

## **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2026 MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Jane Duran, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Council members in attendance were Jane Duran, Faith LaSalle, Anthony Girardi, John Chereskin, Kevin O'Brien and Melissa Jenkins. Absent was Leslie McKnight.

The motion to appoint Faith LaSalle as the acting clerk for the meeting was made by J. Duran and seconded by Kevin O'Brien -- 6 approve/ 0 oppose.

The motion to approve May 13, 2026, Annual Meeting Preparation Meeting minutes was made by Anthony Girardi and seconded by F. LaSalle – 6 approve/ 0 oppose.

The motion to approve May 20, 2026, Council Meeting minutes was made by J. Duran and seconded by K. O'Brien – 6 approve/ 0 oppose.

The motion to approve the May 21, 2026, Budget Workshop minutes was made by J. Duran and seconded by John Chereskin – 5 approve/ 1 abstain (Girardi).

The motion to approve the May 29, 2026, Special Meeting/Budget Corrections minutes was made by F. LaSalle and seconded by J. Chereskin – 5 approve/ 1 abstain (Girardi).

### **Public Comment:**

Carolyn DiLeo suggested that the search for a new District Manager include a criterion for someone with technical and website skills, and that two persons may be considered to split the job responsibilities.

Matt Mannix commented that the way to bring the community together is to roll up your sleeves and volunteer at holiday events and on committees like the harbor, and see what makes the community tick; learn about its past history; and find out what people value about Bonnet, as a whole. Once you have that understanding and experience, it is only natural to move into an elected position. Some who criticize and aim to impose their own ideas since the pandemic and right before, have not taken the important step of being an active citizen and volunteer first.

**Land Trust:** Joan Fendetti reported on the plans for a fundraiser reaching out to community members and local businesses as a means to fund the playground improvements, thereby limiting how much needs to come from District tax dollars for the estimated \$14,500 proposal for improvements. Paulette Brousseau, along with Lori Beaty and Jim Hill, sold T-shirts at the recent Dunne Foundation walk-a-thon as an additional means to raise money for the Land Trust. J. Fandetti thanked Kelly Sheridan and Kevin Dolan for their service as trustees on the Land Trust and that they will be missed.

**District Manager's Report:** Mooring fees are 65-70% collected and he will be working with the new harbor master in the transition. He has been helping J. McClanaghan with the election; the beach is staffed and ready to open June 20<sup>th</sup> and the kids camp on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Legal Update:** Town's drainage project by Bayberry Road re Dailey property: F. LaSalle noted that when the Council voted at the last meeting to approve a town easement on a piece of Land Trust property, the Council was not informed of any cost or expense to the District. When the Town asked for an easement document, she requested that the Town's solicitor draft the easement so the District did not bear the expense of hiring a new attorney with property law specialty. Atty Callaghan, town solicitor, has prepared a draft and will be checking on the dimensions needed for the Town to put in the infrastructure. If there is a cost associated with this easement, she recommended that the Council consider discussing it with the Dailey's who are the property owners requesting this major project of the Town that betters their property, not the community as a whole. F. LaSalle also reported that the DiBello lawsuit against the Land Trust is in the discovery stage with the plaintiff's deposition scheduled to take place in July. She estimated it would take about two years for this case to go through the court system. The legal defense is provided by the Interlocal Trust, and not a legal expense paid by BSFD. The District legal expenses for the budget year May 2025 through April 2026 were as follows; \$5,050 for Attorney Dickinson for the budget year May 2025 through April 2026, with a recent May bill of \$478, which will be paid in the current budget year; \$31,253 for Attorney Marcello, for the time period January 29, 2026 through April 30, 2026. She noted that Attorney Marcello was retained to deal with some APRA requests and OMA Complaints re M. Jenkins and proxy issues re R. Patterson as Jenkins and Pattersons took issue with Atty Dickinson representing the Council after they had been plaintiffs in lawsuits where Atty Dickinson defended the Council/District; \$7,125 is a May invoice from Attorney Marcello to be paid in the current budget year.

**Annual Meeting:** Janice McClanaghan reported on the readiness for the Annual Meeting: newsletter, newspaper ads, tax assessors training and certification of voting lists, voting machine training, notary sessions for proxies, and other election volunteers she has lined up.

### **New and Ongoing Business:**

**Harbor Master:** A motion was made by A. Girardi, seconded by J. Duran, to hire Thomas Kane as the new harbor master. A. Girardi reviewed Tom Kane's qualifications, including his profession as a Providence police officer and part of the Providence Marine Patrol Unit, boatyard experience, and his familiarity with the District's harbor as a boater and resident since 1998. T. Girardi thanked Joe Thomas and Mike Vendetti for their assistance in this search for a new harbor master who will start on July 1, 2026. Motion passed: 6 approve/ 0 oppose. T. Kane introduced himself and expressed his enthusiasm for serving in this capacity and he was warmly welcomed.

**Land Trust:**

**Rules and Regulations:** A motion was made by T. Girardi to adopt the Land Trust Rules and Regulations drafted by Atty Faith LaSalle, seconded by J. Duran. F. LaSalle explained that these Rules and Regulations were modelled after the R&Rs of two other public land trusts set up by the General Assembly and similar to the BSFD Land Trust. Motion passed: 4 approve/ 1 oppose (M. Jenkins), 1 abstention (K. O'Brien).

**990-long form:** T. Girardi reported that this course of action was consistent with the conference call he, J. Duran, F. LaSalle, J. Fandetti, and T. Beaty had with the Foundation Group earlier this year. Motion to submit the corrections on the 990-long form, made by J. Duran and seconded by A. Girardi. Motion passed: 5 approve/ 1 oppose (Jenkins).

**Other agenda items:**

Motion to discuss and possibly vote on M. Jenkins as the inter-government liaison; tabled by M. Jenkins, the agenda item proponent.

Motion to discuss and possibly vote on next steps to the District's Manager's resignation effective mid-September and L. McKnight's initial draft for responsibilities in her role as lead of the search committee. Unanimous agreement to table.

Motion to discuss and possibly vote to schedule the next policy workshop to review drafts of the three policies as prioritized at the March meeting. Unanimous agreement to table.

Motion to discuss and possibly vote to schedule a workshop to formulate an emergency preparedness plan; tabled by M. Jenkins, the agenda item proponent.

J. Duran called the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith A. LaSalle

Acting Clerk for the June 17th Council meeting in the year 2026.