly):* Submitted written report.

*Social (S. Danuszar):* The Christmas Tree Lighting took place at the Community Center on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 5:00 pm. The annual Christmas Party was held at Twin Willows on December 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

### New and Ongoing Business

#### *FEMA Match for Colonel John Gardner Road repairs*

- C. O'Donnell explained that the Town of Narragansett had applied for a FEMA grant to repair damage to Colonel John Gardner Road. Under the terms of the grant, FEMA funds 75% and the town funds 25%. The town has requested that the Fire District split this 25% portion with the town, which would come to \$17,933.49 (the full cost of repairs is \$143,467.89 and the 25% share is \$45,866.97). J. Chereskin **moved**, seconded by L. McKnight, to approve the \$17,933.49 allocation, provided it is part of next year's budget. The motion was **approved**, 6-0.

#### *Website RFP*

- C. O'Donnell asked council members to ask J. Duran any questions regarding this item, which will be scheduled for a vote/decision at the January 2025 meeting.

#### *Tax Assessors Committee*

- L. McKnight **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, to create the Tax Assessors Committee. The motion was **approved**, 6-0.

#### *Charter Committee*

- S. Danuszar **moved**, seconded by A. Girardi, to appoint Faith LaSalle as the chair of the Charter Committee. The motion was **approved**, 6-0.
- L. McKnight discussed the failure of the first charter commission and the council entered into a discussion regarding membership of the committee. C. O'Donnell recommended that the council members bring forward names of potential committee members. F. LaSalle recommended council member Jane Duran. The Beach Club recommended Louise Healey. F. LaSalle indicated that Mary Patterson indicated that she would not serve on the committee as a representative of the former plaintiffs.

#### *Land Trust*

- F. LaSalle addressed the letter from the Treasurer requesting that her name be removed from the application made by a former Land Trustee to the IRS regarding 501(c)(3) status. L. McCarthy stated that the 501(c)(3) application was made without authorization from the Fire District or the Fire District Council. C. O'Donnell stated that this

application creates liability problems for the Fire District because of the errors made during the application process. A discussion ensued about withdrawing the 501(c)(3) application from the IRS.

*Emails*

- C. O'Donnell stated that some members of the community send emails to some members of the council and others send them to all the members of the council. She indicated that this creates a series of communications that can be confusing and advised the council members to be careful in such email communications.

Public Comment

- Council Vice Chair L. McKnight stated that her employer received an anonymous mailing addressing complaints against the BSFD Council. She stated that the threatening nature of the mailing could impact her job and that individuals who send such mailings should be aware that this behavior is unacceptable.
- Ray Trainor addressed the St. Veronica's parking lot problems with water and flooding.
- Paulette Brousseau asked about the possibility of obtaining a boat to use for URI pond testing.
- Neal Colman stated his support for L. McKnight and complimented A. Girardi's deceased father.
- Bob Patterson expressed sympathy for L. McKnight and addressed the makeup of the Charter Committee.
- Christopher Mannix thanked Island Books and the social committee members for the Tree Lighting.
- Adrien Deberghes addressed the makeup of the Charter Committee and expressed sympathy for L. McKnight.
- C. O'Donnell stated that people who did not witness it would not be able to fathom how ugly the situation was for the last council.
- A. Girardi stated that the character assassination must stop, with which L. McKnight agreed.

Adjournment:

J. Chereskin **moved**, seconded by L. McKnight, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **approved** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

\*Ratified on January 15, 2025\*