

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT
Bonnet Shores Fire District Monthly Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call To Order

Council Paul Farley called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

In attendance were BSFD Council members Paul Farley, Janice McClanaghan, Christopher Mannix, Marlene Bellini, Carol O'Donnell, Anita Langer and Michael Vendetti, who joined the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

P. Farley led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a Moment of Silence for our service members in the Armed Forces and those suffering from the pandemic.

Urgent Business

J. McClanaghan **moved**, seconded by J. M. Bellini, to approve the building plans for Brooklyn Lot 788, pending town approvals. The motion was approved, 5-1, with C. Mannix abstaining.

J. McClanaghan **moved**, seconded by M. Bellini, to approve the building plans for Brooklyn Road Lot 792, pending town approvals. The motion was approved, 6-1, with C. Mannix abstaining.

Approval of Minutes

C. O'Donnell **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the September 16, 2021 council meeting minutes. A. Langer moved to amend the minutes to remove Chris Mannix's comment from the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The motion did not receive a second. The motion to approve the minutes was approved, 5-1-1, with A. Langer dissenting and M. Vendetti abstaining.¹

C. O'Donnell **moved**, seconded by M. Vendetti, to approve the January 21, 2021 council meeting minutes. A. Langer indicated that she had not received a copy of the draft minutes. M. Bellini stated that the draft minutes had been emailed to the council members on February 11, 2021.

¹ M. Vendetti initially made the motion, seconded by J. McClanaghan to approve the September 16, 2021 council meeting minutes. M. Vendetti withdrew that motion and J. McClanaghan withdrew her initial second because M. Vendetti had not been present at the Sept. 16, 2021 meeting and, thus, did not want to vote to approve that meeting's minutes.

Committee Reports

Treasurer (L. McCarthy): L. McCarthy stated that P. Farley facilitated the budget process and thanked him for it. She stated that the actuals are on target with this fiscal year's budget.

Tax Collector (S. Danuszar): Approximately 6 tax checks have come in during the past three weeks. The Tax Collector is working with a new internet-based software.

Land Trust (L. Mercier): The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021.

District Manager (L. DiBello): L. DiBello stated that her report was uploaded to the BSFD website.

Old Business

- Little Beach Committee update – seaweed removal and EMA/FEMA grant
J. McClanaghan discussed the difficulties associated with the grant process and that the committee had been briefed on that process. Regarding the ongoing cleaning of the seaweed at Little Beach, one proposal came in for approximately \$18,000.00, but that proposal needs to be verified. There is an option of purchasing a \$45,000.00 machine to clean Little Beach, but questions regarding its functionality and how it will be insured still need to be answered before making a decision to purchase it.

New Business

None

Public Comment

Paula Childs commented that she had asked the council questions at a previous meeting and had not received answers to her questions and was still awaiting a response. She did not state what those questions were.

Marlen Bellini commented that the Bonnet Shores Neighborhood Association **facebook** page is not an official page of the Bonnet Shores Fire District. She stated that the individuals running that page have their own agenda. She indicated that she had been blocked from that page. She further commented that it is difficult for the Fire District to function practically because of the Open Meetings Act complaints filed by individuals that have forced the Fire District to comply with the Open Meetings Act. She stated that she tried to set up a work session portion of the meeting to address community issues.

Robert Patterson commented that the council needs to figure out how to comply with the Open Meetings Act and that P. Farley's response to such concerns was irresponsible.

Anita Langer commented that she had been muted under New Business, to which Len Mercier responded that he had told her to un-mute herself. A. Langer stated that she had New Business to discuss. She stated that the council needed to address the logistics of holding an Annual Meeting and that the council should not appoint itself for another year. P. Farley indicated that

the Fire District would follow the state's pandemic-related guidelines. A. Langer further commented that other entities are meeting and that the council members could also meet and talk with one another.

Paul Farley commented that the council does not meet in secret and that individuals making such statements were spreading misinformation. In response to Paul Childs' earlier public comment, he stated that no questions were asked during tonight's meeting.

Adjournment

M. Vendetti **moved**, seconded by C. Mannix, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew M. Mannix
/s/ Matthew M. Mannix
BSFD Clerk

Ratified on March 24, 2021