

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022

7:30 PM

130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

Zoom

Call To Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:38pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marleen Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Steve Danuszar, and Bill DelGizzo. Additional present were Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Harbor Master Joe Bleczynski, Tax Collector Michelle Travis via zoom, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence

The Assembly recited the Pledge.

Urgent Business

None.

Announcements: Procedure of Meeting

Chair O'Donnell outlined the meeting procedure. The comments from Thomas Dickerson, FD attorney have been e-blasted. Voting & Beach Club Lawsuits, & Ethics complaint filed, by Joan Fandetti are ongoing. Charter Commission to re-write charter is moving forward.

Approval of Minutes:

April 20, 2022 – motion by Carolyn DiLeo, 2nd by Bill DelGizzo, passes unanimously.

May 18, 2022 – motion by Carolyn DiLeo, 2nd by Bill DelGizzo, passes unanimously.

Treasurer: Updated Financial Report

Treasurer Laurie McCarthy shared her report. 1st working budget meeting held, capital meeting next Wednesday 6/22 at 6:30pm, public meeting date to be determined.

Tax Collector: Update - Collections

Michelle Travis shared her report. \$9,581.00 remaining delinquent balance. She suggests sending not sending accounts under \$10 to the attorney to avoid fees - \$175 title search, plus advertising, possible total of \$200+. Bill asks is some of these delinquents are also delinquent with the town. Carol O'Donnell asks that Michelle look into creating a list of accounts that are delinquent with both the BSFD and the town. A motion is made for Michelle to send her current list to the attorney for collections by Carolyn DiLeo, seconded by Bill DelGizzo, passes unanimously.

Municipay has info needed to proceed, the next step is training. Michelle discussed ideas for redesigning future bills to be clearer.

Land Trust –

Bill DelGizzo reports that the Land Trust is working with the town to acquire properties, and to merge properties with common boundaries that are currently owned by the Land Trust. Also they are reaching out to the town to have commercial properties on Boston Neck Road have their retaining ponds inspected. Neal reported on bridges built, Bill mentions that there has been a discussion about tax funds from FEMA.

Harbor Master

Joe Bleczynski shared his report. Topics included:

- a. There have been unregistered boats on the beach, and proper notices have been issued.
- b. New signage by the boat launch for 30-minute parking. There is a sign for loading and unloading at the dock now.
- c. Some boaters still waiting on mooring inspections.
- d. The wait list has been advanced 4 places, and those moorings filled.

Old Business

- A. Community Center and district upgrades -Completed: Playground, sand, timbers, tree removal and trimming, plantings, bench seats, broken poles & junk removed, painting in progress. The brush and trash have been cleaned at The Battery. Stairs at Little Beach installed, railings & brush taken care of at Kelly Beach, Tree pulled from Pond, not to block flow of water. Thank you to all the volunteers.
- B. St Veronica's parking lot expansion-passed zoning – Neal speaks, he presents 86 signatures against the projects. The cost of the project to clear 300 trees is now \$1 million dollars. The church believes the expansion project is to accommodate handicapped drop off, and funeral parking. Neal discussed his meeting with the diocese.
- C. Sign up for camp is open- Director and councilors have been hired
- D. Beautification/ Social -participation -volunteers needed - There were many ideas at the last meeting for community events. The first cocktails on the beach is on Wednesday June 29th.
- E. Bus is verified – The cost has increased due to fuel increases. 11am-5 on Saturdays, 11am – 5:30pm Sundays (\$31 an hour and flat fee for gas). Bill comments that the bus relieves traffic on Dunes Road and reduces traffic throughout the community.
- F. Manger position-moving forward – Caroyln comments that the Search & Screen Committee has met, and the ad has been posted on ZipRecruiter and e-blasted.

New Business

- A. Street Parking at Little Beach
 - a. A Mrs. Carney reached out to Carol O'Donnell about possibly moving the rocks by Little Beach to allow parking. Carol comments that she has been in touch with the Fire Department who are not in favor of it because of how it would impact emergency vehicles. Motion for no parking on the north side of Little Beach, seconded by Marleen Bellini, passes unanimously.
- B. Benches to be added/replaced/Little Beach/Battery, Beautification has taken over
 - a. Nancy Cordy spoke about her efforts to build new memorial benches and replacing old ones by the battery. She has been in touch with Lakeside Trading about new benches, there is a 6-9 month wait list, some are made from recycled milk jugs. She gave examples of new plaques and described the instillation process for new benches. There is a deposit on two benches in stock at Lakeside that is good until this Friday 6/17. There is a discussion about the benefits of new benches made with composite materials and updating existing benches with composite materials. Nancy asks if the two current abandoned benches can be removed. Carol made a motion to remove the abandoned Battery benches and to move forward with bench renovations, Bill DelGizzo seconded, passed unanimously. Short benches without a plaque are \$590.00. Bill makes a comment that purchasing available benches now will make sure all new benches are uniform.
- C. Little Beach Seaweed removal-
 - a. Carol feels they need a better written contract. There is a discussion about machine costs and previous contact costs. The new contract proposal would provide roughly 2 months of seaweed removal with the current budget. There is an agreement to cap the contact cost at \$35,000, which would provide 13 cleanings. A motion is made to place a budget cap of \$35,000 for the months of July and August, time and dates of service to be determined as needed with weather and tides, for machine rental and labor costs by Carol O'Donnell, seconded by Marleen Bellini, passed unanimously.
- D. Sale of backhoe & accessories- gathering information & pricing

- a. The backhoe has several serious mechanical failures posing a threat by leaving it on the property. Bill comments he feels the district should lease rather than own equipment going forward.
- E. Presentation by David Black pertaining to pond
 - a. David Black 25 Leonard Bodwell Road, ecology professor. The advantages of a watershed program provide grant eligibility. He hopes that his program will be ready for submittal to DEM by the end of the summer. The hope is that the grant money would be able to work on the issues with the culvert. He feels there is an issue with the water quality based on the algae. He would like extensive water quality studies. He would like to see the phragmites around the causeway removed, which would require extensive funding. Carol asks about how the breach way gets backed up with sand, if there was a larger culvert would it not get backed up with sand. David responds with acknowledging that he is not an engineer, however he knows of multiple self-cleaning culverts in place throughout the state and hopes that with grant funding this would be an option. There is a discussion about the water runoff issues through the neighborhood, and other factors effecting water quality, and the importance of addressing the issues concerning the pond and what the watershed program could hopefully address.

Public Comment

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

- Carolyn DiLeo speaks to address the rumors surrounding the voting rights lawsuit determination. She asserts that it is the council's primary goal to rewrite the charter to follow the law.
- Bill DelGizzo comments that the budget committee discussed funding an independent attorney to advise the ByLaws Committee.
- Carol comments that they have reached out to our State Representative to bring in the Secretary of State and the Commissioner of the Board of Elections, to verify the steps taken, to ensure the work is done properly. She hopes that the special meeting for this will be held after next winter, when all of the snow birds have returned.
- Michelle Carracio, 20 Lake Road – Speaks in favor of the proposed Watershed Program. She also would like to see a special meeting to avoid the delay of the annual meeting any longer. She also mentions that the walkway by the yellow house on Bonnet Point has been washed away, and asks if something can be done to bring in material to fill and repair the path.
- Bob Patterson 8 Parkland Road – Asks if the council would consider putting in port-a-johns at Kelly Beach, locked and keys given to lifeguards. Carol discusses positive effects of port-a-johns, and that there are pleasant looking ones. The council agrees this is a topic to look into.
- Glenna Greenlamp – asked about causeway cleanup.
- Faith LaSalle asks if the sand will be replaced under the end of the boardwalk on Kelly Beach.
- Nancy Cordy – asked to recognize Paul Hass who passed away on April 29, 2022. And she commended the council for all of their hard work and the many different roles they have taken on over the past year to improve the community.
- Carolyn DiLeo comments that there are many more improvement goals for the district, and that there have been 6 rentals for the Community Center this year.
- Bill comments on the importance of trans
- Ms. Duncan of Old Town Trail asked if there were any updates regarding the security company, there are not.

Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell

Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk