

Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
July 23, 2026
Charlestown Police Station
Meeting Room
4901 Old Post Rd, Charlestown, RI 02813

Members in attendance: Mark Alperin, Al Bartosic, Renee Cohen, Julie Low, Ray Martino, Barry Okun, Ron Ruel, Bill Wilson and Debbie Dupre.

Members Absent: None.

Also, in attendance Kathy Alperin, June Cairn and David Petrarca.

1. Call to Order/Moderator's Opening Remarks

Moderator, Al Bartosic

Al called the meeting to order at 8:15 am. He thanked everyone for being there.

2. Administrative Matters

Clerk, Debbie Dupre

There were no edits or comments to the June 19, 2026 draft minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes. 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).

Debbie reminded the committee chairs and managers to please submit their Annual Meeting Packet reports by August 17, 2026.

3. Moderator's Report

Moderator, Al Bartosic

Al detailed the feedback from the Dunn's Corner Fire Department ride-along, which included reducing the number of speed bumps, trimming low-hanging vegetation from the right of Way ("ROW"), and removing a hazard at an identified intersection.

Al raised the need for additional administrative help across the District and suggested hiring an administrative coordinator on a part-time basis. Discussion ensued. Al agreed to provide an update at the next meeting. Ray and Barry agreed to assist in developing a job description.

Al updated the Board on the possible visit from Senator Whitehouse and asked for suggestions for a point person to help develop the run-of-show and guest list by next meeting.

Next Al turned to the community welcome packet and suggested that the responsibility for welcoming and collecting contact details from new residents should be overseen by the Nominating Committee.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Ray Martino

Ray gave an update on the lease renewal between the District and the Quonochontaug Tennis Club set to expire on September 30, 2026, and agreed to provide further updates as the negotiations progress. A **motion** was made to authorize the Moderator to sign all documents regarding the renewal, subject to final revisions from District counsel. Discussion ensued. 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).

He then reported that the annual tax invoicing process had begun, and he anticipated that the tax invoices would be sent out during the second or third week in August with the standard 30-day due date.

Ray confirmed that the insurance policy renewal process is nearly complete. The list of capital assets and major equipment associated with the upgraded water facility is still outstanding.

Ray reviewed the various District accounts. He mentioned that the District's Line of Credit from Washington Trust is set to expire at the end of August, and he would explore the renewal process within the next week.

5. Committee Chairs' Reports

Finance and Budget

Chair, Barry Okun

Barry reported, having completed a review of the first six months of financials, that the District's finances are in good shape to carry QCBFD through the tax collection period without drawing on the available line of credit. The 2027 budgeting process has begun, and he plans to propose a draft 2027 budget at the next meeting.

Next Barry gave an update on the water upgrade project. To date, the bulk of EPA grant funds have been received and disbursed. Final closeout will require a detailed EPA review. It is anticipated that less than the total amount available under the RIIB loan will be drawn. Barry will work with RIIB to recalculate and restructure the final loan amount and amortization schedule based on actual project costs and drawdown.

Community Property

Chair, Mark Alperin

Mark updated the group on ongoing maintenance of community property, including replacing the failing gate at the beach after the season and possible replanting around the tennis courts.

Long-Range Planning

Chair, Renee Cohen

Renee updated the group on the saltwater intrusion project. The committee is waiting for a project proposal from the University of Rhode Island for the installation and monitoring of sentinel wells to measure the levels of freshwater above saltwater over time to create a baseline. Discussion ensued. Renee plans to bring a formal project proposal to the BoG for their approval at the next meeting.

For the Water Distribution Inventory project, Renee 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 an updating and maintenance plan. The task force has reached out to Northeast Water Systems ("NWSI"), who knows the District system having worked on the water upgrade project among other District projects, to provide a proposal to inventory and help map the existing distribution system. Discussion ensued.

Next Renee reported on a smart-metering solution as part of the ongoing District work around water monitoring and leak detection. Options were discussed. Renee indicated that she planned to include the smart metering project within her 2027 LRP budget request.

Renee provided an update on the document management and cloud storage project and added that she hopes to bring a recommendation to the BoG at a future meeting.

Public Works

Acting Chair, Al Bartosic

Al reported that the upgraded water system is operational with a few outstanding punch-list items. The project remains essentially on budget and on schedule.

Al raised the need for a comprehensive District road plan, that should include drainage and low spot remediation, speed bump removal and/or reshaping as part of the upcoming chip and seal work, and some preliminary financial parameters. He also recommended that a construction project information form be developed to collect details about new construction projects within the District. The form should include a site plan, an acknowledgment of District ROW's and a copy of the summer construction rules. Discussion ensued, with an update promised at the next BoG meeting.

Al then reported that the red drought flag at the ball field remains raised.

Nominating

Acting Chair, Al Bartosic

Al updated the group on 2026-27 Nominating committee activity.

6. Managers' Report

Merchandise Sales

Julie Low

Julie reported that Merchandise Sales have been steady this year, with fewer but larger than average purchases.

Police Liaison/Manager of Beach Gate Monitors

Ron Ruel

Ron reported that there remains a potential gap in coverage of the gate beginning in late August. Options were discussed. A **motion** was made to enter into contract with a third-party vendor to provide gate coverage if and when needed, and further to authorize the Moderator or his designee to sign all documents in connection with this arrangement, subject to the terms and conditions deemed acceptable by the Moderator. 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).

Ron then added that the sign naming the beach access point as requested by the police and emergency services has been installed.

Beach and Dunes

June Cairn/Cindy Kirtland

June reported that the draft QCBFD Beaches and Dunes Behavior policy currently being reviewed is intended as a compilation of the existing QCBFD Rules and an articulation of community beach culture. June asked the BoG to send any comments they might have to her directly. Discussion ensued. AI asked that the final document be circulated each year as part of the Spring mailing and Debbie suggested that it also be added to the 2026 Beaches and Dunes Annual Meeting report.

7. Executive Session

The BoG voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to the relevant requirements of the R.I. General Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2) regarding potential and or pending labor-related litigation and or controversy in connection with District contractor(s) and or subcontractor(s). A roll call vote was taken. The following members voted to go into Executive Session: Renee Cohen, Julie Low, Ray Martino, Barry Okun, Ron Ruel, Bill Wilson and Debbie Dupre (the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie). Mark Alperin had departed the meeting before the vote.

The matter was discussed with no votes taken. 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).

After reconvening into open session, a **motion** was made to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. 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).

8. Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn at approximately 10:59 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