

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT
Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Monthly Meeting
130 Bonnet Shores Road
July 15, 2026
6:30pm

Meeting Minutes

(A recording of the Monthly Council meeting is available on the Fire District website – www.bonnetshores.org under “2026 Council Meetings – All”)

Attendees:

Kevin O'Brien, Tony Girardi, Matthew Mannix, John Chereskin, Leslie McKnight, James Hill

Absent: Melissa Jenkins

Call To Order:

Chair John Chereskin called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.

Public Comment:

Pat Mannix (of 111 Col John Gardner Rd) thanked the Council and the Land Trust and was pleased about the benches.

Announcements:

Chair Chereskin addressed the intent on running civil meetings.

New and Ongoing Business:

1. Reports

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was submitted prior to the meeting. No questions or action items were raised by the Council.

Tax Collector's Report – Tax Collector delivered his report. As being new to the position he is now on Bonnet Shores Fire District email and has access to the tax technology tool.

Land Trust Report – Land Trust Chair J. Fandetti delivered her report about increased signage in the community. Land Trust is actively collecting donations to improve the playground and has been able to raise \$6,927.00 thus far and \$14,500.00 is needed.

District Manager and Harbor Report – The District Manager submitted a written report and updates on District operations and asked if Council had any questions. No questions on the July report. T. Girardi inquired about the typical amount of moorings in the water at this time of year. Mr. John Silveira of 50 Camden Rd. inquired about how moorings

are treated. In the past, old moorings had to be given back to the community after a year of not being used.

2. Council Member Feedback

- a. Why did you run for Council?
- b. What would you like to be involved in?
- c. What would you like to see as goals for the coming year?

Each Council member discussed their feedback to these questions. Chair Chereskin shared that he was previously Tax Collector and was encouraged by community members to run for Council, and he did two years ago. It has been challenging but also rewarding. Chair Chereskin in his role as Chair would like to continue to work with finance and address Little Beach access, the dock at Camden, and replace the District Manager position.

K. O'Brien – ran on strategic plan and would like to continue on strategic plan with review yearly to tackle as a whole Council asset management.

T. Girardi – ran as a lifelong resident to serve the community. As specializing in Environmental Science, he would like to continue to work with the Land Trust. In the next year, he would like to address the refuge contract, and going forward (which will take more than a year) to address the Wesquage Pond and the culvert

M. Mannix – ran to return to simplicity. Would like to work looking at daily operations and working together and getting back to basics; budgets, boats and beaches and Bonnet Days.

L. McKnight – ran because Bonnet is a great community and a great quote she heard “great communities do not happen by accident. They happen through involvement by people”. Would like to continue working on Governance Committee, beach working group, and work with the Land Trust. Goals to have professional effective meetings, being involved in the District Manager replacement, and bringing back Earth Day.

J. Hill – ran because he's been involved with this community for 25 years and wanted to address some of the concerns he has seen. Bonnet is a special place and wants to bring people together and be involved with fiscal responsibility with his many years of experience in budgets. Really wants to get back to getting everyone together.

3. 2026 Elections Results

Jane Duran provided analysis of the annual meeting votes. This is the third year in a row she has completed this analysis. She submitted an APRA request and only recorded the registration sheets and presented the key findings of the analysis.

4. Motion, discussion, approval of a request by the Land Trust for \$5,450 for Survey services on several lots adjacent for possible encroachment

There is an encroachment boundary on Land Trust property and validated by CRMC and a violation has been issued to the homeowner. The homeowner has not been responsive to date. Property can not be sold until the fines are paid. In order to enforce and verify boundaries a survey must be conducted. J. Fandetti read a statement from an APRA request to CRMC.

Discussion was held about the steps after the survey, concerns about the environmental impact of the encroachment, concerns about our pond and beach, and possible adverse possession if survey not conducted.

Mr. John Carvalho asked about the wetlands and whether this could lead to further litigation.

Motion made by T. Girardi to approve a request by the Land Trust for \$5,450 for Survey services on several lots adjacent for possible encroachment. Seconded by M. Mannix. Approved 6-0

Motion approved unanimously to approve the Land Trusts \$5,450 request for Survey services.

5. Replacement of District Manager

L.McKnight reviewed the 2022 interview process of the hiring of District Manager. Consisting of a six member Search and Screen committee (2 Council, Treasurer, 3 Community Members), reviewing of the job description, hours and if this is a one or two person job. K. O'Brien volunteered to be on committee.

M. Mannix made motion to approve the process as L. McKnight articulated. Seconded by K. O'Brien. Motion approved 6-0.

6. Web-Site Coordinator

a. Next steps

Chair Chereskin discussed IT admin role that J. Duran is in acting on an interim basis. There is a need for the position and whether it should be a volunteer or paid position or duty of District Manager. There is \$5,000.00 in budget for paid position. Consensus that District Manager is one position and IT Admin is another position.

L.McKnight made motion to as next step to fill the District Manager position first and then fill the Web-Site Coordinator position and motion passed by consensus.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by T. Girardi and seconded by J. Hill. Motion approved unanimously 6-0 and meeting adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nilza Sylvestre, Clerk