DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
June 15, 2024
Charlestown Police Department
Meeting Room
4901 Old Post Rd, Charlestown, RI 02813

Members in attendance: Mark Alperin, Renee Cohen, Bob Frazier, Charlie Freedgood, Fred Newton, Ron Ruel and Debbie Dupre

Members Absent: Mike Lewers, Barry Okun and Dede Consoli

Also in attendance were Carrie Gilpin and Kathy Alperin.

1. Call to Order/Moderator's Opening Remarks **Moderator, Charlie Freedgood**

Charlie called the meeting to order at 8:15am and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Approval of the Minutes. **Clerk, Debbie Dupre**

One change was proposed substituting the word "proposals" for "bids" in connection with the hiring of a playground consultant. No other edits or comments were made to the May 25, 2024 draft minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes as amended. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

3. Moderator's Report: **Moderator, Charlie Freedgood**

Charlie updated the BoG on the current status of the financing opportunities for the water upgrade project with Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) and the Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) Community Grant. He reported that representatives from QCB spoke with NWSI, in its capacity as general contractor, and the construction company to discuss the need to update the pricing terms under the existing contract to give account for Buy America, Build America (BABA) criteria required under the CDS Grant program. It will also be necessary to update for any changes to wages due to the project delay. The parties anticipate the project will be more costly than under the original terms in 2022. He reminded the group that the community has already approved spending up to $1.6M for the upgrade project. In the event that the updated contract price exceeds the approved amount, the community will have to approve the increase at the September annual meeting. Bob Frazier added that he is hopeful that the project can get underway in the fall but reminded everyone that first RIDoH may have tore- issue its approvals, the loan from the RIIB must be in place and the community must approve any additional monies that may be required.

5. Committee Chairs' Report

Public Works: **Bob Frazier, Chair**

In connection with the wetlands restoration project, Bob reported that the remaining plants have not been installed since the area in which they were to be planted has remained flooded. He is waiting for one additional monitoring report verifying whether the plants are stabilizing the soil before requesting that CRMC sign-off on the restoration work. Separately, he plans to confirm with them whether regulatory consent is required to remove the tree adjacent to the pump house as it is a hazard to the water tank.

Community Property:

Mark reported that the district bulletin boards are in the process of being rehabilitated. He reported that he has initiated the bidding process for the garbage collection service and has published the first posting in the local newspaper with a response deadline of July 25th. Mark indicated that so far only our current vendor has responded. Fig suggested that the

bids include two options – twice a week for garbage and once a week for recyclables or the alternative of once a week for both recyclables and garbage including over the summer months.

Mark agreed to send a reminder to the community regarding the correct method of putting out their barrels to ensure collection.

Long-Range Planning **Renee Cohen, Chair**

Renee reported that the teams responsible for the Quonnie Neck Cooperation, Governance and the Water Quantity Assessment projects are continuing to refine their work and she expects that Quonnie Neck Cooperation team will report their progress at the July BoG meeting and the Governance project will follow at one of the August meetings.

Renee indicated that the first draft of the written LRP document is being revised based on feedback from the LRP committee and indicated the next step would be to circulate the draft to Charlie for comment. She proposed that the draft needed to get input from the wider community to ensure that everyone has a chance to be heard and that the final report reflects community opinion. She proposed the following input process: LRP produce report, moderator review and provide comment, then circulate the draft to committee chairs to be discussed within each committee and each provide feedback to be incorporated, then circulate a revised draft to the wider community and schedule an open meeting to collect their input. Discussion ensued with Charlie suggesting that the draft go to the BoG for review prior to being circulated to the community. Bob suggested that the community meeting be accomplished through a remote hearing. Debbie agreed to provide guidance on whether a remote hearing of this kind is allowed under the RI Open Meetings Act.

Fig asked whether LRP was also looking at the water distribution system. Discussion arose around the need to inventory the current infrastructure and assess the life expectancy of the components. Charlie suggested that Public Works look at how to approach the project (for example street-by-street or impact on community), how long an inventory along with recommendations for improvement might take and a rough estimate of the cost. Then ask Finance and Budget to recommend the best ways to finance the project. Discussion ensued and the BoG agreed to revisit the issue at a later date.

Managers Reports

Beach and Dunes: **Carrie Gilpin**

Carrie reported that some additional work needs to be done to the fencing along the QCB beachfront as a result of the winter storms. The handrail at the boardwalk is buried and needs to be raised and some old fencing needs to be removed. Carl Larlham provided an estimate to remove and raise the rail, remove the damaged fencing on the left (if facing the ocean) and adding dowels for the safety equipment.

A **motion** was made to approve the proposal from Carl Larlham Landscapers in an amount up to $1100, and if necessary, move the required funds from the Contingency Reserve account into the Beach and Dunes Reserve account. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Carrie indicated that a beach safety lecture had not been conducted in QCB in some years and believes the community would benefit from a refresher. She has secured a pair of ocean lifeguards, Grace and Jo Morganthaler, to provide a Beach and Dune safe swimming lecture and demonstration and plans to offer it to the community over the summer.

Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors: **Ron Ruel**

Ron reported an incident that occurred within the last two weeks at the tennis court between community members and stated that the issue had been resolved among the parties without further action being required.

Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn at approximately 9:42am. 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).

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Dupré, Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District