

**Minutes of the Meeting of Quonochontaug Central
Beach Fire District Board of Governors held on
Saturday, June 20, 2020 Via ZOOM Teleconference**

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

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance were Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk, Elaine Heilemann, Co-Manager of Special Events, Diane McEnroe, Chair of Nominating, Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes and members of the public.

1. Call to Order: **Susan Wilson-Perez**

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

2. Approval of Minutes/ Clerk's Motions: **Maud Bailey**

Two edits were made to the 5/23/20 BoG Draft Minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the minutes with aforementioned edits of the BoG Meeting dated May 23, 2020. 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: **Roberta Peet**

Roberta had nothing unusual to report. Sue mentioned that the law firm retained to assist us with the water issue gave us a discount.

4. Moderator's Report: **Susan Wilson-Perez**

No opening remarks.

5. Managers' Reports:

a. Merchandise Sales: Manager DeDe Consoli reported to the Board she is getting ready and merchandise is coming. Although she has received much of her inventory, she is still waiting for some items. Shipping has been slower because of COVID. She reported many people have volunteered, which is great because with the social distancing guidelines she needs many volunteers.

b. Beach and Dunes: Peter Rettig, Manager, The beach parking lot has been repaired and resurfaced and the cost should come in under the approved budget amount. Lifesaving equipment maintenance is complete and is ready for use. Repairs are coming to snow fence. Beach raking and grooming will start Friday July 3rd and continue through Labor Day. Peter reported we are using the same raking contractor as last year

c. The Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors: Julie Low reported that the beach guards started working daily officially this morning (6/20). They worked well last weekend and understood the new procedures concerning the entrance to the beach parking lot. Sue reminded the Board we should introduce ourselves to the guards and say we are here to help. Julie thanked the community and Board for addressing people eating/drinking on the beach and asking them to refrain from doing so because it violates community rules.

d. Ball Field: Matt DeFusco, Manager, was absent. Sue gave a brief summary of Matt's report—Charlestown has opened up little league and Matt was going to report on how Charlestown was doing this within the State's COVID guidelines. Sue reiterated that if the State's guidelines change to allow the number of people we usually have to gather and play ball the community will play baseball.

e. Boat Dock: Bob Frazier was absent. Sue opened discussion on the landscaping project at the Boat Dock. Sue had received a letter to the BoG concerning the clearing of vegetation and expanding of the parking area at the Boat Dock. She felt this discussion should be tabled until our next BoG meeting so that the issue can be on the agenda and Bob will be present.

d. Special Events: Elaine Heilemann reported that we are working with a reduced social events calendar because of COVID. She did discuss the State's phase III opening guideline changes beginning July 1st and how the changes may affect social events. The Board was in support of the 4th of July car parade, and additionally decided that Elaine and the committee could make changes to their plans if they were staying within the State's COVID guidelines.

6. Committee Chairs' Reports:

a. Public Works: Vinny first reported that our retest on being a GUDI has come back negative. We will chlorinate Well#1 sometime in the fall and decide on how to remove the iron in Well#2 next year. The Community will need to vote on costs for both Phase 1 (chlorinating Well #1) and Phase 2 (the iron removal issue). Vinny said our engineer felt we should wait to apply for the State grant/loan (discussed in previous meetings until Phase II because Phase II is the more substantial bid.) If we use the grant/ loan money it comes with regulations so applying for a larger grant for Phase II might be the better course. Still waiting on more details about the State grant/loan process and terms. Vinny believe the funding through the State bank will be on better terms than a commercial bank. Vinny also reported on the recent lightning strike and its short-term effects on the water system. Water quality is good--nitrates low, still on boiled water mandates because of prior TC hits. Public Works were compiling the costs for correcting the damage from the lightning strike to submit for insurance coverage. Vinny also reported on last year's road paving—public works held back some money for finishing the project. He would like to discuss this at the next meeting.

b. Community Property: Julia Mathews, Chair, reported that last weekend we had a very successful community volunteer weeding project. We had over 20 volunteers—it was a lovely time and saved the community thousands of dollars. AED are in place at the tennis courts and beach block. Julia informed the BoG that the AED bag also holds a shark bite kit and Narcan. Julia began the fresh (west) pond access discussion. Ellen Frost said that LRP Committee would like to protect the vista of the pond from the beach parking lot. Ellen stated this was discussed last year at the 8/10/19 BoG Meeting. Developing physical access may be discussed sometime down the road, but LRP would like a 6 to 8 feet path cleared for a view shed this year. There was some discussion that the area had been cleared in the past. Julia said it was cleared last year, but the phragmites grew back. There is a dry hydrant there to get access to pond water if needed

A **motion** was made to have Community Property continue to maintain a 6 to 9 foot clearing distance around the dry hydrant on the edge of the fresh (west) pond for fire personal access The motion made, seconded and **passed**, with 8 members of the Board of Governors voting in favor of the motion (Maud Bailey, Al Bartosic, DeDe Consoli, Ellen Frost, Julie Low, Fred (Fig) Newton, Roberta Peet, and Vinny Reppucci) 1 against (Julia Mathews) (the Moderator abstained because under the District's By-Laws she only votes in the case of a tie).

Short discussion on the fire protection contract followed, with Sue stating she would follow up.

c. Finance and Budget: Al reported that the Finance Committee decided that their collective view was tax revenue should remain flat going forward and that the community be more intentional in building reserves for future projects and costs. Al distributed 3 documents to the BoG prior to this meeting (please see attached) Document A was a draft on project reserve funding and goals. He and the Finance committee are developing reserve goals based on information given to them by the various managers and chairs. Document B is a preliminary draft of QCBFD financial reserves going forward and how they relate to the potential costs of the water project and Document C is draft of working budget dated 6/16/20. Al welcomed comments on these drafts. Discussion concerning financing water project ensued.

d. Long Range Planning Committee: Ellen Frost, Chair, reported that the committee's research on developing a document retention policy is continuing. She informed the Board that the topics that LRP is currently working on (as discussed at last summer's 8/10/19 BoG meeting) include: 1) Putting information together for individual homeowners on how to bury utilities; 2) The possibilities of implementing water metering, as raised in the LRP survey; and 3) Researching the phragmites issue on fresh pond.

7. Adjournment:

A **Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maud A. Bailey, Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District