

**SHELTER HARBOR FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2020, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Meeting via Zoom**

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Call to order: Tom Lloyd

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM: Tom Lloyd

Meeting will be conducted by Zoom, password functioned properly

Board member roll call: Tom Lloyd

Robert Palumbo
Marianne Nardone
Patrick Kinney
Alex Platt
Jack Waters
Denise Williams

Officers present:

Richard Gregory
Glen Berwick
Bob Duff

Counsel present:

Peter Ruggiero

Public comment:

Rochelle Levins: Announcement that SHFD historic books are available for Christmas giving. Dennis Flanagan requested 10 books. Rochelle Levins requested that he contact her after the meeting.

No other public comments.

Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2020.

The minutes have not been distributed for this meeting. Vote postponed until the next meeting.

Announcements:

Thanks to Alex Platt for cleaning up Point Dock
Thanks to Michelle Malanga, Kate Jones and Andy Jones for cleaning up point dock
Welcome Jean Marie Cassidy to the neighborhood.
Dr. Flanagan:

1. Changes are being made to the operation of the Shelter Harbor Inn.
2. Hay Creek Management Company will operate the Inn.
3. Numerous personnel changes have been made and there is still more to com.
4. Dr Flanagan will continue to approve all actions of Hay Creek.
5. Several weddings were held without complaint.
6. Dr Flanagan turned away a couple of weddings for being too large.
7. Dr Flanagan stated that he wants the Inn to be a destination upscale Inn.
8. Dr Flanagan stated that the winter is a challenge time and that he doesn't want to close the Inn. He is asking for help from SHFD community to sustain the business.
9. The Inn is holding the second annual Martin Luther King Day for human rights dinner.
10. Dr Flanagan stated that covid-19 has presented a very difficult situation FOR THE Inn this year.
11. Tom Lloyd stated that it has been a tough run this year and thanked Dr Flanagan for the job he has done.
12. Dr Flanagan suggested that those interested should Google Hay Creek for information and background.
13. A new chef has been placed at the Inn.
14. Tom Lloyd is maintaining an ongoing dialog with Dr Flanagan. Dr Flanagan is open to listen to comments.
15. Dr Flanagan stated his thanks and appreciates input.

Correspondence:

None

Treasurer's Report:

1. Glen Berwick stated there are no surprises to date.
2. Fire protection cost came in \$2,500 under budget.
3. Glen Berwick doesn't expect any surprises form the P&L.

Motion to accept: Patrick Kinney, Alex Platt seconded, vote unanimous to accept the report.

Tax Collector's Report:

1. Richard Gregory stated that the annual meeting approved a tax rate to collect \$232,000 - 95% has been collected. \$11,500 is outstanding. Richard Gregory requested that all taxpayers pay their taxes.

Motion to accept: Robert Palumbo, Denise Williams seconded, vote unanimous to accept the report.

Agent and Committee Chair Reports:

Beach:

1. Vivian Duff stated that the beach landlord (Weekapaug) informed us that we will be required to use beach buttons/badges during in 2021. The pricing for the buttons is as stated in the written report. Viv Duff recommends selection of International Laminate as the supplier. Viv Duff raised the question how many buttons/badges should be issued per property?
2. The life guard stand was damaged this past summer during one of the storms. A new stand will be constructed for the 2021 season.

3. Tom Lloyd stated that Weekapaug owns the beach and they have always used beach buttons. There have been many discussions about the buttons/badges with no black and white solution. Weekapaug wishes to prevent walk-ons and wants Shelter Harbor and Shady Harbor use beach buttons.
4. Viv Duff questioned the quantity of buttons to be issued to property owners. Viv Duff stated that Weekapaug uses 8 per family with no buttons required for under children under 12. Shady Harbor charges for tags and beach buttons and issues 6 per family.
5. Tom Lloyd indicated that a decision is not needed today. Viv Duff requested a decision sooner than later to allow timely ordering.
6. Tom Lloyd estimated that a total quantity is probably in the range of 2,000 buttons.
7. Alex Platt asked if they buttons/badges would be simply laminated? Viv Duff indicated that the buttons and tags would be similar to the tags used during 2020.
8. Viv Duff stated that Weekapaug will be patrolling the beach between the Inn beach and the SHFD beach.
9. Tom Lloyd will speak with Weekapaug concerning responsibility for the cost of the beach buttons.
10. Viv Duff beach button has a pin but does not have to attach to bathing suit. It can attach to a hat or beach bag.
11. Tom Lloyd indicated that it is not appropriate for neighbors to police neighbors. Tom Lloyd will talk with Weekapaug about the policing.
12. Jack Waters a few years ago path was opened between the Inn and SHFD. Doesn't know how but made it more difficult.
13. Alex Platt asked if QBCC can place signs or fencing to try to stop the intrusion across the dunes to the beach.
14. There is a sign at the beach pointing to an unauthorized beach access path. Alex Platt will remove the sign if desired.
15. Denise Williams indicated that there was parking along access road to the beach. Viv Duff indicated that Weekapaug discouraged the use of the Fenway beach which shifted use to Weekapaug beach.
16. Tom Lloyd stated that if parking is allowed along the sand trail ambulance access becomes impossible. Tom Lloyd will discuss with Tom Gullusio.
17. Viv Duff said that Weekapaug residents parked all over the Weekapaug Yacht Club parking lot. Denise Williams stated that the random parking was a nuisance. Opinion is that the parking issue will carry over to 2021. Jack Waters Fenway beach use was limited due to Covid-19 issue. Tom Lloyd will; have a discussion with the Weekapaug Moderator concerning the parking issue.
18. Patrick Kinney stated that SHFD beach goers should not confront someone not wearing badge due to insurance issues.
19. Rochelle Levins had a comment from the days when she ran the beach and 5 buttons were issued. She suggested that rubber bracelets could be used in lieu of buttons. Colors can be switched easily on an annual basis.
20. Art Weiner stated he doesn't like buttons and why did the community acquiesce to Weekapaug's request? Tom Lloyd stated that Weekapaug has a unilateral right to terminate the community agreement. Art Weiner do minimum to accept conditions. Tom Lloyd rhetorical comments. Art Weiner spoke on legal grounds. Tom Lloyd that's the way it is moving on. No other comments
21. Tom Lloyd asked Viv Duff to initiate a board email poll re: number of buttons.

Community Events:

1. Marianne Nardone had a bad internet connection which hindered communications. Tom Lloyd advised that Marianne Nardone will hold off asking for volunteers until March or April because of Covid-19 issues.

Directory:

1. Liz Miller read her report and asked that community members let me know if entries are going to change or stay the same.

Public Access Defibrillator:

1. Tom Lloyd to Dr Leadbetter please hold until old business

Roads:

1. Jack Waters stated that Steve Sweeney has been helpful in conducting roads business. Jack Waters has made Steve Sweeney his assistant. Jack Waters read his report. Last winter Westerly did not plow Rossini. Jack Waters has confirmed they will plow Rossini this winter. Alex Platt do they plow Handel? Jack Waters yes. Jack Waters thanks to Brian McCuin for helping with communications with the Westerly DPW.

Tennis:

1. Tom Lloyd read report.

Old Business:

1. **Water Line installation:**
 - a. Tom Lloyd stated that Glenn Dixon still intends to move ahead with the project. At earliest move ahead next September. Glenn is coordinating the plans to proceed.
2. **Shelter Harbor Inn agreement:**
 - a. Dr Flanagan reviewed the proposed agreement.
 - b. Tom Lloyd & Dr Flanagan met this week to discuss.
 - c. Tom Lloyd will report to board to review the discussions.
3. **Street lights in Shelter Harbor:**
 - a. Richard Gregory hoped for progress at the end of 2019.
 - b. Richard Gregory reviewed report.
 - c. Intensity of lights has been dialed back as far as they can go.
 - d. Screening cannot be done on the lights in SHFD.
 - e. Alternative actions include determining what other means of screening is available. There is a pilot program for fixture change. Trial basis to turn off the lights is an option.
 - f. Jack Waters commented that he is on the dark side of Wagner and would prefer to maintain the current lighting count. Richard Gregory stated that the lighting on the Gounod side of Wagner is not included in this issue. Glen Berwick said that Richard Gregory's comments related to lights on town owned roads not local. Richard Gregory report addresses town lighting. Alex Platt the solution can be applied to SHFD owned lights as well. Glen Berwick stated that there are SHFD road intersections with few lights, Richard Gregory will investigate.
4. **Public access defibrillator**
 - a. Allen Leadbetter stated that the AED weather enclosure has been installed and awaits town inspection. National Grid will hook up electric. AED will be placed after inspections and approvals.

5. Speed bumps for Wagner Road,

- a. Tom Lloyd is in discussion with town and councilors regarding the addition of speed bumps on Wagner Road. Westerly will not allow speed bumps during winter. Next spring is earliest that action can be taken.
- b. Robert Palumbo stated that money for cameras is available. Patrick Kinney has call into insurance re: cameras and thinks that the cameras could jeopardize coverage. Patrick Kinney will advise Tom Lloyd of risk of cameras. Tom Lloyd asked Patrick Kinney to try to find out what other communities might have similar cameras. Patrick Kinney stated that the insurance coverage is difficult because of the beach and would not like to jeopardize the current insurance policy. Is additional roadway speeding signage possible? Will it make a difference?
- c. Tom Lloyd indicated that there is a line item in the budget and can the purchase can be discussed during next board meeting.

New Business:

1. Election of Vice Moderator

- a. Tom Lloyd asked for nominations, Patrick Kinney nominated Robert Palumbo. Vote of the board was unanimous approval of Robert Palumbo as Vice Moderator.

2. SHFD fire protection contract

- a. Tom Lloyd update, clause in existing contract to initiate discussion for new contract. Tom Lloyd is in touch with Dunn's operating committee. Zoom meeting with Robert Palumbo and Glen Berwick and Dunn's Corner Fire Dept. committee. Current contract is a 6 year contract. Shady Harbor and Quonnie renewed their contracts prior to SHFD. Tom Lloyd will investigate what Shady Harbor and Quonnie agreed to.

Public Comment:

1. Jim Stifel asked what roads does the town plow vs. our plowing. Tom Lloyd indicated that Westerly owns some roads; Wagner from lot 91 to route 1, Rossini to Handel, Handel to Wagner, right on Verdi to Grieg. The balance roadways are SHFD property. Jim Stifel stated that speed bumps can cause drivers to drive erratically to avoid the speed bumps. Wagner is 100' average pavement is 38'. Jim Stifel thinks speed bumps will be a serious safety issue because of property owner's improvement placements on their properties. Tom Lloyd stated that Westerly doesn't want speed bumps all across Wagner because of safety vehicle traversing the road.
2. Rochelle Levins thanked Jack Waters for the job he has done on their corner.

Having no additional Public Comment a motion to adjourn was presented by Jack Waters, Robert Palumbo seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at: 10:32 AM