

Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
September 16, 2023
Quonochontaug Grange
Meeting Room
5662 Post Rd, Charlestown, RI 02813

Members in attendance: Mark Alperin, Renee Cohen, Dede Consoli, Charlie Freedgood, Bob Frazier, Mike Lewers, Ron Ruel, and Debbie Dupre

Members Absent: Barry Okun, Fred Newton

Also in attendance was Chris Harris, Assistant Clerk.

1. Call to Order/Moderator's Opening Remarks

Moderator, Charlie Freedgood

Charlie called the meeting to order at 10:45 am. He thanked everyone for all their work throughout the entire year.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Clerk, Debbie Dupre

There were no edits or comments to the August 26, 2023 minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the minutes as drafted. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

3. Appointment of Committees and Managers

Moderator, Charlie Freedgood

Next item discussed was whether to approve the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for appointment of Committee chairs, Committee members and Managers as set forth on Attachment 1. Charlie clarified that it is the Committee Chairs and Managers to be approved here as the slate of Governors was approved at the annual meeting. A **motion** was made to approve the recommendations. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

4. Bank Accounts; Safety Deposit Boxes; Appoint Bookkeeper

Moderator, Clerk

There were no edits or comments on the following Bank Accounts; Safety Deposit Boxes resolution:

Resolved, (1) that each of Michael Lewers (Treasurer), Charles Freedgood (Moderator), and Barry Okun (Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee) be authorized to establish bank accounts and to endorse checks and orders for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds from or into any bank account of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District, (2) that each of the Moderator and the Treasurer be authorized to borrow money on behalf and in the name of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District, sign, execute and deliver promissory notes or other evidences of indebtedness. (3) that Kathy Alperin (Assistant Treasurer) be authorized to establish bank accounts and to endorse checks and orders for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds from or into any bank account of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District provided that such account is used solely or primarily for merchandise sales or special events funds, (4) that each of the Treasurer, the Moderator and the Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee be authorized to draw on the District's line of credit with Washington Trust Company, (5) that Deborah Dupre (Clerk) and the Treasurer be authorized to establish and maintain such safe deposit boxes as they shall deem appropriate for the protection of the deeds, contracts and other documents and financial instruments and securities of the District, and (6) that the Treasurer, the Moderator and the Clerk are hereby authorized to take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate for effecting such authorizations, including without limitation signing such account agreements and certifying the adoption of such typical-form resolutions as any bank with which any such account or safe deposit box or such line of credit may be established shall require, which agreements and resolutions are hereby authorized, approved and adopted.

A **motion** was made to approve the resolution as written. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Charlie clarified that the following resolution proposed is to grant authority to the bookkeeper:

Resolved, (1) that Elise von Housen, Partner from Hoyt, Fillipetti & Malaghan, LLC (Bookkeeper), has the authority as appointed QCBFD Bookkeeper, working under the supervision of QCBFD Treasurer, to endorse and deposit checks into any District bank account at the direction of the Treasurer and make orders for payment of duly approved invoices from the QCBFD Operating Account held at Washington Trust.

A **motion** was made to approve the resolution as written. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

5. Moderator's Report

Charlie Freedgood, Moderator

No report.

6. Committee Chairs' Reports

Public Works

Bob updated the BoG on the water project stating that we now have all required permits apart from two, the most important being the approval from RIDOH. NWSI has submitted responses to comments from the consultant working on behalf of RIDOH and we are now waiting for review comments from the consultant. Once all the comments are received the plans will be modified accordingly and resubmitted to RIDOH for approval. When approved, RIDOH will issue the Certificate of Approval which will trigger the Order to Proceed. Bob is hopeful that the Certificate of Approval will be received soon, to facilitate a tentative start date of October 1, 2023 and targeted completion of the project on or by June 1, 2024.

Charlie explained the financing process used by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank for the project and also indicating that the total to be financed would include the roughly \$300,000 QCBFD already spent on the water system. He mentioned that the loan documents have not yet been received and did not know whether the comment on, and negotiation of, the loan documents would impact the proposed timetable.

Bob then updated the BoG on the wetlands restoration project. Avizinis Environmental Services, who will oversee implementation of the approved restoration plan, has submitted a proposal for less than \$1000. The next step is to mark the perimeter of the wetland area with posts. The restoration project will include both earthwork (removing some of the fill and boulders) and re-planting. Bob will come back to Board of Governors to get their approval on a more detailed scope of work, hopefully by the next Board of Governors meeting in October. Bob also indicated that the construction company will install a fence to restrict access to the project site. Ron asked if we should ask the Charlestown police to patrol the area. Bob believed that the fence would sufficiently impede access and added that cameras will be installed.

Community Property

Mark Alperin

Mark reported that the contract with Steve Piccolo & Sons Rubbish Removal dated May 18, 2022 for trash and recyclables removal has been terminated. Notice of termination was given on September 5, 2023. The hauler had asked whether he would be reimbursed for his half of the cost of the cans.

An emergency one-year contract has been entered into with CWPM to perform the trash and recyclables removal based on the terms previously approved by the Board of Governors.

7. Managers' Report

Merchandise Sales

Dede Consoli

Dede reported that the Merchandise Sales for 2023 is over and had very good year. The success of the sales will fund 2024 special events, \$10,000 toward an anniversary dance in 2025, pre-fund 2024 merchandise purchases as well as the

community grants program. The ad hoc community grants task force (Dede Consoli, Kathy Alprin, Elaine Heilemann and Jeff Matthews) reviewed and approved the following proposals totaling \$9,850:

- \$100 - lights at shed near the ball field
- \$750 - new signage at the tennis courts
- \$1000 – QCC conservation and preservation programming
- \$1000 – dumpster to benefit community cleanup on 2024 Memorial Day weekend
- \$2000 – enlarge community bulletin board at the beach
- \$5000 – rehabilitate ball field water fountain

Dede indicated that there remains additional money available for community improvement projects and any community members interested should apply through the community grants process. A **motion** was made to approve the community grants recommended by the community grants task force. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Executive Session

The BoG voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the relevant requirements of the R.I. General Laws 42-46-5 (a) to approve the draft minutes of the previous Executive Session. The following members voted to go into Executive Session: Mark Alperin, Renee Cohen, Dede Consoli, Bob Frazier, Mike Lewers, Ron Ruel, and Debbie Dupre (the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie did not vote).

A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2023 Meeting of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District Board of Governors Executive Session as drafted. The **motion** was **seconded and passed** with all in attendance voting in favor (except the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

A **motion** to reconvene to 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). No other votes were taken.

Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn at approximately 11:45am. 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 Dupre, Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District

ATTACHMENT 1

QCBFD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

August 19, 2023

The Nominating Committee respectfully recommends the following to serve as Chair and Committee Members of Standing Committees:

(*denotes new Member)

Finance and Budget

Barry Okun*(Chair) (2024)

Thomas McConnell, Jim Furnivall, Brooke Cote, Jeff Matthews, Neil Siegel*, Susan Wales*, (Mike Lewers ex-officio as Treasurer)

Public Works

Bob Frazier (Chair) (2022)

George Prior, Steve Peet, Tom Frost, Vin Bailey, Tiffany Van Elslander, Jim Montstream, Bill Meyer, Bob Roseman

Community Property

Mark Alperin (Chair) (2023)

John Pinkos, Anthony Flint, George Grey, Neal Simon, Meg Deshpande, Ed Mellick, Mary Duffy

Long Range Planning

Renee Cohen* (Chair) (2024)

Roy Jacobsen, Diane McEnroe, Paul Mathews, Anthony Flint, Taylor Rettig, Alex Schultheis*

The Committee respectfully recommends to the Board the following individuals to manage the various events and activities of the QCBFD:

Merchandise Sales: Dede Depatie Consoli (2017/ 2019 BOG)

Police Liason: Ron Ruel (2022 BOG)/**Beach Gate Managers:** Heather Cotter (2022), Amy Murphy (2022) Nancy Picard (2022)

At Large: Fred Newton (2019 BOG)

Manager of the QCBFD Marina: Will Carpenter (2022)

Ballfield and Playground: Matt DeFusco (2015)

Beaches and Dunes: Caroline Gilpin (2022)

Tennis: Mark McEnroe (2019)

Webmaster: Liz Pommeroy (2022)

Eblast Coordinator: Meg Deshpande (2022)

Special Events: Amy Murphy* (2024)

The Committee would also like to advise the Board of Governors that it will recommend to the Voters at the Sept 2023 Annual Meeting that they elect the following individuals to the Board of Governors:

Charlie Freedgood (Moderator), Debbie Dupre* (Clerk), Mike Lewers (Treasurer), Barry Okun*, Dede DePatie Consoli, Renee Cohen*, Ron Ruel, Mark Alperin, Bob Frazier, Fred Newton.

The Committee will recommend to the voters that they elect the following individuals to important but non-Board positions:

Ben Marlor and Eric Schultheis to serve as Tax Assessors.

Christine Harris to serve as Assistant Clerk.

Kathy Alperin to serve as Assistant Treasurer for Special Events/Merchandise Sales.

The Committee is grateful to and thanks all who have agreed to serve.

