

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District Board of Governors  
9:00am, May 21, 2022  
Quonochontaug Grange  
(Downstairs)  
5662 Post Road.  
Charlestown, RI 02813**

**Members in attendance:** Al Bartosic, Ellen Frost, Julia Mathews, Susan Wilson-Perez, Maud Bailey, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Fred Newton, Bob Frazier and Carollynne Weidler

Members absent: Dede Consoli

Also in attendance were Chris Harris, Assistant Clerk, Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes, and members of the public

**1. Call to order**

**Moderator, Susan Wilson- Perez**

The Moderator, Susan Wilson Perez, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**Clerk, Maud Bailey**

As no edits were made to the draft minutes of the BoG meeting dated 3/30/22 that were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made to approve the draft minutes as written of the BoG Meeting dated March 30, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

The Clerk led a brief discussion acknowledging the challenges that the changing executive orders over the last two years concerning the allowability virtual meetings has presented to a seasonal community such as ours. Now that it appears virtual meetings are once again no longer allowed under the OMA, she encouraging committee chairs to confer with their committee members prior to their scheduled meeting to confirm attendance so that quorums are met so that business can be conducted.

**3. Moderator's Report**

**Moderator, Sue Wilson-Perez**

She began by asking Fig to report on his audit of encroachments to QCBFD land and right of ways by adjacent land owners. Fig started by reiterating that the packet contained clear statement of the QCBFD rights of way so all residents have notice. That being said his audit did uncover many encroachments that may be hazards on the right of way in the form of rocks, plantings and driveway improvements. He found many houses with rocks that can be moved back to create a wider passage for vehicles and bikes. The plantings and permanent driveway improvements are more problematic. Fig proposes sending letters to lot owners with issues and ask that hazards are reduced. Fig will complete the list of lots and present that to Sue who will send letter to those lot owners. She will also add information on this to the summer Q Blast.

Peter Rettig then presented his report on the current state of beach erosion. Peter handed out several documents (attached) that have historical and current perspectives on the beach and past erosion issues. After going over the history of erosion at the beach, Peter went on to present the current state of the beach and discuss the possible causes that might be making the erosion problem worse. Peter believes the beach grass growth outward toward the shore line on the outside of the snow fence had exacerbated the beach erosion this winter by not allowing the surf to flow over the dune properly. Peter has reached out to URI to help identify the grass as American Sea Grass or Sedge. Peter proposes that he would like to contact CRMC to investigate the issue and to see if they would allow a pilot test of some dune grass removal to see if it would reduce the current level of erosion and rebuild the beach.

A **motion** was made to allow Peter to contact CRMC to review possible action concerning our current beach erosion and plantings up to the amount of \$4,000. The **motion** was **seconded** as presented and **passed** with Al Bartosic, Ellen Frost, Julia Mathews, Maud Bailey, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Fred Newton, and Carollynne Weidler voting in favor. Bob Frazier voted against. A discussion ensued after the vote that Peter should have an exploratory meeting with Scott P. Rabideau, PWS of Natural Resource Services, Inc. since that firm has worked with the District on beach issues in the past. It was then decided that Peter should wait to contact CRMC until later in the summer.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

**Treasurer, Carollyne Weidler**

Carollyne reported that the first quarter financial statements package was emailed separately and there were no surprises. She then updated the BoG on current cash flow. We are on track for the year. She reported that the prior BoG approved drawdown from our line of credit for needed operating costs will occur this summer.

#### **5. Committee Chair Reports:**

##### **A. Public Works**

**Bob Frazier**

Bob started his report by thanking Vin Bailey for his work with Bob Ferreri on the building specifications package on chlorination project for the public bidding. The public bidding process had one contractor at Prebid meeting. Bids due June 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Public Works Committee meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Discuss about the chlorination project ensued. Bob reported that Public Works just completed the water line flushing, where sediment (from the iron and manganese) is flushed out of the pipes. He discussed the blowoff process. Chlorination causes the metal in the water to oxidize and it comes out black. This will be a problem with the chlorination project. He reiterated that he would like to have a vote at his committee level to allow design of the larger project go forward.

Sue suggested that Bob hold a special meeting of his committee to move forward on this issue. Bob said he will discuss this on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Bob would like to have the design done and to go out to bid while being approved by the state agencies so that the costs will be know for the Annual Meeting. Sue says we need a recommendation from Public Works to move designing the system forward.

Water service QCBFD lots 290 and 294 Bob spoke to Jim Mara on what was found in the archives concerning cost sharing water access to undeveloped lots. Jim agreed with the BoG decision and asked that the process move forward. Bob asked how to proceed—does Public Works do the work then bill the lot owners. Bob notified the Board that some connections need replacing due to age. Sue asked that Bob consider conducting an audit on the water system's operational infrastructure to see improvements are needed that could be part of our ask to the infrastructure bank.

##### **B. Finance**

**Al Bartosic**

Al shared the preliminary budget that included a tax increase and asked for feedback from individual committees. Al answered questions from the BoG concerning the Beach and Dunes area and tax assessment formula.

Al updated the BoG on financing options for the water project including grants.

##### **C. Community Property**

**Julia Mathews**

Julia updated the BoG on property work--all spring up projects have been completed. She then reported on the new garbage and recycling cans distribution process.

##### **D. Long Range Planning:**

**Ellen Frost**

She also reported on the Quonnie Neck Water Group and their work on education and conservation efforts on a variety of areas including water conservation and dark skies. She reported that this group may hosting some activities around their work this summer. She then reported on the work of the LRP sub group working on the Comprehensive Plan and shared a draft document reflecting their work interviewing community stake holders and earlier community meetings. Communications and summer community meetings are being planned. Hopefully drafting the Plan will begin in the fall.

#### **7. Managers Reports:**

##### **a. Beach and Dunes**

**Peter Rettig**

Peter reported in Moderators Report.

##### **b. The Police Liaison and Manager of the Beach Gate Monitors**

**Julie Low**

Julie reported spring packets are complete and are available for pickup on announced days and by appointment.

##### **c. Special Events**

**Maud B. for Elaine Heilemann**

Maud read Elaine's brief report The Cookbook Quonnie Cooks has been published and will be available for purchase at our weekly Merchandise Sales. Elaine reported we are back to a full schedule of summer events,

including two new events, Quonnie's Got Talent and adult Scavenger hunt. The theme for this year's parade, "On Quonnie Time" and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance (2 years delayed).

## **7. Executive Session:**

A **motion** was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the relevant requirements of the R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(2) potential and/or pending litigation regarding the following matter CRMC Notice of Violation; 66 Seabreeze Drive, Charlestown; Violation File No: 22-0010. The seconded **motion** passed with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

The matter was reviewed and discussed with no votes taken. A motion to vote to reconvene open session was made and seconded and passed with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

After reconvening into open session, a **motion** was made to vote to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The **motion** was seconded and passed with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

As stated above no votes other than to reconvene into open session were taken during the Executive Session.

**8. Adjournment.** Motion was made to adjourn was seconded and passed with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Respectfully Submitted,

Maud Bailey, Clerk  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District