

**Bonnet Shores Fire District**

*Monthly Meeting Minutes*

*September 21, 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 7:32pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Carolyn DiLeo, Steve Danuszar, Anthony DeAngelis and Bill DelGizzo. Additional present were District Manager Mark Gillooly and Treasurer Laurie McCarthy.

**Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of silence**

The Assembly recited the Pledge.

**Urgent Business**

None.

**Motion to go into Executive Session:**

Special meeting to discuss litigation matters. This meeting may be closed pursuant to RI Gen .L. sec. 42-46-5(a)(2) (sessions pertaining to litigation.)

Return at

Motion to go into Executive Session is made by Marleen Bellini, passes unanimously.

All are asked to leave the room.

Executive Session Comments

**Announcements: Procedure of Meeting**

Chair will speak to procedure and rules of meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

July 9, 2022 Budget Minutes – tabled

July 20, 2022 – Motion to approve by Carolyn DiLeo, seconded by Anthony DeAngelis, passes 5-1 with Bill DelGizzo abstaining.

August 17, 2022 – Motion to approve by Carolyn DiLeo, seconded by Anthony DeAngelis, passes 5-1 with Marlene Bellini abstaining.

**Treasurer: Updated Financial Report**

Laurie McCarthy shared her report. Tax revenue checks continue to be received. As soon as possible the budget information will be available on the new website.

No questions.

**Tax Collector: Update - Collections**

Laurie McCarthy shared Michelle Travis' report on her behalf. The tax sale is scheduled for October 6, 2022 and it has been advertised in the Narragansett Times.

No questions.

## **Land Trust: Update**

Mary Flynn shared her report. The dedication of the new nature trail took place on 8/27/22. The Land Acquisition Committee has sent 75 letters to property owners with land adjacent to Land Trust land to solicit donations. They have also spoke to an attorney, Martha Day, regarding questions around fees for donated land to the trust. David Black submitted the watershed plan to DEM in August and is hopeful for a resolution by the end of October 2022. FEMA Grant – awarded for a survey of waters off Little Beach, to be led by Dr. King of URI, plans are to begin end of September 2022. Signage – work in progress for Land Trust properties, areas of Wesquage Pond, and the Bonnet Battery (with the historical committee).

No questions.

## **District Manager: Update**

Mark Gillooly shared updates regarding harbor items. There are 8 moorings requiring registration left on his list. It's agreed that mooring requests should be documented with dates. He also discussed launch ramp applications and small watercraft applications.

He discussed concerns with the trash bins, and many requests for damaged bins. Currently anyone returning a damaged bin is being given a new bin in return. He plans to keep a record of returned bins to identify why so many are getting damaged.

He discussed community center rentals and the new process for recording rentals.

There is a brief discussion about the particulars of the reports, damaged bins, and bin numbers. Carol commented on past issues with trash bins. Anthony asks about a check for replacement bins on the report, the answer is because it was a replacement and 2<sup>nd</sup> bin. Carolyn comments on bin numbers. Full comments are available via the zoom recording on the district website.

## **Harbor Master**

Status of position. Motion - Vote

## **New Business**

### **A. BSBC – Comments – Grant – Approval – Vote**

- a. The Beach Club is looking into grants to help with the beach. Carol suggests the idea of working with them in the future, along with the Land Trust and David Black, to move forward with care for the pond and beach.
- b. Carolyn made a motion for Carol to go to the Beach Club to get them to come together with the Council and the Land Trust for discussions about past and future work together, motion is seconded by Bill DelGizzo, motion passes unanimously.

### **B. History Committee – Approval – Vote**

- a. Carolyn reports while there have been no formal meetings, they have been working. They have found some maps, she presented some prints to the audience, and they plan to sell prints of original plat maps, brochures and historical maps for \$50.00 each. They have also been researching the historical registry status of the battery. In 2026 the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution will be celebrated, the Conanicut Battery is planning a large ceremony, and the committee is looking into how Bonnet can participate with our Battery.
- b. Carol makes a motion to put this information on the website, seconded by Bill DelGizzo, motion passes unanimously.

### **C. New Fire District Logo – Sales – Apparel – Vote**

- a. There is a discussion about the new logo to be used for merchandise to generate revenue for the district, the positive current feedback from the community, and trademarks. It's agreed to work with Linda for use of the new logo.
- b. A motion to have Mark move forward with gathering information for creating apparel is made by Carol, seconded by Carolyn, motion passes unanimously.

### **D. Camp, bus, lifeguards, security, Little Beach, Kelly Beach porta-john enclosure CRMC application – discussion –**

- a. Carol reports they are still waiting on many invoices. Marlene comments on security. The porta-john has been removed, and the enclosure has been stored in the basement. Carol will submit an application with CRMC to put the enclosure back next season. Bill asks about extending the bike racks.
  - b. Carol makes a motion for her to apply with CRMC for a permit for the seasonal porta-john enclosure, seconded by Carolyn, motion passes unanimously.
- E. Charter Commission – Attorney Approval – Vote**
- a. Carolyn discussed the credentials of the proposed attorney, and clarifies that he has no personal interest or ties to either side, or any prior involvement with this situation. He also has a very strong background in these specific matters. Three were considered, the decision ended on this candidate because of his close work with the legislature, and his history as a State Senator. There is a discussion about the attorney’s purpose, credentials, and the work he has started for the Commission.
  - b. Bill makes a motion to approve Graham Connley as the Charter Commission Attorney, seconded by Carolyn, motion passes unanimously.

**Public Comment**

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

Bob Patterson discussed the rate for the attorney, which is equal to or less than what they charge other non-profits.

Faith LaSalle 98 Col. John Gardner of the Charter Commission comments on the scope of the commission’s role, and the importance of the public nature of the commission. She expressed a concern for the lack of checks and balances in the current charter, and asks the council to consider other areas that the commission is looking into.

Carolyn comments that the Commission has been reviewing all aspects of the charter, and any aspects under review would be subjected to approval for consideration by the council.

Carol comments that she agrees the council should have some sort of stop gap to prevent any council from putting the district in a dangerous financial position.

Faith raises the idea of a public vote on the budget at annual meetings, and there is a brief discussion in favor of exploring the idea.

Bill discusses the current budget approval process, and notes that the approval process is held in a public meeting for community input already. He also addresses the lack of community involvement in the important meetings for the budget and the Charter Commission.

Laurie comments that the budget is sent to the community via newsletter two weeks before the annual meeting as required, and asks if it is on the ballot at the annual meeting. Carolyn clarifies it is not, and at the time of mailing the budget has already been reviewed at a public meeting for public comment and modifications, Bill comments it is then approved by the council at the annual meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn is made by Carol, seconded by Bill, passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Caldwell  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk