

Bonnet Shores Fire District

*Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2021
7:30 PM*

Bonnet Shores Community Center – 130 Bonnet Shores Road Narragansett, RI

Call To Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:34pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair Carol O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marleen Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Bill DelGizzo. Additional present were District Manager Lisa DiBello, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Tax Collector Michelle Travis, Harbor Master Joe Bleczynski, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence

The Assembly recited the Pledge and observed a moment of silence for the members of the community that have passed.

Urgent Business

245 Bonnet Point Road, construction plans. C. DiLeo made a motion to approve the plans, M. Bellini seconded, no discussion, motion passes 4-0.

Announcements: Procedure of Meeting

Chair O'Donnell discussed the meeting procedure; it is being recorded by the clerk for public sharing, anyone else who would like to record the meeting may do so in a designated area off to the side to avoid interference.

Approval of Minutes

September 15, 2021 monthly meeting minutes, C. DiLeo makes a motion to accept, B. DelGizzo seconds, M. Bellini abstains because she was absent from this meeting. The motion passes 3-1.

Treasurer: Updated Financial Report

Treasurer Laurie McCarthy shared her report. The next fiscal year budget review will begin over the next month. Any input from the community is welcomed, please send all inquiries to treasurer@bonnetshores.org.

Tax Collector: Collection Process

Michelle Travis shared her update. Taxes are still in the process of being collected, currently the progress is at 92%. She is continuing to research a payment portal through igov.

Land Trust

George Monahan shared the Land Trust report, topics of the past meeting included land acquisition protocol, an update for the trail project, and BSFD committees requiring Land Trust overview (Kelley Beach & Public Works).

District Manager Report

Lisa DiBello shared her report, a copy of the district manager's report is available on the Bonnet Shores website.

Harbor Master

Joe Bleczynski shared his report, topic included planning meeting dates and times, repair of lifted piling, replacement of the floating dock, installing plastic strips for dock horseshoes, numbering watercraft on beach stickers for ID purposes, key lending methods, consideration for repairing cement at bottom of launch ramp, and looking into the feasibility of constructing a kayak rack at Little Beach.

B. DelGizzo clarifies that no official business was conducted at this meeting, and the next meeting will.

Nancy Cordy of Bonnet Point Road asked what will happen with the new stairs over the winter, Joe answers that Phil will remove them.

Old Business

- A. Fire District record storage: B. DelGizzo makes a suggestion to approve all donations to make sure they are useful before they arrive at the community center.
Richard Mercier of Col. John Gardner Road discusses the importance of being aware of records retention laws in RI.
Debra Penullo also expresses concern over records retention.
- B. Joy Lane, roads: C. O'Donnell explains the Narragansett Town Council President is looking to make parking spaces on town roads, and suggests that the BSFD should hire an attorney to investigate who owns the road in the district.
Bill DelGizzo discusses that the council should be informed by the Town Manager of important items before they are brought to the council.
- C. Bonnet Liquors, water runoff and request to install fence update: The drainage installed is crushed stone, which everyone feels needs to be improved upon.
- D. Manager report: C. DiLeo initiates the discussion for the need of protocol for public sharing of the District Manager's monthly report. It is agreed that the District Manager will send the report to the council prior to the monthly meeting, it will be discussed at the monthly meeting, and e-blasted/ posted to the website following the meeting.
- E. Benches in disrepair: Lisa will talk to the trust about liability issues. Currently there is no estimate for repairs yet.
Bill DelGizzo discusses putting bench repairs/ replacements in the budget as needed.
Anita Langer of Col. John Gardner Road says that she believes the liability lies with the BSFD, and suggests taking charge of the repairs.
- F. Tax ID Update: Laurie McCarthy explains the 1983 certificate needs to be renewed every 4 years.
George Monahan states that he believes the Land Trust operates under the BSFD insurance. It is discussed that the Land Trust needs to look into their own tax ID and exemption status.
Michelle Travis discusses that she believes that Land Trust falls under the BSFD budget.
Nancy Cordy of Bonnet Pt. Rd. discusses she believes the Land Trust does fall under the BSFD, they do not have or need their own tax ID. She says that in the 90's there was a

501c3 started, but has since lapsed, and is complicated to get it back, so best to go through the BSFD tax ID.

New Business

- A. Security Company & Status: Marleen took over “Security” for Kelley Beach, every week she needs to give the security company a “secret” day to patrol the neighborhood from 9pm – 1am. She believes this service is unproductive and not a wise use of money. Paula Childs of Mohawk Trail said that she has had a problem with a few loud parties since the start of the school season.
Carol O'Donnell suggests maybe we only need the security services in the summer months. Bill DelGizzo asks about the budget for security, it's \$5,000.00 per year, or \$23 per hour. Carolyn DiLeo suggests cutting fall, winter and spring security service from the budget. There is a discussion to drop the security service, and increase neighborhood watch/ calls to NPD instead.
Nancy Cordy of Bonnet Pt Rd. asks if there is a contract for security, the answer is no. Richard Mercier, Col. John Gardner Rd suggests checking for known dates that are a problem, and scheduling security coverage then.
Debra Pannullo asks what is a reasonable time to call NPD, Nancy Cordy says the council could set it's own ordinance, Joe Bleczinski says he believes there is an ordinance in place, and the times for noise violations are before 8am and after 10:30pm. John Carvallo, 7 Muratore Ln. agrees with the idea of cancelling the security service. Richard Mercier says he believes there is a decibel level ordinance through the town. Carolyn DiLeo made a motion to suspend security services until May 15, 2022, it is seconded by Carol O'Donnell, and passed 3-1, Bill DelGizzo votes nay.
- B. Official Facebook Account: The topic is tabled.
- C. Zoom Account & Training: There is a discussion to switch the format of all meetings recordings to Zoom with the goal of increasing public participation. It's clarified the council cannot participate in meetings via Zoom, only observe.
Carolyn DiLeo made a motion for the District Manager to take professional development training, Marleen Bellini seconds the motion, it passes 4-0.
- D. Use of Community Center: Carolyn DiLeo recommends regular cleaning schedule for the community center, and looking into cleaning contracts. The topic is tabled.
- E. Little Beach Invoice: For near daily cleaning of Little Beach, \$35,000.00 for summer guaranteed. Remaining \$10,000.00 credited for 2022 budget.
Debra Pannullo asks if it's required by contract to clean Little Beach daily, the answer is no.
Bill DelGizzo made a motion to accept Bobby Barber's proposal, Marleen Bellini seconds, it passes 4-0.
- F. Renter Issues: There is a discussion about how best to address the issues of cars parking on the roads, trash bins left out for extended periods of time, and speeding.
Joe Bendetti of Greenwich Ave comments that he remembers when neighbors would approach each other about parking on the roads.
Pamela Childs of Mohawk Trail asks about contracting a tow company, the NPD officer present replies that they will ticket but not tow cars.
Marleen Bellini asks how do we make homeowners responsible.
Richard Mercier comments that there was once a notice system.

Anita Langer says that in the past BSFD had a constable for enforcing ordinances, and maybe that is an idea worth revisiting.

Nancy Cordy comments that the trash issues are also from weekenders.

Stephanie Caldwell asks if there is a way to include some form of paperwork for renters to sign and return saying they are aware of the ordinances.

Richard Mercier discusses the past idea of a renter registry with fees to fund security or a constable.

Carolyn DiLeo discusses the idea of bringing back the constable.

Elaine Casey of Lake Road comments that she likes the idea of making landlords more accountable for ensuring renters are good neighbors.

Pamela Childs comments that the parents of student renters are not helpful.

Lisa DiBello discusses that the constable program can be labor intensive.

Bill DelGizzo discusses that we need a way to enforce any rules.

There is a discussion about mailboxes, and George Monahan comments it is difficult to get permission to move mail boxes.

It is agreed that the next agenda will include the topics of stop signs and mail boxes.

G. Allagash Sewer Pumping Station: This issues was explained int the manager's report, the issue was a water line break, not a sewer line, and it has been repaired.

H. Committees to Date: The harbor committee topic is tabled after discussion from Harbormaster Joe Bleczinski has concerns about the structure of the committee, and the number of members, he would like no more than 5 members, plus the council liaison, he would like Lenny Mercier on the committee, and he is concerned that Bill Lane is not a mooring owner in good standing.

The Social, Bylaws and Pond committees are approved as presented.

Public Comment

Identify yourself with address, each person will have three minutes to speak, one time.

Mark Mickelson of Withington Ave asks if there is any report on the executive session held yesterday October 19, and if there is any update on the legal issues. There is no report on the executive session. There was a hearing on 9/21/21, it's discussed if "Legal Update" can become a regular agenda item, this topic will be added to the next agenda.

Richard Mercier says there are issues coming up that seem we may need an attorney on retainer. Carol O'Donnel asks if the council can get a quote for this, and to add this item to the next agenda. It's discussed if a CPA is needed for a yearly audit, Carolyn says this should be added to the budget list. Anita Langer agrees.

Neal comments that there is a no parking sign and rocks placed by the edge of the road near Little Beach and would like to see that changed. Carol responds that this was because of complaints in the summer, and they will look into moving the rocks.

Adjournment

M. Bellini made the motion to adjourn, seconded by C. DiLeo, passes 4-0 at 9:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk