

## **Final Version**

### **MINUTES of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District Board of Governors Meeting Sunday, March 27, 2011**

Members in attendance: Stephen Long, Pat Wildman, Heather Cady, Joe DeMaio, Cecelia McCulloch, George Prior, Shari Frost, Peter Rettig and Dick Stabnick.

I. Stephen Long called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. **A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting held on January 16, 2011. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

2. The May 2011 Board of Governors Meeting will be held on Monday, May 30, 2011.

III. Committee Reports were delivered:

A. Dick Stabnick – Long-Range Planning:

1. A discussion took place regarding the ongoing analysis of the QCBFD Charter. Dick Stabnick explained that the QCBFD Charter couldn't be revised until the QCBFD survey is complete. The revised Charter would include the new survey. Dick Stabnick reported that the survey was close to completion.

2. Dick Stabnick explained the process of spraying for removal of the invasive fragmites in Fresh Pond. QCBFD will need to obtain permits in order to spray the pond next Fall. QCBFD will move forward on obtaining the necessary permits and the Long-Range Planning Committee will work to educate the QCBFD community on the spraying program. The estimated cost of such spraying is now \$5,300.

Dick Stabnick explained that QCBFD plans to execute a three-year contract with a biologist, Linda Steer, who will handle the filing of the applications for the necessary permits. Linda Steer has requested the names of all abutters to Fresh Pond in order to gather their approvals of the spraying. QCBFD would, ideally, like to conduct the fragmite spraying in September of 2011. To do so, the QCBFD community must approve the spraying of Fresh Pond at the Annual Meeting in September.

Dick Stabnick will work with the biologist to encourage CMRC to turn around the QCBFD application by September of 2011. It was suggested that the Spring mailing to residents include some

explanation of the proposed spraying of Fresh Pond. A request was also made of Dick Stabnick to obtain a better estimate of the overall costs of the project.

B. Joe DeMaio – Finance & Budget:

1. Joe DeMaio discussed the final 2010 budget numbers and the 2011 QCBFD budget estimates.
2. Joe DeMaio reported that the water purification system will be booked as a 2010 expense, but will be incurred in 2011. He also reported that the new storage shed at the ballfield would be booked as a donation.
3. Joe DeMaio discussed the fire protection bill from Dunn's Corners Fire Department, which came in at the expected 2% increase over the 2010 bill.

C. Pat Wildman – Treasurer:

Pat Wildman reported no new updates on the Treasurer front.

D. Peter Rettig – Civic Improvement:

1. Peter Rettig reported that Ed Palmer's garbage disposal contract is up for renewal this year. It was agreed that it is in QCBFD's best interest to extend his contract as far out as possible. Peter would like to increase Ed Palmer's rate a bit in order to compensate him for rising fuel costs.

**A MOTION was made for Peter Rettig to negotiate a new contract with Ed Palmer for QCBFD garbage collection and disposal services. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

2. Peter Rettig reported that the new plantings at the playground appear to be doing well.
3. The QCBFD bulletin board near the ballfield is still in need of repair. Peter Rettig reported that he intends to have it repaired prior to Memorial Day weekend.
4. Peter Rettig agreed to look into the rusted box at the entrance to the QCBFD beach, near the guard's stand.

E. George Prior – Public Works:

1. The Public Works Committee has installed a new UV system to disinfect the QCBFD water. Additionally, the new two-horsepower pump has been installed and is working.
2. George Prior reported that a copper problem continues to exist in the water in several homes within QCBFD. The Rhode Island Department of Health states that QCBFD is responsible for water delivered to homes right up to the tap. However, the Department of Health in Providence has also stated that QCBFD

is still in compliance with its regulations overall. The question is whether QCBFD is required to correct a copper situation that affects only a few homes. George Prior explained that there is disagreement among the experts as to how to correct the copper situation, i.e., which chemical mix to use. Although Public Works has not decided on the exact chemical mix with which to passivate the water, QCBFD could move forward by agreeing to passivate the water system and then decide on the correct chemical formulation down the road.

A MOTION was made that the Board of Governors intends to pursue the correction of the existing copper problem through a passivation system, so long as such system does not in any way negatively impact the health qualities of the QCBFD water, subject to a future approval by the Board of Governors as to the cost of such system. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. George Prior reported that several QCBFD water lines run under residents' properties and he read a list of property owners who are affected by such water lines. George Prior explained that when Howard Thorp originally deeded and subdivided QCBFD, he included in each deed the right of QCBFD to run water lines under residents' property. Steve Long contacted Phil Sloan to research the deeds. Phil Sloan has hired a title attorney, Martha Day, to draft an opinion stating that QCBFD was granted an easement to install and maintain these water lines. Our QCBFD deeds all refer back to the original Thorp deed. A letter will be sent to all residents whose property is affected by the water lines, explaining to them that QCBFD has an easement for the water lines under their properties. At some point, QCBFD will likely have to locate these water lines. At this point, Public Works is waiting to receive the legal opinion from title attorney Martha Day.

4. QCBFD's potential third well was discussed. Public Works is considering whether it should clean up well #2 rather than replace it with a third well. Asa Hoxie is investigating the cleanup of the second well. The goal would be to eliminate the iron in the well. Asa is proceeding to test the sludge in well #2. George Prior also explained that a small systems water company has been formed and that Public Works is looking into whether QCBFD should switch to this new company from our current provider, Northeast. Northeast, although quite

responsive to QCBFD's needs, is expensive, costing the community approximately \$33,000 per year.

5. George Prior explained that two residents continue to use the QCBFD water system in order to run their own in-ground sprinkler system (in violation of the QCBFD "Water System Use Policy"). The McConnells and Marlors are currently in violation and have been unresponsive to George Prior.

6. A discussion took place regarding the resurfacing of QCBFD's roads. George Prior has worked to obtain three competing bids. The three existing bids are from Dosch-King Paving, Comer Construction and Allstate. The Comer Construction bid is for \$46,000 and does not include the sweeping of the roads afterward. Dosch-King Paving is the company who did the recent road resurfacing in QCBFD (which was deemed unsatisfactory). Dosch-King now wants to make their prior work right and has bid \$28,800 for the resurfacing, including a two-year written guarantee on the work. The Allstate bid is for \$59,000.

**A MOTION was made to contract with Dosch-King Paving to resurface the roads at a cost of \$28,800, plus a possible adjustment for oil prices in late Spring. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

F. Cecelia McCulloch – Tennis and Golf:

Cecelia McCulloch reported that the Charlestown police have requested that QCBFD begin its Fourth of July Fun Run at an earlier time so as to not disrupt holiday traffic. It was agreed that the Fun Run would begin at 7:30 a.m. this year.

G. Shari Frost – Beach and Dunes:

Shari Frost reported that the QCBFD beach is looking great.

H. Stephen Long – Moderator:

1. Steve Long explained that Ron Ruel is in the process of drafting a set of QCBFD rules for the safe operation of golf carts.

2. Steve Long directed the Board of Governors to forward any information to be included in the Spring Letter to Ron Ruel by May 9, 2011.

3. The next Board of Governors meeting will be held on Monday, May 30, 2011.

IV. **A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

District

Heather Dodge Cady, Clerk  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire