

State of the District by BSFD Chair, Leslie McKnight

Our Council, Land Trust members, and fellow elected officials have remained actively engaged in advancing the business of the District and supporting our community. Some of the highlights from the past year include:

Continued Improvements to Community Assets

- Completed repairs to the Little Beach seawall through FEMA grant funding
- Made improvements to the Community Center, including interior painting, a new refrigerator, and updated community bulletin boards
- Established a new Memorial Bench Protocol

Technology Improvements

- Launched a new District website and upgraded the District e-mail system
- Upgraded audio-visual equipment at the Community Center
- Implemented a cashless payment system utilizing Square technology to accept credit card payments
- Installed a key fob access system at the Community Center

Policy & Process Improvements

- Engaged the community through a series of Strategic Planning Workshops, resulting in the adoption of District Mission, Vision, and Core Values statements
- Strengthened the District's APRA process to ensure clear and documented procedures for public records requests
- Established a Community Center Access Policy
- Drafted Land Trust Rules & Regulations, currently pending approval as part of the District's 501(c)(3) application requirements
- Developed a Recall Provision bylaw for future community consideration and potential enactment
- Worked with community members to improve the Annual Meeting format and related processes
- Facilitated community discussions regarding alternative voting rights scenarios, resulting in continued dialogue on potential paths forward

Community and Quality of Life

- Supported residents in need through the District Food Drive
- Continued the 90+ year tradition of the Bonnet Shores Fire District Summer Camp
- Worked with community members to prepare a letter expressing concerns regarding the potential impact of a proposed automobile dealership, should submission to the Town of Narragansett become necessary
- Accepted a \$75,000 grant to study flooding at Wesquage Pond caused by phragmites growth and to develop a mitigation plan; the associated RFP is now under review by RIDEM and CRMC
- Conducted a search for a new Harbormaster, resulting in the identification of a proposed candidate for hire

I would like to thank all members of the community who contributed their time, ideas, and support throughout the year. These accomplishments reflect the continued commitment of our volunteers, elected officials, and engaged community to preserving and improving the quality of life in Bonnet Shores.