

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
held on Saturday, August 19, 2017
in the Charlestown Police Station Community Room
4901 Old Post Road
Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Brewster Blackall, Tom Farrell, Charlie Freedgood, Tom Frost, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Vinny Reppucci, Randy Thornton and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: Jim Mara

Also in attendance were Susan Wales, Manager of Tennis; Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk, and members of the public.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes; Clerk's Report

The Clerk, Tom Wildman, asked if there were any questions or comments on the draft minutes of the August 5, 2017 meeting of the Board of Governors. Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, noted an error in the summary of his report in the draft and a correction was made.

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes, as corrected, of the August 5, 2017 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 by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Tom indicated that he proposed to use substantially the same form of proxy designation as used last year for those wishing to designate a proxy to vote in their stead at the 2017 Annual Meeting and asked that the Board approve this form in accordance with our by-laws.

A **motion** was made to approve the proposed form of proxy designation. 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 by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

APPROVED

Tom then stated that, in accordance with our established practice, he intended to ask the voters to pass the following ratification resolution at the 2017 Annual Meeting and asked the Board to approve such resolution and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, that each and all of the resolutions, acts and proceedings of the District Officers, Committee Chairmen and Managers, as shown by their respective records, in carrying out and promoting the purposes, objectives and interests of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District, be and the same are approved, ratified and hereby made the acts and deeds of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District.

A **motion** was made to approve the proposed ratification resolution and recommend its adoption at the 2017 Annual Meeting. 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 by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

III. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Julia Mathews, reported that the Tax Assessors were late sending out this year's District property tax assessments so payments would also be delayed and residents would not be charged interest on account of late payments attributable to these delays.

IV. Committee Chair Reports

A. Tom Farrell, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, referred to the discussion at the August 5, 2017 meeting of the Board about QCBFD possibly applying to the RI Water Resources Board for a grant that would permit the State to purchase land North of Route 1 that could be a source of water for all of Quonochontaug Neck.

It was the consensus of all Board members at that meeting that the Long Range Planning Committee should continue to explore the application process but should take no further action without Board approval. Many had expressed the belief that any application should be made by the Town of Charlestown (which includes all of Quonnie Neck) rather than QCBFD (which is less than one quarter of the Neck).

Tom reported that he and Virginia Lee, President of the Charlestown Town Council, have arranged to meet with the Manager of the Water Resources Board and he believes that following this meeting it will be much more clear which body would be an appropriate applicant and the requirements for a viable application.

B. Vinny Reppucci, Chair of the Public Works Committee, referred to the discussion during the August 5, 2017 Board meeting about the practice of Public Works Committee members and/or designated agents entering residents' homes to inspect water hookups and the Committee's request that the Board formally endorse this practice. Vinny added that he has since learned that this practice is not only consistent with Rhode Island law but may be required by Rhode Island law. During the ensuing discussion it became clear that various Board members were generally supportive of the practice described by Vinny but thought that before any round of inspections some form of prior notice should be given to residents.

Upon completion of the discussion, Vinny **moved** that the Board of Governors authorize Public Works Committee members, and/or designated agents approved by the Public Works Committee Chair, to enter and inspect, following prior notice and with the homeowner's approval, on behalf of QCBFD, ALL water hookups connected to the QCBFD water system for cross connection and other connection compliance issues in order to assure the protection and integrity of the water system,. The failure of a homeowner to allow for such inspection may lead to temporary water shutoff until compliance can be confirmed. 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 by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

V. Informational Updates (without any Discussion or Action taken)

Brewster Blackall, Manager of the QCBFD Marina, stated that the diminishing available storage space at the boat landing was of continuing concern and he would likely ask that all boats be removed from the landing this fall and also propose new rules limiting the number of boat stickers per household next season. Brewster advised the Board of one regrettable incident in which a frustrated resident apparently deliberately damaged another's boat.

VI. Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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