

Shelter Harbor Fire District Board of Governors Meeting

Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the Shelter Harbor Inn

Meeting Minutes

I. Call To Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Patrick Kinney ,Moderator.
- The meeting was conducted in person.
- Board Members present : Patrick Kinney, Robert Palumbo, Alex Platt, Marianne Nardone, Denise Williams. Absent: Jack Waters
- Officers present: Glen Berwick, Treasurer, and Richard Gregory, Collector of Taxes & Assessor
- District Counsel: David Petraca
- Moderator Patrick Kinney welcomed all District residents in attendance

II. Minutes of October 2, 2021 -Review, Discussion and /or Vote by the Board

- The Moderator asked if Board Members had reviewed the Minutes of the Board meeting held on Saturday, October 2, 2021. No corrections or additions were made. A motion was made by Denise Williams to accept the minutes ,seconded by Marianne Nardone. The motion passed 5-0.

III. New Business -Review, Discussion and or Vote by the Board

A. Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2022

- The Moderator shared the tentative Meeting Schedule for 2022 and stated that several meeting dates are listed in response to requests made by many community members for more frequent Board meetings. (Tentative 2022 Meeting Dates : April 23, May 21, June 18, July 23, August 13/Annual Meeting, October 15, all scheduled from 9:00 a.m. -12p.m.) District Counsel Petraca stated at this time the Board is legally required to meet in person.This requirement could change in the future depending on developments in the ongoing Covid pandemic. Robert Palumbo made

a motion to accept the proposed Meeting Schedule for 2022, seconded by Alex Platt. The motion passed 5-0.

- B. Appointment of Vice Moderator from the Membership of the Board of Governors
- Moderator Patrick Kinney recommended that Robert Palumbo continue to serve as Vice Moderator. A motion was made by Alex Platt, seconded by Denise Williams to have Robert Palumbo continue as Vice Moderator. The Motion passed 5-0.
- C. Appointment of New Board of Governors Member Because of Vacancy Created By the Resignation of Patrick Kinney Upon his Election as Moderator. The Unexpired Term Will End at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- Moderator Kinney stated four community residents had indicated an interest in filling the current Board vacancy. These candidates were : Richard Ferris, Michael McEntee, Steven Sweeney and Anne Thomas. All four candidates submitted a statement of interest prior to today's meeting. Richard Ferris and Anne Thomas were in attendance and each of them was given three minutes to make their statement. Patrick Kinney read a statement from Michael McEntee and Robert Palumbo read a statement from Steven Sweeney. The Moderator thanked the candidates for stepping forward.
- Denise Williams suggested that because the term remaining to be served is so short, that it may be appropriate to appoint a candidate with prior Board experience. Denise also indicated that those candidates who are not successful today should not hesitate to run for a full term on the Board in the future. Moderator Kinney indicated there will be many more openings in the future to serve the community. Glen Berwick reminded all those in attendance that the next vote to fill Board vacancies will be done by registered voters at the next annual meeting.
- Marianne Nardone stated she was legally advised not to participate in the vote for the vacant Board seat because she is related to one of the candidates. Alex Platt made a motion to appoint Michael McEntee, which was seconded by Robert Palumbo. The motion passed 3-0 (Platt, Palumbo, Kinney) with one abstention(Williams) and one recusal(Nardone)
- D. Appointment of New Shelter Harbor District Clerk to Fill the Vacancy Created by the Resignation of Robert Duff. The Unexpired Term Will End at the 2022 District Annual Meeting.
- Moderator Kinney indicated community residents were also encouraged to submit a letter of interest to serve out the unexpired term of the District Clerk, which ends at

the District Annual Meeting in August, 2022. Only one letter was received. Paul Eldridge had indicated he was willing to serve as Clerk. Mr. Eldridge gave a brief background of himself and his reasons for wanting to serve as Clerk. A motion was made by Robert Palumbo to appoint Paul Eldridge as Clerk, seconded by Alex Platt; the motion passed 5-0.

- E. Appoint Community Agents for the 2022 Fiscal Year
- Moderator Kinney stated the Shelter Harbor Fire District has several Agents who report to to the Board regarding different jobs/responsibilities that need to be done in order to have a safe and organized community. A motion was made by Denise Williams, seconded by Robert Palumbo to appoint the following Agents. The motion passed 5-0.

Audit Agent: Nick Manuzzi

Beach Agent : Lauri Sweeney

Directory: Liz Miller

Road Assistance : Steven Sweeney

Safety and Security : Alex Platt

F. Proposed Expenditure for the for the Kayak and Small Boat Launch Improvement Project

Moderator Kinney called on Rick Wiatrowski to summarize a proposed kayak and small boat launch improvement project for Grove and Point Docks. Mr. Wiatrowski passed out written materials describing the goals and safety advantages of the proposed improvements. A scale model (and pictures) of the proposed project were displayed to the Board members and other District residents attending the meeting. The major purpose of the proposed improvement is to make the dock ramps safer to walk on by keeping the walking surface above the water level and thus prevent pond slime buildup, which makes the dock ramps slippery and dangerous when launching a kayak or dingy. The model features a new floating dock system for small boats and kayaks that would be installed and removed each year at the end of the season. A discussion ensued. Some comments focused on whether the District had sufficient budgeted funds to cover a project estimated to cost between \$8000 to \$10,000. Treasurer Glen Berwick stated that currently the District had a budget surplus of \$16,000. Robert Palumbo cautioned it was only December, so we don't know the magnitude of the

costs the District will incur for items such as snow removal at this juncture. Gail Mallard encouraged the Board to defer a final decision until we receive Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) approval, in case the project is altered (impacting cost) as a result of CRMC review. Sara Conner was concerned whether the proposed dock improvements would accommodate the launching of her dingy. Moderator Kinney believed more community members need to be involved in the project decision and that more information needs to be gathered. District Counsel Petraca said this item could be tabled and added to another meeting agenda if after further study the Board wants to approve it. Alex Platt made a motion to table this item, which was seconded by Marianne Nardone. The motion passed 5-0.

G. Discussion of Speeding on Wagner Road and a Proposed Solution Developed Through Partnering with the Town of Westerly Interim Town Manager.

Moderator Kinney reported that District resident Jay Weissman and he met recently with Westerly interim Town Manager Shawn Lacey (also the Westerly Police Chief) to discuss our safety issues and concerns related to endemic speeding by cars and trucks on Wagner Road. The Moderator asked Alex Platt to explain the feasibility of installing speed humps (not speed bumps) on Wagner Road between (Grieg and Handel and Handel and Bach) to slow down speeding traffic. Several community residents attending the meeting expressed support for measures which would enhance the safety of residents on District roads. The possibility of installing speed radar and /or cameras were also suggested. Alex Platt said the cost of installing the two humps, signs and the cost of shipping was approximately \$5000. Robert Palumbo made a motion to approve putting two speed humps on Wagner Road in the suggested locations. The motion was seconded by Alex Platt and the motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0.

IV. Adjournment

Moderator Kinney thanked everyone for attending the meeting and then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Marianne Nardone and seconded by Alex Platt. the vote in favor was 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted December 11,2021

By Marianne Nardone, Member of the Board of Governors