

Bonnet Shores Fire District

*Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2022
7:30 PM*

Zoom Meeting

DRAFT

Call To Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marleen Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Steve Danuszar, Bill DelGizzo, and Anthony DeAngelis. Additional present were Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Harbor Master Joe Bleczinski, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence

The Assembly recited the Pledge.

Urgent Business

None.

Motion to go into Executive Session for:

Discussion and possible vote on response to Superior Court decision in case of Patterson v. BSFD (voting case). This may be held in closed session pursuant to R.I. Gen L. sec. 42-46-5(a)(2)

Motion to closed executive session, seal the minutes, go back into open meeting.

Motion is made by Carol O'Donnell, seconded by Bill DelGizzo, unanimously approved.

Voted to give attorney instructions to resolve the lawsuit.

Announcements: Procedure of Meeting

Chair O'Donnell outlined the meeting procedure. The host will must all participants. If you wish to comment on an agenda item, please raise the reaction hand. Any inappropriate behavior may lead to participant removal by the host. When voting on motions please raise you action hand for the record.

Approval of Minutes:

Jan 19 2022 Carolyn made motion, Marlene seconds, approved 6-0 – with one typo

Feb 21 2022 Special Meeting Motion by Carolyn, Carol 2nds, approved 6-0

Treasurer: Updated Financial Report

Treasurer Laurie McCarthy shared her report. Together with Anthony DeAngelis they are working on next fiscal year budget.

Caroyln asks if anyone can submit questions and requests, yes.

Mark M asks if we are still under budget with the attorney use – yes, we are still under budget for legal.

Tax Collector: Update - Collections

Michelle Travis was not present. A 2nd set of letters has been sent for delinquencies and is making progress.

Land Trust – George Monahan shared the report

Zoom on 1/31/22 7pm. A property owner shared concern that the walking trail was on his property and sought to seek release of liability.

Harbor Master

Joe Bleczynski shared his report. Topics included:

- a. Update on vacant moorings – 2 have become available – next 2 on list are David Seitz 2 Webster Ave, Robert Fitzgerald 11 Merry Weather Ave
- b. Ordinance change for inspections, discussions
- c. Progress on the dock – planks replaced, surface resanded, waterproofing to be completed.
- d. Watercraft stickers have been picked up for use this year.
- e. Quote for \$11,870 for 2 new pilings, offered new quote of \$8,530 – Laurie states we have \$22,000 in the Harbor CD. There is a discussion about savings options.

Joe Thomas discussed the pilings had been replaced 3 years ago. He believes the piling settings is not the issue, he thinks the loops are too tight. He would like to see more opinions before setting pilings. Joe B. disagrees, there is a discussion of opinions. Caroyln, Anthony and Carol suggest looking for additional opinions to settle the dispute and putting on next meeting's agenda.

- f. Caroyln discusses current boat owners are upset that boats under 14' are not an option for mooring use. She suggests grandfathering in these current boats with annual review for same boat/ same owner to continue mooring use. Carl Napolitano 38 Onondaga Road believes having a minimum boat requirement is not in the best interests of the mooring field. Joe responds that we are following neighboring community guidelines. There is a discussion about the boat length ordinance's purpose being to speed up the waiting list by avoiding moorings being held with "placeholders". Faith LaSalle spoke in favor of Joe's work to open up the amenity to a greater number of people in the community, and talked about his proposal for racks on the beach.
- g. Motion by Caroyln to grandfather year to year current vessels 14' and shorter and accept the minimum length rule, seconded by Bill, passes 6-0.
- h. Joe Thomas makes the request that mooring owners are able to use who they want for inspections, and to have the option to decide the frequency. Bill D. discusses that this is a regulation in Narragansett, and there is a high rate of breakaways in the mooring field.
- i. Lenny Mercier discusses his concerns about excessive rules. There is a discussion about the purpose and benefits of rules, personal cognizance and avoiding favoritism.

Old Business

- a. Camp will be held summer of 2022 – Details, Director – There is an ad out for camp director. Put in for a \$1,500 grant to improve the playground.
- b. Suez Water Mains, repairs will begin in the spring on Col John. The schedule has not been released yet.
- c. Road Ownership – gathering existing docs - WIP

New Business

- a. Recap of ByLaws meeting – Caroyln summarized that the proposed revisions will be posted to the website before being brought to the council at the April meeting. Comments are welcomed.
- b. Ordinance review -
- c. Legal
 - a. In the Jenkins complaint the attorney general agreed with us that the Annual Meeting is not a public body under the Open Meetings Act. They therefore rejected Jenkin's complaint about the 2021 Annual Meeting.
 - b. In the Childs complaint they conclude that the Nominating Committee is a public body, and that it violated the OMA in the past. The don't plan to file suit on this because the Committee's work basically ended at the 2021 Annual Meeting and nothing would be served by seeking any kind of remedy.
 - i. Elaine Torman asks if there are minutes from the 2021 Nominating Committee and if they are available. Carolyn DiLeo explained the Attorney General ruling that any minutes from
 - c. We will need to make certain that future meetings of the Nominating Committee are held in compliance with the OMA.

- d. Request for Abandonment of paper roads/ Branch Road – 105 Camden Road asked for Branch road to be abandoned by BSFD, the council cannot because it is controlled by the Land Trust.
- e. Community Center updates – and continuance – The Community Center is open for community use.
- f. Lifeguards – Pursuing lifeguards to return who have served in the past.

Public Comment

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

Due to a technical issue, there were no requests for public comment.

Nancy Cordy 240 Bonnet Pt Road – Asks who on the council will be chairing the Nominating Committee.

Carol answered there has not been a discussion yet.

Kay Schenk Col. John Road – Stated that the card ladies have not been to the community center because of covid, not for other reasons.

Joan Pandetti – 3 Greenwich Ave – Special Meeting from Feb 1 – Expressed issues with the posted minutes on the website for the February 1st Special Meeting; there is no indication that they are a draft, who was the secretary taking notes, and it did not list providing Lisa an opportunity for discussion. Her complete complaints are available on the Zoom recording.

Carol O'Donnell responded that her complaints are inaccurate.

Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk