

## RECONSTITUTED CHARTER COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Reconstituted Charter Committee reports as follows to the Bonnet Shores Fire District Council.

The Committee held six meetings, starting on January 18, 2025. The last meeting was held on March 6, 2025. The Committee consisted of Louise Healey, BSBC representative; Faith LaSalle, Council member, permanent resident and homeowner; Jane Duran, Council member, non-resident homeowner; and Michelle Dunne, permanent resident homeowner. The Council had appointed Bob Patterson to the fifth position on the Committee, which was the designated plaintiff representative seat, and had offered the seat to all plaintiffs to fill. That seat remained empty at all meetings.

The sessions reflected a collaborative, cooperative atmosphere. Several members of the community participated in the public comments and made presentations with ideas for solutions to the voting issue. Data analysis was also provided that shed further light on the different variations of property owners and residents, which make Bonnet a unique place. Legal research and comments on the lawsuit rulings, zoom of meetings, minutes, and other information is available on the BSFD website.

The majority of the Committee agreed that a reduction of voters was appropriate with respect to the beach club and that the community looks forward to this matter being over. A difficulty that the Committee faced was that none of the plaintiffs would accept the plaintiff designated seat on the Committee after multiple attempts and the beach club expressed concern about the lack of participation of the plaintiffs in the process. M. Dunne suggested considering another attempt to get a plaintiff representative to participate.

The Committee considered support for four proposals to move forward to the Council. One of the four was a tie vote. Others were eliminated earlier in the process.

**Scenario 1** – Current State – BSFD Narragansett registered voters (permanent residents), plus all property owners who currently vote under the existing Charter.

Support: 1                      Do not support: 3

**Scenario 3** – BSFD Narragansett registered voters, non-resident property owners, and 1 person designated per unit from the Beach Club as a voter (taxpayers).

Support: 2                      Do not support: 2

**Scenario 4** – BSFD Narragansett registered voters, BSFD residents and nonresident property owners, no eligibility to vote from Beach Club, and appoint a BSBC seat as one of the seven seats on the BSFD Council.

Support: 1                      Do not support: 3

**Scenario 5** – BSFD Balanced/Weighted voting proposal -- Narragansett registered voters, people on deed of residential property, 1 BSBC owner per unit who is not part of the other stakeholders. BSBC votes capped at 11%.

Support: 1                      Do not support: 3

Submitted by:

Faith LaSalle, Chair of Reconstituted Charter Revision Committee

March 8, 2025