

Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
May 31, 2025
Quonochontaug Grange
Meeting Room
5662 Post Road, Charlestown RI 02813

Members in attendance: Renee Cohen, Charlie Freedgood, Bob Frazier, Julie Low, Ray Martino, Ron Ruel, Bill Wilson

Members Absent: Mark Alperin, Barry Okun, and Debbie Dupre

Also in attendance was Chris Harris, Assistant Clerk, Dede Consoli and Chris Licht

Call to Order/Moderator's Opening Remarks

Moderator, Charlie Freedgood

Charlie called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Approval of the Minutes

Asst. Clerk, Chris Harris

There were no edits or comments to the January 11, 2025 minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the minutes as drafted. The **motion was seconded by Julie Low and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Ray Martino

Ray reported that no funds have been drawn on the line of credit, which remains in place through August 2026. As of May 15, 2025, the checking account balance was \$299,000.

The tax service contract with Quality Data Service (formerly Vision Appraisal) has been renewed, ensuring no interruption in tax billing. There were a number of address changes over the winter which will be included in the next tax assessment.

The insurance policy, which expires at the end of June, is currently under review. The policy includes coverage for the pump house construction project. Once the project is completed, its new cost basis will need to be updated under the policy.

A debit card tied to the primary checking account has been issued in the accountant's name. We are in the process of compiling a list of recurring charges. Charlie recommended that the accountant take the lead in identifying these recurring expenses and preparing a list for approval. A new approval process will be established for processing the applicable expenses.

Moderator's Report

Moderator, Charlie Freedgood

Charlie raised the issue of the appropriate distribution method for the community directory since it contains private information. He was concerned that people may not be aware that the directory may be distributed at the shed and therefore available for sale to the public. A discussion ensued and ultimately a **motion** was made that the Directory for the calendar year 2025 can be sold at merchandise sales but limited to Quonnie Central Beach Residents only and subsequent directories will require the explicit consent from each affected individual for their information to be included in the directory with the understanding that the privacy of their information cannot be assured or other disclosure as may be applicable. The **motion** was **seconded by Ray and passed** with Renee, Bob, Ron and Ray voting in favor. Julie and Bill were opposed. (the Moderator, who under the District's By-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

4. Committee Chairs' Reports:

Long Range Planning

Chair, Renee Cohen

Renee updated the group on the work being done. The committee is ready to present the current draft of the Long Range Plan to the BoG for review.

As a further update, the team working on the governance issues has finalized a draft report and sent to the LRP committee for its review. The environment team, which works primarily with QCC, has noted that the QCC working on some workshops, educational materials, and it has revamped the website. A summary of the completed water project report included in the Plan will be presented by Paul Mathews at the next BoG meeting in June.

Finance and Budget

Ray Martino and Charlie Freedgood

Ray reported that in order to process principal and interest payments on the RI infrastructure bank loan, we have set up a recurring wire through Washington Trust which will occur twice a year, with the first payment due in September. We have drawn down \$113,000 under the loan to date. Separately, Barry is taking the lead on the federal Grant. The grant is conditional on many terms and conditions, including, for instance Buy America Built America which requires the certification that no less than 95% of the material is US sourced. Furthermore, a final audit may be required upon completion. A **motion** was made to authorize the District's Moderator, Chair of Finance and Budget or his or her designees to accept funds and execute, deliver and/or act regarding applications for such funding under the EPA grant in connection with the water upgrade and pump house improvement project. The **motion** was **seconded by Bob and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Public Works

Chair, Bob Frazier

Bob updated the group on the water upgrade project and reported that due to delays the project is behind schedule and will need to complete work over the summer. Every effort is being made to minimize the disruption to the community however it is anticipated that there will be a

few more water service disruptions through the process. Separately, the district has not yet received final sign off from CRMC on the wetlands restoration project. Bob will follow-up.

Manager's Report

Merchandise Sales

Julie Low

Julie reported that at the last Board of Governors meeting, the Merchandise Sales team requested permission to install a temporary storage pod. Charlie requested that nearby residents be notified by email. Julie confirmed that the emails were sent and no objections were received. She then made a **motion** to grant permission to allow for a POD storage unit to be delivered to the location adjacent to the shed on June 9th and removed by August 1 2025. The **motion** was **seconded by Bob and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-laws only votes in the case of a tie). There was a question about insurance on the logo merchandise inventory. Ray will follow up.

Julie also discussed two community grant requests. One was a \$500 request to make repairs and improvements to the egret nest at the ball field. The second was a \$3,500 request to install gravel in the QCBFD beach parking lot. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that going forward funds for the gravel, which is a reoccurring community expense, be included in the budget for Community Property. A **motion** was made to approve both requests, the Egret Nest repair for \$500 and the parking lot stones for \$3,500. The **motion** was **seconded by Bob and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors

Ron Ruel

Ron reported that the application information went out in the Eblast for the Block gate monitors. While verbally approved, Ron is waiting on written authorization that out-of-state gate monitors will be able to have their own local high school sign their RI work permits. He would like to submit the set of procedures for hiring for inclusion in Sugar Sync.

Quonochontaug Conservation Collaborative (QCC) Diane McEnroe/Ellen Frost

Diane and Ellen were unable to attend, so Bill Wilson stepped-in to present. The Quonochontaug Conservation Collaborative (QCC) hosts various educational programs and events at the Grange. When these events are open to the public, a sponsor with liability insurance is required. They have requested that the QCBFD once again consider serving as a sponsor, with this summer including three public events. A **motion** was made that QCBFD sponsor QCC for up to three functions at the Grange. The **motion** was **seconded by Renee and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Summer Construction

Summer Construction Task Force

The task force discussed some considerations and asked if counsel could be made available to understand parameters which could be applicable. Charlie will follow-up.

Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled for June 14th at the Police Station. A **Motion** was made to adjourn at approximately 12:10 PM. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the Districts By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.)

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Harris Assistant Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District