

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District Board of Governors
10:00am Friday July 30, 2021
At Quonochontaug Grange
5662 Post Road Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in attendance: Dede Consoli, Ellen Frost, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Roberta Peet, and Susan Wilson-Perez

Members absent: Maud Bailey, Al Bartosic, Fred Newton, Vinny Reppucci

Also in attendance were Chris Harris, Assistant Clerk, Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes, Bob Frazier, Manager of Boating, Jim Furnivall (Finance) and George Prior (Public works) 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 10:00 am. She reminded all committee chairs, subject to OMA, that the executive order regarding public meetings has expired and so we are no longer allowed to conduct meetings via ZOOM. She clarified that the only exception to the in-person OMA rule was for persons serving in active military duty or with a disability.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Assistant Clerk, Chris Harris

No edits were made to the May 22, 2021 BoG Meeting Minutes as distributed prior to the meeting. A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the BoG Meeting dated May 22, 2021 as previously sent. 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. Treasurers Report

Treasurer, Roberta Peet

Roberta reported to the BoG on the financials for the second quarter sent out prior to the meeting. She went into further detail concerning the Water Project as the request of Sue Wilson Perez.

Roberta asked all committees to review their respective categories in the initial budget for 2022 was distributed prior to meeting and report any edits or questions to Al before August 6th.

Roberta finished her report by noting that the timing of the tax bill mailing may be impacted by a program change.

4. Moderators Report

Moderator, Sue Wilson-Perez

Discussion of motions. Sue indicated that Maud would like to suggest a motion be put forward at the annual meeting to change the existing bylaws to accommodate electronic delivery of annual meeting material packet. Currently the bylaws require this information be mailed to all eligible voters but allows for individuals who prefer to receive electronically to make such a request. Favorable discussion ensued.

Sue informed the BoG that members of the public have submitted a written motion to put forward at the annual meeting concerning the parking lot gate lock in the offseason.

Sue then discussed the ongoing issue with homeowners building and encroaching on the community right of ways and creating road hazards. Discussion ensued. Sue suggested that perhaps a letter be sent to the community which reminds residents that parking on roads is not allowed and that obstructions in the right of way and encroachments on fire district property pose significant safety risk and inhibits emergency vehicles ability to pass on our roads.

5. Committee Chair Reports:

A. Long Range Planning

Ellen Frost

Ellen updated the BoG that her committee was still working on the Comprehensive Plan. She reported that the Visioning session on July 18th was well attended and the community had lots of ideas. Next one is planned for August 15th.

B. Community Property

Julia Mathews

Julia thanked everyone who came out for Spring clean-up. She then updates the BoG as to community garbage collection: late pick-ups have been noted due to changes to truck run and manpower issues. Since start of contract hauler has been picking up more trash than expected as more people have arrived earlier in the season and been here full time thereby significantly affecting his profits. Julia informed the BoG that having new trash cans would make pick up easier. Because of increased costs in the price of new receptacles the hauler has not been able to deliver the receptacles as he thought he would be able to at the inception of the contract. Julia reported that the hauler would like to have the community split the cost. Julia is working to find a solution and Dede reminded her that community sales /special events may be interested in helping. Julia then discussed the AED at the Block and is exploring a solution to having to move it nightly.

C. Finance and Budget

Jim Furnivall

Jim reported on behalf of Al Bartosic. Funding for the Chlorination system has been set aside in the proposed budget for next year. Finance committee has identified four viable options for funding the final water project which are: 1) Bank financing loan through Washington Trust, 2) An assessment of the lot owners, 3) private financing or 4) the state drinking water sinking fund. The pilot program can be financed initially through a line of credit for immediate funding

Roberta noted that no material issues were found by the independent reviewers Jeff Matthews and Tom McConnell in the Tax Collection procedures for the 2020.

D. Public Works

George Prior

George (reporting on behalf of Vinnie Reppucci) indicated that the consultant we hired, C&E Engineering, researched different technologies and has come back with four different providers willing to work with us. The Pilot program as outlined includes applying the technology from three of the four providers (two are very similar technologies) to a sample of our water to test the effectiveness of the equipment and technologies proposed for treatment

Following **Motion** was made by George Prior:

The Public Works Committee move that the BoG approve the pilot testing program as presented by C&E Engineering at a cost not to exceed \$175,000. **Motion** was seconded.

Discussion ensued and covered questions about the details of costs as they pertain to related services and what was included and not included. Sue expressed interest in having a volunteer act as project manager and have someone follow up on due diligence, specifically Blue Leaf's work in Kent Country and East Greenwich.

The **Motion** as initially stated was approved by all members in attendance (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie)

There was a brief discussion concerning the request of two Central Beach homeowners to get water access. Public Works is trying to determine how best to get water to their two lots and figure out who is financially responsible for getting the water to the road. Research into past minutes needs to be conducted as this issue was discussed in/around 1998.

7. Managers Reports

A. Boating

Bob Frazier

Bob updated the BoG that 180 stickers have been sold and is working to further identify any additional boats without stickers and abandoned watercraft for disposal. Clean up is ongoing at the waterfront.

B. Special Events

Dede Consoli

Dede Consoli reported on behalf of Elaine Heilemann. Concerned with covid situation Special Events are considering cancelling the Social and Scavenger Hunt scheduled for August. The BoG agreed with this decision. The Community will be notified. Dede further reported that Special Events felt Movie Night and the Sandcastle contest could proceed as they are outside events which naturally allows for social distancing.

C. Merchandise Sales

Dede Consoli

Dede updated the BoG on Merchandise Sales. There are six more selling days. Sales are ahead of last year but costs are up so she doesn't expect profits to be as robust. She plans to ask people to wear masks this weekend.

D. Beach and Dunes

Peter Rettig

Peter reported that beach grooming is ongoing and will continue through Labor Day.

E. The Police Liaison and Manager of the Beach Gate Monitors

Julie Low

Julie reported no issues and all is going well.

8. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Harris, Assistant Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District