

APPROVED

**Minutes of the Meeting of Quonochontaug Central  
Beach Fire District Board of Governors held on  
Saturday, October 24, 2020 Via Zoom Videoconference  
(COVID RELATED)**

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

Members Absent: Julia Mathews

Also in attendance were Chris Harris, Assistant Clerk, Elaine Heilemann, Co-Manager of Special Events, Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes, Bob Frazier, Manager of Boating and members of the public.

**1. Call to Order and opening remarks**

**Susan Wilson-Perez**

The Moderator, Susan Wilson-Perez, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00am. Sue thanked Merchandise and Special Events for contributing an additional grant of \$10,000 to the Water Project—the whole community is grateful for the support.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**Clerk, Maud Bailey**

No edits were made to either the August 25, 2020 and September 19, 2020 BoG Meeting Minutes as distributed prior to the meeting. A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the BoG Meeting dated August 25, 2020 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).

A second **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the BoG Meeting dated September 19, 2020 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. Treasurer's Report:**

**Treasurer, Roberta Peet**

Roberta reported that tax invoices were sent out in August and we have received all but one which the tax payer said was in the mail. A brief discussion concerning the use of reserves as it was changed by the motion passed at the Annual Meeting. Roberta gave a brief update on the search for a bookkeeper.

**4. Moderator's Report:**

**Moderator, Susan Wilson-Perez**

Sue began her report on discussing dates for BoG meetings next year. We will try to conform the 2021 meetings to the same schedule as 2020. We will try to mirror the same dates as last year. We need to post the yearly dates on OMA by the end of January. Al said Finance is planning on monthly meetings because of all the issues facing the District.

Maud asked Board Members to please include Chris Harris, our new Assistant Clerk, as well as herself and Sally Devin so everything that should get uploaded into the State's OMA database does.

Beach Parking Lot Discussion. Sue began the discussion by giving a brief history concerning the communities handling of the Beach Parking Lot Gate during the last spring and summer. This Fall it was decided that the gate would remain locked with all community members receiving the combination to the lock. Sue also reported that there are some new land use issues in the South County Community concerning beach access. There was a request to have the BoG discuss the lock at the Annual Meeting. A discussion concerning the locking of the parking lot ensued. Members of the public joined the Board

indiscussing the issue. Although there were opinions from the public on both sides, the Board felt that given current COVID conditions the gate should remain locked. The following motion was made:

Based on the complexities of our time, QCBFD will continue to keep the gate on the beach parking lot locked with access given to all QCBFD residents for the remainder of the season with this decision to be revisited in summer 2021.

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).

## **5. Managers' Reports:**

### **a. Merchandise Sales**

**Dede Consoli**

Dede reported the season is over and she is moving on to next year.

### **b. Beach and Dunes**

**Peter Rettig**

Is planning to move forward with snow line repairs.

### **c. The Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors:**

**Julie Low**

No updates other than gate issue already discussed.

### **d. Special Events**

**Elaine Heilemann /Tina Cassidy**

Elaine reported that Special Events will be starting work on confirming and gathering information for new community directory for 2021. Elaine hopes that in Summer 2021 the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance will take place.

### **e. Boating**

**Bob Frazier**

People have started removing craft from the boat area—He has asked community to do so by Nov. 1. Bob would like to do clean up the racks before winter. A member of the public said some people haven't removed craft because of COVID restrictions—people affected by that should reach out to Bob. Discussion concerning abandoned boats ensued.

## **6. Committee Chairs' Reports:**

### **a. Public Works:**

**Vinnie Reppucci**

- i. Vinny updated the BoG on the District water project, meeting with RI DOH and next steps with the Water Project comprehensive plan to upgrade the system.
- ii. Vinny led a discussion on streetlights. Last year the BoG approved the conversion of our street lights to LEDs for cost and maintenance savings. Public Works has determined that it is easier to replace all bulbs at once vs, piecemeal. The bulbs going in are adjustable. Dede volunteered to help with determining how bright the light from the bulbs shine and their schedule.
- iii. Discussion on property owner responsibility for maintenance of QCBFD right of way. Julia Matthews and Community Property did a great deal of leg work evaluating the sight lines and have ID properties where sight line and Fire Truck height access clearing needs to occur. Notices will go to those owners so they can control the clearing. BoG discussion concerning trees, powerlines, growth, rocks near road ways and communications to the District about the Public Works process.

**b. Finance and Budget:**

**Al Bartosic**

Updated the BoG regarding BoF research on possible funding of the Water Project. The Committee is looking at several different options, will keep researching and will report back to the BOG at a later meeting.

ii. Brief discussion of RI Tier III vs Tier II Fire District reporting. Right now we are a Tier III District, Al briefed the BoG on what would need to occur with our expenditures and/or debt to move to a Tier II District. A Tier II District has more reporting and auditing requirements above the procedural work that we currently do. Discussion of what budget items are included in the formula that determines the Tier—the regulations are a little vague.

iii. Merchandise Sales. Al had some questions concerning Merchandise Sales and how it impacts the Tier determination. Our Attorney offered a different view than what Al had previously gotten from State regulators. It appears the issue centers on whether Merchandise Sales has ever used tax dollars in its work. Dede assured the BoG that Merchandise Sales has never used tax revenue. Sue asked Maud to follow up with the AG Fire District Office regulators in an effort to gain clarity on the question. Dede ask if there could be a sub-committee that could research the possibility of creating a separate 501(c) (3). Fig and Maud agreed to serve with Dede and Al will ask someone, Jeff or Tom, from Finance to also participate. Dede agreed to reach out and set up a meeting. Brief discussion concerning Merchandise Sales acquiring a debit card to help with the process of obtaining its inventory.

**d. Community Property:**

**Julia Mathews**

Since Julia was unable to attend, Roberta filled in her and reported to the BoG that she still has a few projects that Community Property is finishing for the year and that they will end within their budget.

**e. Long Range Planning**

**Ellen Frost**

Ellen reported to the BOG that Long Range Planning is engaged in developing a vision for the community for 2030. To accomplish this they plan to create a Comprehensive Plan—this is a large project that will involve a SWOT analysis, and other steps. It will be community based with outreach.

**6. Adjournment:**

A **Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maud A. Bailey, Clerk  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District