

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting

November 19, 2025

7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

(Prior to the Monthly Council meeting, the community was invited to participate in an open discussion regarding possible improvements to the Annual Meeting and Election processes. A full recording of that discussion, as well as the Monthly Council meeting which followed, is available under the “Council” tab at www.bonnetshores.org.)

Call to Order

Council Chair Leslie McKnight called the Monthly Council meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Council members present were: Jane Duran, Tony Girardi, Melissa Jenkins, Faith LaSalle, Leslie McKnight and Kevin O’Brien.

Approval of Minutes

As a first order of business, the Council took up consideration of approval of the draft minutes of the public portion of the October 9, 2025 Executive Session, copies of which had been distributed prior to the meeting. Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved as drafted. Next, the Council considered approval of the draft minutes of the October 15, 2025 Council meeting, copies of which the Clerk had distributed to the Council members prior to the meeting. F. LaSalle read into the record several changes she wished to be made. Mr. Patterson advised the Council members that those changes had already been incorporated into the draft minutes before them. Whereupon a motion made by K. O’Brien, seconded by T. Girardi, the minutes were unanimously approved as drafted (M. Jenkins not voting).

Urgent Business – None

Public Comment

- Bill DelGizzo – Mr. DelGizzo said he was opposed to installing plantings along the new revetment. He asked about the status of the grant recently awarded to Bonnet Shores (L. McKnight said all paperwork had been filed and we are awaiting word back). He recommended that the two equalizing culverts under the Causeway be cleaned out. T. Girardi asked if engineering diagrams for the culverts were available. M. Gillooly will contact the Town about availability of such diagrams.
- Nancy Cordy – Nancy read a letter she had drafted to the Council regarding Zoom participation for Council meetings, which she recommended be made available for Council and Land Trust meetings. L. McKnight said that the topic would be added as an agenda item for the next monthly Council meeting.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer Update – Neal Prescott reported that the District remains in strong financial health with a combined balance in savings, checking and CD accounts of \$552,000. He collaborated with J. Chereskin, Laurie McCarthy, and Helen Patience on reconciling tax payments, and will work with Helen for the final reconciliation. He has expanded use of QuickBooks and caught up with overdue bills.

Tax Collector – Helen Patience said 92% of the taxes have been collected, and she will soon issue delinquent notices.

Land Trust – Joan Fandetti said the Land Trust meeting scheduled for November 18, 2025 had been cancelled. She then discussed the proposed call with the Foundation Group, which is the subject of an agenda item for later in this meeting. She discussed why she felt it worthwhile to incur the \$300 cost associated with the proposed call. F. LaSalle said she did not understand why the Foundation Group, which is based in Tennessee, was originally retained. She also asked whether a Rhode Island lawyer was ever consulted. T. Girardi said none was, due to the expense and timing with the last Annual Meeting. Bill DelGizzo offered a brief history of the Land Trust's 501c3 status. A discussion ensued. F. LaSalle recommended that the

Land Trust research whether other Rhode Island Land Trusts have 501c3 status and report back.

Manager's Report – M. Gillooly gave an update on challenges faced by Mega trash removal service. In response to a question from L. McKnight, Mark reported that he resubmitted the appropriate paperwork in connection with a request for a three year CRMC maintenance assent. Mark reported that we had been paid on 64 of the 67 moorings; the remaining three are “virtual” moorings at this point.

Social Activities Group – Deborah Pannullo reported that the recent food drive had been a tremendous success. The community Christmas party will be held on December 7, and she requested volunteers. An “Adults Only” party will be held on December 14 at the Twin Willows. She said many other ideas are under consideration, including possible day time activities. She expressed thanks to the Narragansett library for its recent donation of books.

Website - J. Duran reported that she recently met with the vendor for the new website and email system. The cutover will be conducted in two parts – email first, followed by the website. All emails from historic Bonnet Shores email addresses will be preserved. The new email system will include an authentication system. The website will be converted the first week of December. Accordingly, there will be a freeze on new items to the website. L. McKnight recognized the hard work Jane has devoted to this project.

New and On-Going Business

8. (Item taken out of order) Ocean State Road Race – (1:28-1:31 on the meeting recording) The 10th annual Ocean State Road Race is planned for October 26, 2026, a portion of which will be run through Bonnet Shores. Set up will be conducted on October 25, 2026. Upon a motion made by T. Girardi, seconded by K. O'Brien, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request by the race sponsor to have the portion of the race conducted through Bonnet Shores, and to accommodate the equipment set up and removal schedule.

7. Foundation Group Call – (1:31 – 2:01 on the meeting recording) The Council then took up consideration of the request for approval for a \$300 fee for a phone call with the Foundation Group. T. Girardi spoke in favor of the \$300 expenditure in order to have certain questions relating to the Land Trust's 501c3 status answered. He then moved that the Council approve the \$300 fee for the call,

which motion was seconded by J. Duran. K. O'Brien expressed his view that there had not been sufficient preparation for the call and recommended that the item be tabled at this time. M. Jenkins agreed. J. Duran said there were questions about the application for the 501c3 status and that the Foundation Group might provide helpful information. L. McKnight expressed her concern that erroneous information may have been included in the IRS application and if so, it should be corrected. F. LaSalle offered her views about the Land Trust charter and Land Trusts in other jurisdictions. A lengthy discussion ensued, at the end of which a vote was held on the pending motion. T. Girardi, J. Duran, L. McKnight and F. LaSalle voted in favor, and K. O'Brien and M. Jenkins opposed. The motion was accordingly approved.

9. Fiscal Responsibility Workshop – (2:01 – 2:04 on the meeting recording) F. LaSalle moved that a workshop on fiscal responsibility topics be scheduled and be held an hour before a future Council meeting. J. Duran seconded the motion. F. LaSalle, J. Duran, L. McKnight and T. Girardi voted in favor; K. O'Brien and M. Jenkins abstained. The motion carried.

10. Land Trust Property Donation – this item was tabled.

11. Purchase of laptop and video equipment – (2:04-2:09 on the meeting recording) Next, K. O'Brien reported that the existing Community Center laptop and TV are no longer functional and need to be replaced, and said he had received quotes for a new TV and laptop. After a discussion, K. O'Brien moved that the Council authorize an expenditure, not to exceed \$2500, for the purchase of a new television and laptop. T. Girardi seconded the motion, whereupon the Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

12. Strategic Planning Mission, Vision, and Core Values Statements – (2:09 – 2:23 on the meeting recording) Next, K. O'Brien reviewed the work and recommendations of the Strategic Planning Workgroup (the "Workgroup"), including the Mission, Vision and Core Values statements that had been drafted. He then moved that the Council approve the following statements:

- **Mission:** The BSFD is dedicated to enhancing the community's quality of life by providing dependable services, programs, coastal environment protection, and improving shared resources that make the community welcoming, vibrant and sustainable.

- **Vision:** BSFD is a role model community with open and responsive government and actively engaged citizens dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and managing the long-term sustainability of its entrusted assets.
- **Core Values:** Integrity, Respect, Responsible Stewardship, Social Engagement.

T. Girardi seconded the motion. There then ensued a discussion among the Council members, including J. Duran, F. LaSalle, and L. McKnight, as to whether the above statements, and other goals and programs developed by the Workgroup, would also need to be approved by the voters. Various possible alternatives were discussed. At the conclusion of the discussion, K. O'Brien said that in his view, having the statements approved by the Council was important, as doing so would provide the foundation upon which the Workgroup could continue its efforts. Accordingly, he continued to recommend that the statements as proposed be approved by the Council, but agreed that future Workgroup recommendations with budget implications could be subject to voter approval. Whereupon a vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

13. The Never Dunne Foundation – (2:23- 2:46 on the meeting recording) Michelle Dunne appeared on behalf of the Never Dunne Foundation (the “Foundation”) in connection with its request for complimentary use of the Bonnet Shores Community Center, including the field and grounds, in support of the Foundation’s Annual 5K event, to be held on Sunday, May 31, 2026, with a rain date of June 7, 2026. During the ensuing discussion, F. LaSalle discussed the standard rental fee, and the need for insurance coverage. M. Jenkins advised Michelle she was likely also required to secure approval for the event from the Town of Narragansett. J. Duran expressed concerns about the costs associated with foregoing rentals for two weekend days, but said her bigger concern was with the precedent set if the request is granted. M. Jenkins suggested that instead of complimentary use, a reduced rate be charged to charities such as the Foundation, and suggested that instead of complimentary use, the Foundation be given use of the community center for a reduced rate. F. LaSalle and T. Girardi also expressed concerns about the precedent set. From the audience, Deborah Pannullo voiced support for the request. Following the discussion, J. Duran moved that use of the Community Center be reserved for the Never Dunne Foundation for both the May 31 and June 7, 2026 dates, at total cost of \$400, which offer shall remain available for acceptance by the Foundation until January 31, 2026. Following a second by L. McKnight, the Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

14. Paul Masse Work Group – (2:47 – 2:53 on the meeting recording) L. McKnight said the Council was looking for a volunteer from the Council to lead a work group to focus on the proposed Paul Masse auto dealership on Route 1A. M. Jenkins reported that there currently is no proposal pending before the Narragansett Planning Board. Instead of a work group, she recommended that a letter be prepared for signature by the Council in opposition to the proposal, and to have such letter ready if the matter comes up again before the Planning or Zoning Board, or Narragansett Council. After discussion, M. Jenkins proposed that the matter be tabled and that in the interim she would circulate a proposed draft letter to the Council members for their individual review. The Council Chair agreed, and the matter was tabled.

15. BSFD Community Center Protocols – this matter was tabled.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm. The Council then reconvened in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted:

/S/

Robert E. Patterson, Clerk