

**Minutes of the Meeting of Quonochontaug Central
Beach Fire District Board of Governors held on
Saturday, May 23, 2020 Via ZOOM Teleconference**

Members in Attendance: Maud Bailey, Al Bartosic, DeDe Consoli, Ellen Frost, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Fred (Fig) Newton, Roberta Peet, and Susan Wilson-Perez and Vinny Reppucci.

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance were Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk, Bob Frazier, Manager of the Boat Dock, Elaine Heilemann, Co-Manager of Special Events, Diane McEnroe, Chair of Nominating, and members of the public.

1. Call to Order:

Susan Wilson-Perez

The Moderator, Susan Wilson-Perez, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Sue started this special meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for giving their time as volunteers. She thanked Ellen Frost for agreeing to serve as chairperson of Long Range Planning and as a member of the Board of Governors (“BoG”).

2. Nominating:

Diane McEnroe

Diane also thanked Ellen and made the following motion:

Motion, that Ellen Frost fill the vacated position of Tom Farrell both as Chairperson of Long Range Planning and as a voting member of the BoG of QCBFD for the remainder of the 2019-2020 term as per Article 4 Sec. 7 of the QCBFD By-Laws (as amended 9/19/15). 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).

3. Approval of Minutes/ Clerk’s Motions:

Maud Bailey

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the Special BoG Meeting dated May 7, 2020. A small edit was made. The motion made, 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).

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the regular BoG Meeting dated January 25, 2020. Two edits were made. The motion was made, 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).

4. Treasurer’s Report:

Roberta Peet

Roberta stated that she had recently sent out an e-mail about QCBFD Tax Exempt Certificate and she asked people to contact her if they did not receive it.

5. Moderator’s Report:

Susan Wilson-Perez

Sue started by updating the BoG on the water situation and dealings with the Department of Health (“DOH”). Nothing has changed since our May 7th BoG meeting. We are still in negotiations with the DOH and we are waiting to see what the Governor and State government will do to grant us relief from our Charter’s special meeting requirements concerning in person meetings during this period of mandated social distancing orders because of the COVIC 19 crisis.

Sue then informed the BoG how our neighboring beach communities are balancing beach access and the state's social distancing guidelines. It appears all of our neighboring communities are trying to implement some strategy to adhere to the state's social distancing guidelines. There is concern about non-residents looking for beach access because of the state's restrictions on state beaches. The Board discussed parking in the District including parking at the QCBFD Tennis Courts and the use of the playground, again with different points of view. Many on the Board felt the sign at the playground should be updated to reflect that it is currently closed, is not being cleaned and therefore you play there at your own risk. As stated in the 5/7/20 BoG Meeting the BoG is adhering to state guidelines as it applies to public events.

There was a motion as to updating the website to reflect the impact of COVID 19 and the state guidelines on the District and to cover the cost of updating.

Motion, That the QCBFD website be updated to reflect the current changes due to COVID 19. The **motion** made, 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).

6. Managers' Reports:

a. Merchandise Sales: Manager DeDe Consoli reported to the Board that she is working with several printers to produce Quonnie merchandise and she is working on ways, both virtual and in person to conduct sales this summer that will conform to the State guidelines.

b. Beach and Dunes: Peter Rettig, Manager, was absent.

c. The Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors: Julie Low thanked Fig for providing rocks to block parking at the tennis courts and near the entrance to the beach parking lot. The rocks have stopped the illegal parking. She then followed up on the discussion of beach access by saying she will investigate opening the parking lot with guards sooner and using the funds earmarked for the professional beach guard pilot program to pay for the early coverage. There was discussion concerning to what extent the parking capacity will be limited and how to enforce those limits. The boat dock will also have guards this summer.

d. Ball Field: Matt DeFusco, Manager, was absent.

e. Boat Dock: Bob Frazier reported that the dock is open and gave a status update on what maintenance has been done during the winter. He stated that the new gate was working well. He discussed the expense of the boat stickers (\$4.50 per sticker about \$650 a year) and thought between that cost and the ongoing problem of abandoned watercraft we should have a discussion and vote at the next Annual Meeting about once again asking residents to pay a fee, per craft, for those stored at the dock. Some discussion ensued and the BoG felt that the concept of a storage fee should be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Committee Chairs' Reports:

a. Public Works: Vinny informed the BoG that there were no new updates as to the water situation since the last (5/7/20) meeting. He believes that the DOH does better understand what we as a fire district can do, but the mandate discussed at last meeting still holds. Timing may still be subject to modification. If the water tests TC clear 3 times, he feels our boil water advisory will be lifted. Dede asked about the virtual community meeting to educate the District on the water issue and Vinny said the meeting will occur and will have an announcement as to date in the next Q-Blast.

b. Finance and Budget: Al started his report by going over our cash in hand and thanking Dede and Special Events for granting monies to the water reserves to assist in that situation. Concerning the water reserves, we currently have enough to cover any legal expenses. We are in the process of applying for a potentially forgivable loan that could hopefully help cover the costs of implementing Phase 1 of the water project, that is the 4 log chlorination and enhanced UV system. Al thanked Julia for her good stewardship bringing in the garbage contract under budget and thus giving the District some flexibility. Al, Roberta and Sue had a meeting with Washington Trust and fully understand the line of credit that we will be able to access after QCBFD approval. Fig asked a question concerning budget reserve guidelines and Al agreed that he is trying to work with managers to look at long range expenses so as to be able to estimate what would be an appropriate amount for a reserve. Al then discussed that he and Roberta are working on renewing our current insurance policies and that we have renewed a small workman compensation policy that protects the District for uninsured workers.

c. Community Property: Julia Mathews, Chair, reported John Pruitt is doing community landscaping. Bi-weekly garbage will begin July 3rd and continue through August. Julia stated there has been a problem getting the garbage containers delivered to the RI area from New Orleans. This is because of a transportation issue that is exacerbated by COVID. She will continue to follow-up and residents will continue to use their own containers.

d. Long Range Planning Committee: Ellen Frost, Chair, reported the committee has finished its scanning and archiving of QCBFD documents with documents uploaded to our online depository, Sugarsync, hard copy being stored at the Matthews. Maps have also been digitized with hard copies being kept by the Historical Society. The committee is working on a document retention policy.

7. Adjournment:

A **Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:50 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maud A. Bailey, Clerk

Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District