

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT

Bonnet Shores Fire District Monthly Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call To Order

Council Vice Chair Janice McClanaghan called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

In attendance were BSFD Council members Janice McClanaghan, Christopher Mannix, Marlene Bellini, Carol O'Donnell and Anita Langer. Council member Micheal Vendetti was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

J. McClanaghan led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a Moment of Silence for our service members in the Armed Forces and members of the community who had died.

Urgent Business

J. McClanaghan announced that she and the BSFD Clerk had received an email from Council Chair Paul Farley, in which he submitted his resignation from the council.

Approval of Minutes

A. Langer **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to amend the February 17, 2021 council meeting minutes to remove the phrase "five times" from A. Langer's public comment on p. 2. The motion was approved, 3-2, with C. Mannix and M. Bellini dissenting. A. Langer **moved** to amend the minutes to remove the final sentence of her public comment on p. 3. The motion did not receive a second. C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by J. McClanaghan, to approve the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Treasurer (L. McCarthy): L. McCarthy stated that she was working on the budget and that the BSFD was caught up on its bills.

Tax Collector (S. Danuszar): S. Danuszar stated that approximately \$378,000 in taxes has come in. Delinquency notices will be sent out in early April. There will be no Tax Sale this year.

Land Trust (L. Mercier): None.

District Manager (L. DiBello): L. DiBello thanked Paul Farley for his work on behalf of Bonnet. She stated that the council needs to provide guidance on summer programs, such as the Summer Camp, because inquiries are coming in from community members regarding the status of summer programs during the pandemic.

Old Business

- *Little Beach Committee recommendation to council regarding match to EMA/FEMA grant*
J. McClanaghan indicated that the committee recommended that the budget include \$17,000 for matching funds for the grant. She indicated this money would be allocated to the Land Trust budget.
- *Little Beach update regarding cleaning Little Beach & Little Beach recommendation to council for cleaning Little Beach for summer*
J. McClanaghan provided background regarding the different options for cleaning Little Beach. Bob Barber would have to purchase or lease new equipment, different from the equipment he uses at the breachway. There were two options, one for 62 cleanings for \$62,000 or one for 35 cleanings at \$35,000.

New Business

- *Review 2020-2021 Season Annual Harbormaster Report sent to BSFD as stated in the BSFD By-Laws and Harbor Ordinance*
Harbormaster Mike Tortolani shared the Harbormaster Report with the council.
- *Recommendations for fees from the Harbor Committee to the BSFD Council*
Harbor Chair A. Langer and Harbormaster Mike Tortolani recommended the following fees, based on input from the Harbor Committee:
 - (1) Mooring fee – remain at \$200.00
 - (2) Ramp Fee – increase from \$50.00 to \$60.00
 - (3) Wait List – increase one-time fee from \$20.00 to \$50.00
 - (4) Watercraft Fee – new \$25.00 fee for placing rowboats/dingies/kayaks and other watercraft on BSFD property
- *Report on balance of Harbor Capital Improvement Budget*
Anita Langer reported that the Harbor Sinking Fund receives approximately \$6,850 per year, which is earmarked for harbor maintenance. The increase in fees is to ensure that the Harbor Sinking Fund grows by a similar amount as it has in the past.
- *BSFD Annual Meeting and coming Election Preparations*
J. McClanaghan indicated that plans are underway to hold the Annual Meeting at the Community Center. C. O'Donnell indicated her preference to keep the meeting in the community. A. Langer indicated that it could be held in an open area, such as the Narragansett High School football field. Clerk M. Mannix indicated that he would obtain estimates for holding the meeting under a tent on the Community Center grounds.
- *Update of lawsuits*
J. McClanaghan indicated that there was nothing substantial to report and that the parties were in the discovery process.
- *Update on Town of Narragansett Public Hearing on St. Veronica's Request for Abandonment of a portion of Joy Lane in Bonnet Shores*

J. McClanaghan indicated that the town Planning Board was meeting regarding this issue and would provide a recommendation to the Narragansett Town Council.

Public Comment

Carolyn DiLeo complimented the Little Beach clean-up recommendation and indicated that \$5,000 in disposal fees should be added to the budget.

Robert Patterson commented that mooring fees should be raised to fund the Little Beach clean-up. He indicated he was one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Fire District and that the lawsuit could have a significant financial impact on the community.

Tom Natale commented that the Little Beach clean-up money would be money well-spent.

Mike Tortolani commented that he needed the council to act on the increase to the ramp fee. A. Langer **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, to raise the boat ramp fee from \$50.00 to \$60.00 for the 2021 season. The motion was approved, 4-0, with C. Mannix abstaining.

Joe Iannucci commented that the boaters did not request the council to clean up Little Beach and that their mooring fees should not be increased to fund that clean-up.

Dave Comorosky stated that the \$200.00 mooring fee is a bargain.

Adjournment

C. Mannix **moved**, seconded by M. Bellini, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ratified on May 25, 2021