

Council Meeting: Bonnet Shores Fire District Council

Place: 130 Bonnet Shores Rd-Narragansett -Zoom with no guarantee of accuracy

Date: Wednesday April 16, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Call to Order at 7:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of Silence

Urgent Business - None

Announcements - Clarification:

Virtual access is being provided only as a convenience and is not an official “location” where access to the meeting is guaranteed. If there are technical difficulties with the zoom, we will proceed with the meeting. Therefore, being physically present at the meeting is the only way to guarantee complete and uninterrupted access to the meeting.

"In order to preserve order and decorum, and to avoid interfering with the ability of spectators to see and hear, any other person's video recording or photographing of the meeting should do so from a designated area, the bench area in front of the windows."

All BSFD official district information available on bonnetshores.org website

All agenda items are up for consideration.

Approval of Minutes:

Treasurer- Update:

Tax Collector- Update- Report.

Land Trust- Update –

-

Manager and Harbor Update: Report.

Social Committee: Update –

Website: Update

New and ongoing Business Motion-Discussion-Vote

1. Discussion of suggested changes to Charter and/or By-Laws other than voting franchise; including fiscal responsibility amendments involving capital expenditures, emergency expenditures, debt approval by Council/qualified voters; tax increase limitations, and tax exemptions consistent with Narragansett; and purchasing processes.
2. Discussion and consideration of Charter Committee's conclusion, a path to move forward in the following ways: Report attached
 - a. Submit one or more scenarios to the General Assembly, now in bill form.
 - b. Place one or more scenarios on the Annual Meeting Agenda as a non-binding vote
 - c. Submit to the General Assembly and place on the Annual Meeting Agenda.

Public comment from in-person audience only; come up to mic, identify yourself: 3 minutes.

Motion to adjourn.

BSFD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BSFD COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING INVITATION

Time: April 16, 2025 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Wed, until Jun 18, 2025, 8 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following in Calendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/83953458824>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83953458824>

Meeting ID: 839 5345 8824

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,83953458824# US (New York)

+16469313860,,83953458824# US

Dial by your location

- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 839 5345 8824

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

