

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
held on Saturday, May 23, 2015
at the Charlestown Police Station, Community Room
4901 Post Road
Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Brewster Blackall, Joe DeMaio, Tom Frost, Bill Heep, Wally Kelly, Nancy Matthews, and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: Charlie Freedgood, Julia Mathews, and Michele Pallai Reppucci

Also in attendance were Ballfield and Playground Commissioner Michael Flynn, Beaches and Dunes Commissioner Shari Frost, Special Events Commissioner Katherine Huntington, Tennis Commissioner Susan Wales and members of the public.

I. Call to Order

The Moderator, Nancy Matthews, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m..

II. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2014 meeting of the Board of Governors. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

III. Clerk's Reports

Tom Wildman reported that he and the Moderator had reviewed with counsel an e-mail that they had received from a resident and that the Moderator had forwarded to all members of the Board of Governors. The e-mail questions the qualifications of two members of the Board to serve because the QCBFD properties that they share with their spouses are not titled in their names. Tom indicated that he and the Moderator agreed that any question as to these two individuals did not warrant further action and briefly summarized the bases for this conclusion. Tom further indicated, however, that the Ad Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee would consider proposed changes to our by-laws to clarify the definition of "Eligible Voter" and to remove any question as to the

ability of appropriate persons to serve on the Board of Governors or in other capacities.

Tom noted that the same e-mail questioned the propriety of residents having voted by absentee ballot at past meetings of the District but that this practice appears to be consistent with the by-laws.

Tom reported that the Ad Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee has met several times and expects to have a draft of proposed amended and restated by-laws ready for consideration by the Board of Governors within the next few weeks. The objective is to have a final draft available for review by all interested persons well in advance of the QCBFD annual meeting in September so that the proposed changes can be voted on at that meeting. Tom briefly summarized certain changes that the Ad Hoc committee was likely to include in its proposals, including a significant reduction in the number of standing committees with the expectation that responsibility for matters currently handled by those committees that are not continued would be assigned to designated individuals.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Public Works: Wally Kelly, Commissioner of Public Works, reported that he and the Public Works Committee have studied a number of alternative actions that could be taken if nitrate levels continue to rise in our wells. One alternative would be to treat our well water to reduce the nitrate levels. A grant is available to cover the cost of studying this alternative but Wally believes that the cost of actually implementing a nitrate treatment system is likely to be very expensive. Another alternative could be to obtain at least some of our water from a new deep well. Wally described a proposal to drill a test well to explore this alternative. He estimated that this would cost approximately \$30,000.

Following discussion, a **motion** was made to authorize NSW I to do a study of nitrate treatment options, such study to be funded by grant monies and to be at no cost to the District. Such motion was seconded and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor, except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

A **motion** was also made to refer to the Finance Committee and Long Range Planning Committee, for review and comment by June 20, 2015, the proposal to explore (including the drilling of a test well) alternative sources of potable water with lesser nitrate content. Such motion was seconded and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor, except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Wally concluded his report by summarizing the Public Works Committee's plans for (i) communicating to QCBFD residents changes in nitrate levels in the District's water supply and (ii) possibly switching to or alternating with our Well #2 when nitrate levels rise in Well #1.

B. Civic Improvement: Bill Heep, Commissioner of Civic Improvement/Fire Protection, reported that National Grid has completed replacement of the old street lighting in the District and along parts of West Beach Road with down lighting in accordance with its "dark sky" project. Bill also described the status of proposals to add a walkway path and bicycle rack to the playground and plans to install a sign indicating that the playground closes as dusk.

C. Police Protection: In the absence of Michelle Pallai, Commissioner of Police Protection, Tom Frost reported that QCBFD had enjoyed a quiet winter and that the Spring mailing has been sent to residents. In an effort to improve monitoring of vehicles using the beach parking lot, we are going to try using traffic cones to cause vehicles entering the lot to slow down and pass closer to the guards' stand.

D. Finance and Budget. In the absence of Charlie Freedgood, Commissioner of Finance and Budget, Nancy Matthews reported that the District finished 2014 with a slight surplus. A full financial report will be made at the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

E. Beaches and Dunes. Shari Frost, Commissioner of Beaches and Dunes, reported that the QCBFD beach was in good shape.

F. Boating. Brewster Blackall, Commissioner of Boating, indicated that the number of boats stored at the boat landing continues to grow and that it may become necessary at some point to adopt policies in an effort to limit this number.

G. Real Estate and Property. Tom Frost, Commissioner of Real Estate and Property, reported that the process of deeding over to the District property owned by the Millette Family Trust that has been used by the District for bicycle parking has been completed. Tom noted that the process was complicated and that the Millettees had generously assumed the full cost of the transfer.

H. Other Committees: The Commissioners who head other committees indicated before or at the meeting that they had nothing to report.

V. New Business

The Moderator noted that a suggestion has been made to require vehicles leaving the beach parking lot during July and August to proceed straight down

Surfside Avenue and not turn right onto Oceanview. The Moderator invited the various committees, including Public Works, Civic Improvement, to consider this suggestion in anticipation of possible action at a later meeting.

VI Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:33 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas R. Wildman, Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District