

Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
June 19, 2026
Charlestown Police Station
Meeting Room
4901 Old Post Rd, Charlestown, RI 02813

Members in attendance: Mark Alperin, Renee Cohen, Bob Frazier, Ray Martino, Ron Ruel, Bill Wilson and Debbie Dupre.

Members Absent: Al Bartosic, Julie Low and Barry Okun.

Also in attendance Julia Mathews, Roy Jacobsen, and Alex Schultheis.

1. Call to Order/Moderator's Opening Remarks

Debbie Dupre for Moderator, Al Bartosic

Debbie called the meeting to order at 8:15 am. She thanked everyone for being there and reported that Al has delegated his role as Moderator to her for today's meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Clerk, Debbie Dupre

One misspelling was identified in the draft May 23, 2026 minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the draft with the required correction made. 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).

Next Debbie directed the board's attention to the draft Policy for QCBFD Board of Governors Oversight of Contracts and asked that any questions or comments be sent to her directly. She hopes to circulate a revised draft for review by the August BoG meeting.

She then raised the Rhode Island Code of Ethics and added that it applies to the Board of Governors and all managers. She agreed to present an overview of the code and a recommendation for a BoG and managers acknowledgement of the Code by the Annual Meeting.

3. Moderator's Report

Debbie Dupre for Moderator, Al Bartosic

Debbie reported that the Dunn's Corner Fire Department ride-along is scheduled for the second week in July. She then raised the need to develop a "low spot" remediation plan to address the habitual pooling and poor drainage along the District roads. Bob agreed on behalf of Public Works to identify the chronic spots and develop a detailed plan to address the persistent low-lying water collection points.

Debbie then raised developing a standard community welcome procedure to 1) produce a standard packet for new residents to share community guidelines and District information, 2) collect contact details from the new resident(s) and distribute the data appropriately to update the tax roll and the community communications eblast list, and 3) assign responsibility to a manager/committee to oversee and administer the welcoming process. Julia Mathews added details of her current process and agreed to help establish a standard procedure. Debbie thanked Julia for welcoming our new residents over the past 10 years.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Ray Martino

Ray gave an update on the lease renewal between QCBFD and the Quonochontaug Tennis Club set to expire on September 30, 2026, and will provide further updates as the negotiations progress.

He reported that the insurance policy renewal process is underway. Bob agreed on behalf of Public Works to provide a list of capital assets and major equipment associated with the upgraded water facility, including the replacement value for post-construction insurance purposes.

Ray reviewed the various District accounts and added that the District currently maintains strong liquidity and sufficient cash reserves. Ray, in Barry's absence, gave an update on the water upgrade project financing.

5. Committee Chairs' Reports

Long-Range Planning

Chair, Renee Cohen

Renee directed the board's attention to the draft Water Quantity/Quality report recommended for adoption by Long-Range Planning and asked if there were any questions or comments. A **motion** was made to approve the draft Water Quantity/Quality report as written. 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).

She then introduced the new saltwater intrusion project and asked Alex Schultheis to give an overview of the project, highlights of an associated report done by the University of Rhode Island on South County saltwater intrusion and proposed next steps. Alex reported that URI geologists will conduct a District site visit next week to map possible locations for low-impact sentinel wells, which could monitor the existing water table and provide baseline information. A formal proposal for the installation and monitoring of the wells (including the associated cost) will be presented at a future BoG meeting. Renee added that she plans to gauge interest from our neighbors on the Quonnie neck in cooperating on the project.

She reported that the Water Distribution Inventory project task force has met. She reminded everyone that the goal of the project is to identify the various components of the water distribution system, their lifespan, replacement cost, and develop a maintenance plan.

Next Renee reported on her research into water monitoring and leak detection solutions. She detailed a recommended smart meter monitoring solution and included the cost per meter and associated monitoring fees, plus a rough estimate of the per home installation costs. Discussion ensued around the use of automatic water shut-off valves and potential solutions for leak detection between the street and each home. Renee recommended bringing a fully costed proposal to install smart meters into each District home to the community for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Renee provided an update on the document management and cloud storage project and added that a tutorial is scheduled for next week with one of the recommended vendors.

Public Works

Chair, Bob Frazier

Bob reported that the upgraded water system is operational and is hopeful that the punch-list items will be completed by the end of June. The project remains essentially on budget and on schedule. The Board discussed hosting an open house to provide residents with an opportunity to tour the facility.

Bob noted that the emergency patching and repairs to the District roads had been completed. He next turned to the chip and seal road resurfacing project, stating that two bids had been received through the RFP process and recommended the lower bid from Dosch King Company Inc. ("Dosch King") of \$65,000 be accepted. A **motion** was made to accept the bid from Dosch King to chip and seal the roads in 2026 on such terms and conditions as approved by the Moderator, provided further that such contract will be executed by the Moderator or his designee. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed contract details and whether to proceed this year with the chip and seal. The **motion** was then **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).

Bob then reported that the community is currently considered to be in severe drought with the water level several feet below where it was last August. The red drought flag at the ball field has been raised. Discussion ensued on how best to communicate to the community the seriousness of the drought and to promote limited water usage and conservation methods. Suggestions were made to send regular periodic eblast reminders and to make available published information such as QCC coloring books at various community property locations particularly during special events.

Community Property

Chair, Mark Alperin

Mark updated the group on ongoing maintenance of community property within the District. He thanked Julia Mathews for spearheading tomorrow's prune and groom morning.

6. Managers' Report

Police Liaison/Manager of Beach Gate Monitors

Ron Ruel

Ron reported Nancy Picard has agreed to stay in her role as scheduling beach gate manager and will share the duties with Zi Frost. He noted that a severe shortage in applications for gate monitors persists, which could leave a gap in coverage of the gate over the summer, particularly in late August. Ron detailed assorted options to cover the shortage such as leaving the gate closed when it cannot be monitored and/or hiring a security service to watch the gate. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the issue may need to be revisited and action taken at the next BoG meeting.

Ron updated the BoG on the proposal from the police and emergency services to designate the main QCB access point (at the boardwalk) as number 5. A **motion** was made to approve the designation of the boardwalk entrance of QCB as number 5 and install or allow to be installed the requisite signage for the purposes of better identifying the specific location along Quonnie beach for the police and emergency services. 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).

Beach and Dunes

Debbie Dupre for June Cairn/Cindy Kirtland

Debbie reported on the preparation of the beach and dunes for the 2026 season. She added that a "swimmer in distress" training is being planned for later in the summer.

7. Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn at approximately 10:09 am. 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