

**Bonnet Shores Fire District**  
*Monthly Meeting: Meeting Minutes*  
*October 19, 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 7:39pm. Council members in attendance included: Chair O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Anthony DeAngelis, Carolyn DiLeo, Steve Danuszar, and Bill DelGizzo. Additional present were District Manager Mark Gillooly, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy, Tax Collector Michelle Travis via zoom, and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

**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.)

Motion made by Carolyn DiLeo, seconded by Marlene Bellini, passes unanimously.

Paula Childs asks what it is pertaining to. Carol responds that it is regarding a former employee.

Return at 8:04pm

**Announcements: Procedure of Meeting**

**Approval of Minutes:**

July 9, 2022 Budget Minutes – Motion to approve by Carolyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marlene, passes unanimously.

September 21, 2022 Monthly Meeting – Motion to approve as amended by Carolyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marlene, passes unanimously.

Comments: motion to go into executive session does not have a return time, executive session – Marlene's name in misspelled; under new business – history committee "masses" should be "passes", under charter commission – change Graham Connley to William Connley.

**Treasurer: Updated Financial Report**

Laurie McCarthy shared her report. Revenue continues to come in, and invoices paid on time. No additional news. No comments.

**Tax Collector: Update – Tax Sale**

Michelle Travis shared her report. Took place on 10/06/22, 11 properties were listed and bid on, \$5,994.00 total revenue, over due taxes were collected. All 11 properties had non-owners bid and win them, most properties were not homes. One property in bankruptcy was not allowed to be listed in the sale. \$422,000.00 or about 91% of current fiscal year taxes have been collected since the bills went out in the beginning of August. Delinquent notices will go out soon. No questions.

**Land Trust: Update**

Mary Flynn shared her report. FEMA grant to study Little Beach has begun. Phase 1 expected to take 9 months. Charter discussed by Land Trustees at the last meeting and agreed to retain William Connley as well. Dave

Kauffman, who ran and missed the election for land trust at the last election by 5 votes, has been contacted to fill an opening seat on the Land Trust through next year. Carol asks if the grant needs to be paid in full before work, Mary replies that is not the case, and it is a quarterly reimbursement. Carol asks who receives invoices for the grant, Mary answers that she believes URI is the one performing the work, receiving the invoices, and submitting for the grant reimbursement. There is work to be done on the Land Trust website. There is a conversation about when and whether to have a council vote to approve Dave for the temporary Land Trust seat, and an agreement to put the vote on November's agenda.

### **Web Master: Update, Motion, Vote**

District Manager Mark passed out a report for the agreed upon webmaster job terms and conditions to the council. Tabled to November meeting.

### **Harbor Master: Report, Motion, Vote?**

District Manager Mark shared a report for the harbor. The dock has been winterized. The materials for the dock have been categorized and stored in the basement. A big thank you to Mike Tortellani and Steve McCooey. The master harbor list is now on bonnetshores.org along with the mooring harbor list. The only info posted are names and position number. Roughly \$12,000.00 of mooring fees that were not yet previously submitted were collected, resulting in roughly an additional \$2,000.00 for the harbor budget. Bill asks if the waiting list will have registrations required for next year, he responds yes, and next year he will ask all participants to submit new documents, and he plans to have this process available via the website.

### **District Manager: Report, Motion, Vote?**

Mark shared a report on trash containers, and that if owners want to purchase a new trash bin the fee is \$150.00, generating \$50.00 for the district with each purchase. Fundraising, the district was asked to support a few water tables for future road races, \$400.00 to be collected for this, he makes suggestions to allocate this income \$100 to Land Trust, \$100 to Troop 1 and \$200 to the summer camp. If Bonnet is the most enthusiastic table, there is an additional \$200.00 award. Bill asks if there has been any progress on the idea of community center rental adjustments. Laurie replies that there needs to be more of a discussion, and that the operating costs of the center are around \$350.00 a day. And the rental rate varies for residents of Narragansett and non-residents. Mark suggests thinking about rates in terms of capacity and inflation.

A motion is made by Anthony DeAngelis to approve the allocation of \$400 awarded money as suggested by Mark, \$100 to Troop 1, \$100 to the Land Trust, and \$200 to the summer camp; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, passes unanimously.

### **New Business**

- A. Ocean State Road Race – Motion to approve the road race on 10/29/22 made by Carolyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marlene, passes unanimously.
- B. Request by Robert Varone Jr. to purchase property at Branch Road.  
Carolyn suggests that this request goes to the Land Trust first, then to the Council, then on the agenda at the next annual meeting. There is a discussion if the district has the power to sell land, it's agreed the answer is yes,
- C. Little Beach Study, \$17K grant, initial cost, procedure responsibility, obligations, MOTION, VOTE –  
There is a discussion about possible grant fees, the process for developing programs for the pond, breachway, and Little Beach.
- D. Pond/ Breachway maintenance, responsibilities for MOTION, VOTE  
There is a discussion that the Land Trust has been in contact with the town and DEM for management of the water levels in the pond. Paula Childs comments on issues with the water levels of the pond. Carol responds that she has talked to residents and the Land Trust to address the issue. Mark comments that he has also been in discussion with Paula about her concerns. Carolyn comments that the district manager is the point person for the district, and that it is his role to work with the Land Trust, and that all comments and concerns should be submitted to him. He reiterates that he has been in communication with Paula and responded promptly to her concerns. There is a discussion about his ability to address

issues that incur costs, and that he would be required to work with the council and within the budget. Bill addresses Paula to say that the Land Trust will address the water level in the pond immediately.

**E. CRMC staking of battery, porta-john, permits, responsibilities**

CRMC gave the district roughly 18 feet in addition to the existing boundary, so there needs to be new stakes planted so the landscapers have a boundary. CRMC permit to be done for porta-john. Bill says the Land Trust can do it, but also that the manager can file these permits. Mark asks for direction from the council, it's agreed the Land Trust will help mark get the stakes in the ground.

**F. Charter Commission: Update, MOTION, VOTE**

Carolyn shared her report. The commission decided to look at all amendments. She asks, does the council want the charter commission to continue to get input from the residents on all topics and then submitting suggestions to the council, or would the council prefer to take on this work. Carol asks the council if they would prefer to have this commission continue with this work or explore other options. Carol points out that the commission has a \$5,000.00 cap on the attorney fees, and if their roles expanded that would be an additional expense. Carolyn discusses a few of the proposed updates to the amendments, noting that they are minor adjustments. Two public suggestions made to the commission were a recall, and a cap on expenditures. Carol asks the council if they would like to research Carolyn's submitted documents further and have a discussion at the November meeting. Carolyn would like to eblast and list on the website all of the amendments for public comment and input, then send all comments to Bill Connley for review at the next commission meeting. Anthony asks what the progress on the voting issue is and expresses concern over the commission's focus and the expenses associated. Bob Patterson comments that he feels it is a mistake for the commission to expand its initiative. He feels the council should handle the additional issues, to free up the commission the address the voting issue as efficiently as possible. Marlene comments that the commission has already spent \$4,400.00 out of the \$5,000.00 budget so far, and it may be the best idea to stay focused on the voting issue alone. Bill comments that the commission has come up with some additional adjustments to the charter for the council to consider for submission along with the voting issue to the General Assembly. Carol agrees all ideas from the commission should be considered. Anita Langer comments on charter rules for advertising the annual meeting that would be a simple thing to adjust.

**Public Comment**

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

Anita Langer comments that she is named on a lawsuit from the Beach Club from her time on the council, she asks why Tom Dickenson is still representing the district when the Interlocal Trust filed the documents. And suggests it would save the council money to have the trust represent them. Carol assures her they will look into this.

Bob Patterson comments about the length of executive sessions at the previous meetings, and that it was not disclosed what the session was for. Carol replies that the purpose of tonight's executive session was addressed and disclosed. He comments that he feels the executive session is overused, and that the public should have more information about litigation matters. He also asks that a full expense report for the voting lawsuit be provided at some point. He comments on whether or not Tom Dickenson is the best choice for district representation, given Bill Connley's report on Tom's assessment of the voting rights lawsuit ruling.

Paula Childs comments that she supports Bob's comments on Tom Dickenson. She also supports his request for a legal fee expense report. And she asks for more frequent financial statements and monthly reports.

Marlene comments that it is important to share the costs of the lawsuit, and that that Bob Patterson and the plaintiffs that are residents were the cause of the large sum of money.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:59pm by Carol, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marlene, passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Caldwell  
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk