

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District  
Board of Governors  
held on Saturday, June 11, 2016  
at the Charlestown Police Station  
Community Room  
4901 Old Post Road  
Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Joe DeMaio, Charlie Freedgood, Tom Frost, Bill Heep, Wally Kelly, Julia Mathews, Nancy Matthews, Michele Pallai Reppucci and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: Brewster Blackall

Also in attendance were 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 draft minutes of the April 23, 2016 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 except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

**III. Manageres' Reports**

**Police Liaison.** Michele Pallai Reppucci, Police Liaison, introduced Tom Lanna, a QCBFD resident and cardiologist, who discussed the merits of the District acquiring and maintaining in accessible location(s) one or more defibrillators. He noted that this was becoming increasingly common both in public facilities and in private venues and that financial support was often available for such purpose. After discussion of various matters (including where defibrillators might be located and maintenance and training requirements) a **motion** was made to apply to AEDGrant.com for financing the acquisition of two defibrillators. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of

the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie. Michele agreed to file the necessary paperwork.

Michele also reported that there had been several recent break-ins in the Quonochontaug area.

**QCBFD Marina.** In the absence of Brewster Blackall, Manager of the QCBFD Marina, Nancy reported that this year's boat stickers would be available soon and that notices to this effect would be posted. Nancy also stated that, at Brewster's request, the Board would be asked to consider at its next meeting how to deal with boats left at the marina without stickers and how to deal with boats larger than kayaks (*e.g.*, small sailboats).

**Special Events.** On behalf of Katherine Huntington, Manager of Special Events, who was not present, Nancy indicated that the opening beach picnic would be on Saturday, June 25 this year.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

**Community Property.** Upon the recommendation of the Community Property Committee, reported by its chair, Bill Heep, **motions** were made to (i) approve installation of a donated purple martin house adjacent to the ball field and (ii) approve installation of a Winterberry bush to be donated by a resident in the buffer southeast of the playground. Both motions were 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.

**Public Works.** Wally Kelly, Chair of the Public Works Committee, reviewed the District water system's monthly nitrate levels from May 2014 through May 2016. He noted that during the period prior to September 2015 our primary water source was our Well # 1 and that our primary water source thereafter has been Well # 2. He pointed out that, comparing each month to the same month in different years, the system nitrate levels were lower in those months during which we had relied primarily on Well # 2 than in the corresponding months during which we primarily used Well # 1. Using Well # 2 is helpful in achieving nitrate test results of 5 or below, which a majority of the Public Works Committee believes should be our goal; however, water from Well # 2 has about twice the amount of iron that water from Well # 1 has, and the increased iron is resulting in discoloration problems for some. Also, Well # 2 alone may not be able to meet all our needs during peak times so we may need to revert to greater use of Well # 1. Wally believes that since the increased iron does not pose health risks, we should defer additional

steps to abate the iron problem system wide until we have resolved the nitrate problem. The Board discussed the situation and the need for continued monitoring.

Wally reported that the State-funded evaluation of the feasibility of installing and operating a denitrification system appears to have evolved into a study of other options as well. We continue to await the report.

**Long Range Planning.** Joe DeMaio, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, reported that the committee has discussed the design and location of speed bumps within the District. The committee is not ready to make a recommendation as to the determination of where speed bumps should be placed but believes that we should settle on a consistent design for those bumps that are installed. A **motion** was made to ask the Public Works Committee to recommend a uniform design for speed bumps. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Joe also reported that the Long Range Planning Committee believed that it would be appropriate to install stop signs on District roads at the seven places where they intersect Town of Charlestown roads, subject to Town agreement and compliance with Town requirements. Wally stated that he had spoken with Town officials and they would not object to our installing the stop signs in question. Wally also indicated that he was confident that we could install the signs so that they were not within the right-of-way for the Town roads. Joe indicated that he would defer asking for a motion to proceed until we had further input from the Public Works Committee.

Joe stated that while focusing on various road and water system matters, the Long Range Planning Committee has discussed the desirability of determining appropriate reserve levels for the maintenance and improvement of our assets. Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, stated that the Finance and Budget Committee considers reserve balances as part of the annual budget process. Joe indicated that Long Range Planning had no interest in duplicating or interfering with the work of the Finance and Budget Committee but that for planning purposes it would be desirable, if possible, to agree on a method for determining optimum reserve levels and how to achieve them.

## **V. Moderator's Report**

Nancy indicated that, at their request, Charlestown officials would make a presentation at the June 25 Board of Governors meeting on the state of well water and nitrates in town and proposals to reduce nitrates.

Nancy concluded by thanking the many District volunteers for their hard work.

## **VI. Adjournment**

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m.. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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