

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT

2025 Annual Meeting

“DRAFT” Meeting Minutes

Saturday August 2, 2025

1. Call to Order by District Moderator-District Moderator Joe Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

A. Pledge of Allegiance- District Moderator Joe Thomas led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

B. Reflection on Deceased Members of the Fire District-District Moderator Joe Thomas took a moment of silence to reflect on deceased members of the district.

2. Proper notice and Quorum attested to by the Clerk-Clerk Pro Temp Janice McClanaghan stated that all public notices sent to the Providence Journal and Narragansett Times were posted on 7/18/25 and 7/25/25 and attested that we had a quorum.

Moderator Joe Thomas welcomed everyone and announced he will be following Robert's Rule and outlined the format of the meeting. Reminded everyone not to fill out your ballots, wait for nominations from the floor. There are (3) classifications for candidates: endorsed by Nominating committee, Registered candidates, who were not endorsed, and nominations from the floor.

There was a 'Meet the Candidates' forum that occurred to allow candidates to present their platform prior to the meeting to shorten the annual meeting agenda.

3. Report on Nominating Committee:

Chris Mannix read report:

On 7/9/2025, Nominating Committee voted to endorse these candidates:

Joe Thomas-Moderator

Nominating Committee

Sharon R. Ford, Richard Mercier, Donna Stephens, Chris Mannix and Marlene Bellini, with Jane W. Duran and John Chereskin as BSFD Council Liaisons'

Tax Assessors- Steve Danszuar, Sharon R. Ford, Paul Luba.

BSFD Council: James Hill. and Kevin O'Brien.

This concludes the duties of the Nominating Committee.

- 4. Other candidates identified prior to annual meeting** who identified prior to the meeting were included in the ballot.

5. Nominations from the floor:

Anita Langer asked a question about the ballot.

If name already on ballot and is registered but not endorsed, can I vote for that candidate? - Answer was yes

Nomination for Moderator: No Nominations from floor

Nomination for Clerk: Bob Patterson-A. Langer Motion, C. DeLeo 2nd

Treasurer: Richard Gersten for Treasurer Motion-C DeLeo, 2nd C. Fortin

Nomination for Tax Collector: No nominations from floor

Motion by C. Mannix and 2nd D. Stephens to close Nominations for tax collector.

Nomination for Tax Assessors: No Nominations from floor

Nomination for Council: No Nominations from floor

Nomination for Fire Warden: No Nominations from floor

Nominations for Land Trust: No Nominations

It was stated that Carol O'Donnell and Terry Beaty were registered and on ballot but not endorsed and that Neil Prescott withdrew his name prior to election.

Motion by C. DeLeo and 2nd by L. Albert to close nominations for land trust.

Nominations from the floor for Nominating Committee:

Vicki Gersten for **Rick Gersten**, Carolyn DeLeo for **Carol Duffy**, Anita Langer for **Julie Clark**, Paula Childs for **Mary Weber**, Carol Fortin for **Kevin Ryan**, Bill Del Gizzo for **James Riccitelli**, Adrian Deberges for Kristen Deberges

Moderator Joe Thomas announces especially for "write-ins" **put a checkmark** in right hand column for your vote.

- 6. Report of the Tax Collector: Laurie McCarthy gives Tax Collector report,** states J. Chereskin, who was presently out-of-town, was appointed when Helen Patience resigned. 97% of taxes were paid in 2025, and 78% in the previous year. (Payments were made by check, online, E-check all found on BSFD website)
- 7. Report of the Treasurer- Laurie McCarthy**
Laurie McCarthy highlighted the discussion regarding the 2 operating budgets and a cap on spending. The two operating budgets were for storms and legal.
- 8. Vote to Approve BSFD Land Trust Allocation for \$1500. Pursuant to Section 4 of the BSFD Land Trust Charter-Approved**
- 9. Vote to Approve rates of Compensation for the following elected officials:**
Tax collector, clerk, and treasurer, pursuant to the BSFD by -laws. **-Approved**
- 10. Ratification of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes-Approved**
- 11. Old Business-none**
- 12. New Business:**
Only two(2) minutes to speak, NO disparaging remarks
a.*C Fortin- we should be using machines for voting.

Joe comments this will be brought to council who will make that decision.

13. Review and Explanation of Fiscal Responsibility By-Law changes:

a.*Patrick Kelly-questions about item 2a software upgrade.

Faith Lasalle stated a major upgrade to software was done due to the new computer system to simplify it.

Does District Manager have a capital expense fund? Faith stated it was \$35,000 for the upgrade.

Laurie McCarthy explains the need for monies related to fiscal responsibility and insurance coverage.

b.*Sharon Doherty asks why we need a specific requirement to allocate dollars? Explanation is due to storm infrastructure, and extraordinary cap purchases totaling \$35,000 to \$60,000 due to storms/extreme weather.

c. C. DeLeo addressed Grants. Grants are usually allocated in the Fall. Her concern is timing of approval needed for these Federal/State grants.

d.*Faith LaSalle explains why the council is looking to have 'Caps' on spending. She states 'what we don't want is the Council to have a greater voice. Seven (7) people shouldn't be allowed to spend your tax dollars...

e.*Bob Patterson; objects to Faith statement, “ I am going to object to this. This is not the time to make arguments. This should have been done during the council meetings, which the public was invited to...not the day of the election.”

f.*A. Langer -comments on BSFD LT Charter/RI State. She stated that she was responsible for having the land in perpetuity. Most of these charter and bylaws changes are in conflict and shouldn't be discussed at an annual meeting.

g.*Paula Childs-This is a change in our bylaws- important details should be addressed in public meetings and community input.

h.*Lesle McKnight-stated there are lots of comments on social media. Don't criticize when people are trying to make things better for ALL in the community.

i.*Paul Luba- his comment refers to the levy cap on spending. The council should not have Carte Blanche.

j.*DeLeo- no fiscal responsibility was addressed until June 2025, need better input from the community

F. Lasalle-responded that nothing has been done since June, 2023. She explained she and Leslie ran on fiscal responsibility so 7 people cannot spend their money. A Committee can make suggestions, but the council decides.

14.Review and Explanation of Non-Binding Opinion Poll

Moderator Joe Thomas explains each option individually.

He tells attendees to checkmark their choice

Option 1- Residents only

Option-2 Reduced Bonnet beach Club Voting

Option-3 Status Quo/or other comments

This opinion poll will not result in any automatic changes to the voting franchise.

Its sole purpose is to gather community input on this important issue.

Comments given by Kristen Deberges, Frank Wolferseder, Adrian Deberges, Jane Duran, and Joe Iannucci.

Election Results:

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

**MEETING DATE AUGUST 2
ADJOURNED AUGUST 9, 2025**

***ASTERISK DENOTES WINNERS**

MODERATOR-1 POSITION

JOE THOMAS 224 *

ANITA LANGER 2

DAVID KAUFMAN 2

MARY WEBER 2

NANCY CORDY 1

HELEN PATIENCE 1

ROBERT PATTERSON 1

CLERK-1 POSITION

BOB PATTERSON 175 *

MATT MANNIX 21

CAROL DUFFY 13

MICHELLE DUNNE 2

JOE THOMAS 2

CHRIS MANNIX 2

HAL WOODCOME 1

KAREN WOODCOME 1

HELEN PATIENCE 1

JAN MCCLANAGHAN 1

TREASURER-1 POSITION- VACANT

RICK GERSTEN 183 * DECLINED

LAURIE MCCARTHY 12 DECLINED

HELENE PATIENCE 4-DECLINED

TOM LONERGAN 2-DECLINED

CAROL DUFFY 2 DECLINED

CHRIS GORDON 2-DECLINED

ELLIOT GERSTEN 1 DECLINED

JANE DURAN 1 DECLINED

CAROL DELEO 1 DECLINED

NANCY CORDY 1-DECLINED

TAX COLLECTOR-1 POSITION

JOHN CHERESKIN 6-REFUSED POSITION

HELEN PATIENCE 4-ACCEPTED *

BOB PATTERSON 3

TOM LONERGAN 2

JULIE CLARK 2

JANE DURAN 2

MELISSA JENKINS 2

MARY BETH GORDON 1

RENE CAPAZZO 1

RENE CAPUANO 1

TAX ASSESSORS-3 POSITIONS

SHARON FORD 295 *

STEVE DANUZZAR 266*

PAUL LUBA 263*

KRISTEN DEBERGES 27

ANITA LANGER 5

JULIE CLARK 2

CAROL DUFFY 2

PAULA CHILDS 2

HELEN PATIENCE 2

NEIL PRESCOTT 1

NANCY CORDY 1

DENISE SELLON 1

CAROL FORTIN 1

KATERINA WRIN 1

JOHN CHERESKIN 1

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2 POSITIONS

KEVIN O'BRIEN 387*

MELISSA JENKINS 195

JIM HILL 190

RICK GERSTEN 3

CAROL O'DONNELL 3

HAL WOODCOME 1

JOHN JACOBBI 1

MELISSA JENKINS 196 RECOUNT *

JIM HILL 189 RECOUNT

FIRE WARDEN -2 POSITIONS

BILL GIANNINI 310 *

MARY WEBER 2* ACCEPTED POSITION

JOHN RIZZO 1

HELEN PATIENCE 1

MELISSA JENKINS 1

TOM LOPARDO 1

ALBERT BONFIGLIO 1

JIM RICCITELLI 1

LAND TRUST

TERRY BEATY 261 *

CAROL O'DONNELL 149

GEOFF LECAM 1

NOMINATING COMMITTEE- 5 POSITIONS

CAROL DUFFY 214 VALIDATED # 210 *

SHARON FORD 201 VALIDATED #200*

RICHARD MERCIER 193 VALIDATED # 192*

KEVIN RYAN 197 VALIDATED #192*

MARY WEBER 194 VALIDATED # 191*

JULIE CLARK 192 VALIDATED #184

JIM RICCITELLI 190 VALIDATED #187

DONNA STEPHENS 181 VALIDATED #178

CHRIS MANNIX 173 VALIDATED # 174

MARLENE BELLINI 169 VALIDATED # 169

RICK GERSTEN 30

KRISTEN DEBERGES 17

PAULA CHILDS 2

MELISSA JENKINS 2

TERRY BEATY 2

DAVE KAUFMAN 2

BILL DELGIZZO 2

DAVE RESNICK 1

STEVE MCCOOEY 1

JULIE SOLOMON 1

COLE LIBBY 1

ANDY KUSHNER 1

KEVIN OBRIEN 1

CORA LUDWICK 1

BY-LAWS

2A.APPROVE 174

2A.REJECT 230

2B APPROVE 200

2B REJECT 208

3 APPROVE 161

3 REJECT 242

4 APPROVE 157

4 REJECT 244

5 APPROVE 179

5 REJECT 225

6 APROVE 164

6 REJECT 238

OPINION POLL

OPTION 1 REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY-196

OPTION 2 REDUCED BSBC VOTING -106

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

CURRENT STATE/STATUS QUO 84

RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS ONLY 21

REDISTRICT 16 + 2 EXPLORE REDISTRICTING

FULL AND PART-TIME RESIDENTS PRESENTED BY 1ST CHARTER COMMITTEE-7

BSBC PERCENTAGE VOTE 2

CONFLICTED VOTES 4

TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS 4

POINTLESS POLL 1

OPTIONS ABOVE-NO OPTION 1

OTHER REALLY NO CATEGORY 5

COMMENTS:

1.PROPERTY OWNERSHIP DOES NOT EQUAL REIDENCY IN OUR COUNTRY. THE BEACH CLUB AS A ENTITY SHOULD HAVE A PERCENTAGE VOTE OF A NE COMMUNITY BASE ENTITY STILL OPERTATING WITH THE BEACH CLUB COUNTING AS A %.

SUPPORTERS OF NON-RESIDENT VOTING ARE JUST AS MUCH TO BLAME FOR THIS MESS. GROW UP AD FIND A SOLUTION. IT ALL TO PERSONEL. USE CRITICAL THINKING! NO BULLIES.

2.EXPLORE REDISTRICTING IN AN OFFICIAL FIRE DISTRICT MTG. OPTION 2 WOULD NOT PASS CONSTITUTIONAL TEST BECAUSE: a DOES NOT MEET "SUBSTANIAL INTEREST" TEST, AND b. WOULD RESULT IN" DILUTION" OF RESIDENTS VOTING RIGHTS.

3.POINTLESS POLL

4. I LIKE #2 BUT I DO NOT THINK BSBC UNITS SHOULD HAVE A VOTE.

5. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS (FULL AND PART-TIME) SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE. THE BSBC OWNERS, WHICH IS A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY (THAT ARE NOT RESIDENTS OF BONNET) SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.ON OUR LIVES.

6. STATUS QUO BECAUSE WE PAY THE FIRE DISTRICT TAX AND SHOULD HAVE SOME RIGHTS AS EVERYONE WHO PAYS THE FIRE DISTRICT TAX, AND WE ALSO TAXES TO NARRAGANSETT.

7. I AM A NON-RESIDENT OWNER WHO IS HERE 3 OF 4 NIGHTS PER WEEK, PAY TAXES, AND INTEND TO RETIRE HERE IN NEXT YEAR, HENCE VOTING RIGHTS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME. THE ABOVE OPTIONS GIVE US NO OPTION!

8. THESE OPTIONS DO NOT REALLY ALLOW NON-RESIDENT OWNERS RIGHTS. WE PAY TAXES, WE LIVE HERE ABOUT 40% OF THE TIME AND CARE ABOUT BONNET!

9. REGISTERED VOTERS OF NARRAGANSETT AND BSFD DEEDED OWNERS ONLY! NO VOTE FOR BSBC OWNERS, THEY DO NOT LIVE HERE.

10. I WOULD PREFER A 3RD OPTION. FULL TIME AND SEASONAL RESIDENTS HAVE A VOTE. BSBC ONLY PROPERTY OWNERS DO NOT HAVE A VOTE.

11.I SUPPORT ONLY POINTS 1 AND 2 OF OPTION #2. I DO NOT DEEM BSBC CABANA OWNERS AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL BETTERMENT OF THE BONNET SHORES COMMUNITY.

12.I THINK IT SHOULD BE NARRAGANSETT RESIDENT AND ANY OWNER OF RESIDENCE THAT INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE BEDROOM AND ONE BATHROOM WITHIN PROPERTY. 1 VOTER IS EQUAL PER RESIDENCE IF MORE THAN 1 OWNER-EACH VOTER IS EQUAL SHARE TO PROPERTY. 2 OWNERS EACH GET 50% VOTE.

VOTERS= BSFD RESIDENTS, PART-TIME OR FULL TIME. OWNERSHIP SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO VOTE. BSBC OWNERSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP SHOULD NOT ENTITLE VOTING

13. TOO MANY QUESTIONS

14. TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.15 NOT BROKE.NO NEED TO FIX IT. NO CHANGE-STATUS QUO

15. THE ONLY FAIR WAY IS HOMEOWNERS ALONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO VOTE AS EVIDENT IN VOTING ACROSS THE STATE AND COUNTRY.

16. I WOULD ADVOCATE FOR A HYBRID OPTION, WITH ELIGIBLE VOTS TO INCLUDE:1 ANYONE LIVING IN THE BONNET REGISTERED TO VOTE IN NARRAGANSETT

9INCLUDING RENTERS), 2 DEEDED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN BONNET. I WOULD SUPPORT SOME REPRESENTATION OF THE BEACH CLUB BUT FEEL THT 1 REPRESENTATION FOR OWNERS OF LOCKERS OR OTHER ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (NO MATTER HOW MAN HIGH MARKET VALUE)IS EXCESSIVE.

17. I FEEL SEASONAL HOMEOWNERS WHO OCCUPY RESIDENCE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN DECISION THAT AFFECT THE VALUES ANF FUNCTIONALITY OF THEIR PROPERTY.

18. I WOULD SUPPORT A MODIFIED VERSISON OF OPTION 2. I WOULD ELIINATE THE 3RD BULLET POINT AND ESTABLISH SOME FAIR AND PROPORTIONATE WAY FOR THE BEACH CLUB TO VOTE AS A WHOLE RATHER THAN BSBC UNIT OWNERS VOTING AS INDIVIDUALS.

19. ALTHOUGH IF WE COULD UNTANGLE THE DISTRICT FORM BSBC THAT WOULD FIX A LOT OF THE STRIFE.

20.I PREFER AN OPTION THAT ALLOWS PARTTIME PROPERTY OWNERS WHOVISIT SEASONALLY TO HAVE A VOTE.

21. THE OPTIONS ABOVE FORGET HOMEOWNERS THT CAN SLEEP IN THEIR PROPERTY ALL 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR BUT ARE A RSIDENT OUTSIDE OF NARRAGANSETT.

22. WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION

23.ONLY ALLOW BSFD OWNERS TO VOTE 9 WITH BEDROOMS AND BATH) AND BSBC ONLY GET VOTES FOR 4 HOMEOWNERS AND 0 VOTES FOR ENTIRE BSBC. 1 FEE FO FIRE DISTRICT FOR USE OF THE ROADS. DON'T CHARGE BSBC BSFD TAXES.

24.ONE VOTE PER UNIT OWNER-CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE TO ALL TAXPAYERS

25.BSBC SHOULS NOT VOTE, THEY DO NOT LIVE HERE.UNCONSTITUTIONAL

26. RESIDENTS THAT OWN A "SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY" WITHIN THE DISTRICT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.

27.REMAIN AS IS RIGHT NOW UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO ARRIVE A SETTLEMENT WITH BSBC TO PROVIDE EQUITY AND ELIMINATE MULTIPLE VOTES PER "CLOSETS"

28.REDISTRICT SO BSBC IS NOT PART, SO WE CAN TRULY HAVE AGOOD RELATIONSHIP.

29. EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

30. SEVERE THE BSBC-MAYBE WE'LL GET ALONG

31. I DO NOT SUPPORT EITHER ABOVE OPTIONS-RESIDENTS WHETHER FULL OR PART TIME SHOULD HAVE VOTING RIGHTS BUT BSBC OWNERS (WITH ONLY 3 MONTHS A YEAR AVAILABILTY SHOULD NOT.

32 I AM IN FAVOR OF APPROPRIATING 1 COUNCIL SEAT TO THE BSBC (1/7= 14%=APPROX CONTRIBUTION TO TAX BASE). APPROPRIATE 1 COUNCIL SEAT IN EXCHANGE FOR BSBC PROPERTY OWNERS VOTING-BSBC WOULD NO LONGER HAVE RIGHT TO VOTE GOING FORWARD. ALL ELSE THE SAME. WE NEED TO PRESERVE SEASONAL HOMEOWNERS RIGHT TO VOTE!

33. BEACH CLUB SHOULD HAVE SOME REPRESENTATION BUT NOT AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE CURRENTLY.

34. IT SHOULD REQUIRE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE DISTRICT WHOSE PROPERTY HAVE BEDROOMS AND BATHROOMS FOR VOTING. PERHAPS CLUB MEMBERS CAN HAVE AN ADVISORY BOARD TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL.

35. THEY ALL PAY TAXES AND SHOULD HAVE INPUT ESPECIALLY SUMMER RESIDENTS.

36. I DO NOT SUPPORT EITHER. LET ALL VOTE.

37. THINK IT SHOULD BE ONLY BOTH OF 32. YOU SHOULD OWN PROPERTY AND BE REGISTERED TO VOTE SINCE THIS IS A FIRE DISTRICT. BEACH CLUB IS NOT RESIDENTIAL. IF I HAVE A LOCKER AT A GYM, CAN I VOTE IN THAT TOWN.

38. KEEP CHARTER AS IS, DO NOT TAKE VOTES AWAY.

Adjournment-Saturday August 9, 2025 at 10:10 am at the BSFD Community Center after the nomination committee validation.

Respectfully submitted: BY JANICE McCLANAGHAN-CLERK PRO TEMP