

Shelter Harbor Fire District Board of Governors Meeting

Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Shelter Harbor Inn

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 2:03 P.M.. by Robert Palumbo ,Vice Moderator.
- The meeting was conducted in person.
- Board Members present : Robert Palumbo, Alex Platt, Marianne Nardone, Denise Williams, Michael McEntee and Jack Waters Absent: Patrick Kinney
- Officers present: Glen Berwick, Treasurer, Richard Gregory, Collector of Taxes & Assessor, Paul Eldridge, Clerk
- District Counsel: David Petraca
- Vice Moderator Palumbo welcomed all District residents in attendance

II. Minutes of December 11, 2021 BOG meeting -Review, Discussion and /or Vote by the Board

- The Vice Moderator asked if Board Members had reviewed the Minutes of the BOG Meeting held on Saturday, December 11, 2021. No corrections or additions were made. A motion was made by Alex Platt to accept the minutes ,seconded by Denise Williams.The motion passed 6-0.

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

A. The Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Glen Berwick reviewed the Shelter Harbor Fire District Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement as of April 30,2022.Treasurer Berwick also provided a “best estimate” projection of the amount of money which will be expensed for the remainder of the District’s fiscal year. Assuming no unexpected expenses are incurred during the remainder of the fiscal year, we should end the year with a General Fund surplus. Mr.Berwick also indicated he was preparing the District’s proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year.

- In addition to approving his report, Treasurer Berwick asked the Board to approve two other motions. First, reimbursing Rick Wiatrowski for \$489 for out of pocket expenses he incurred related to 2021 “Movie Nights”. Mr. Berwick also asked the Board to authorize adding a budget item for “Movie Nights “ in the 2023 fiscal year budget.
- Treasurer Berwick also asked the Board to authorize the reallocation of line items in the General Fund from under budget items to over budget items, primarily administrative and professional fees, community functions , security and safety. After discussing the requested actions, the Board took the following actions. First Alex Platt moved that the Board approve the Treasurer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Marianne Nardone. The BOG voted to accept the Treasurer’s report 6-0. By a motion by Denise Williams which was seconded by by Alex Platt, the Board voted to reimburse Rick Wiatrowski and add a budget item for “Movie Night” for the 2023 fiscal year. The vote was 6-0. A motion by Alex Platt which was seconded by Jack Waters was made to reallocate over budget line items to under budget ones in the General Fund. The motion was approved 6-0.
- B.Shelter Harbor Calendar of Events for 2022.
- Marianne Nardone reviewed the Calendar of Events for 2022.Two items were singled out for special attention. First, the traditional Fourth of July party and children’s games will be hosted by Ouidad and Peter Wise at Harmony Landing. Ms. Nardone also mentioned the upcoming Ladies Luncheon on June 16,2022 at the Shelter Harbor Golf Club and encouraged attendance.
- C.ByLaw Update-Joseph Rucci reviewed the change to the voting provisions of Article 2 of the Bylaws, as proposed and voted on at the annual meeting. After discussion, on a motion by Alex Platt which was seconded by Marianne Nardone the Bylaw change was approved 6-0.
- D. Tax/Assessor Report- Richard Gregory reported all real estate taxes had been collected for fiscal year 2022 except for a few thousand dollars (\$2,541)which remain outstanding.Mr Gregory also commented on the Town of Westerly proposed new assessed values for Shelter Harbor property owners. which will be used in determining both town and and SHFD real property taxes. Mr. Gregory also outlined the procedures and deadlines for contesting and appealing an increased tax assessment base on the proposed new property valuations. On a motion by Alex Platt ,seconded by Denise Williams ,the Board approved the tax report 6-0.

- E. Appointment of Community Agents.(Term Ending at the 2022 Annual Meeting)Vice Moderator Palumbo proposed the following individuals as Community Agents:

1) Bylaws: Joseph Rucci

2) Shelter Harbor Calendar of Events- Marianne Nardone:

3) Tennis-Mary DiCecco;

4) Light- Richard Gregory;

5) Public Access Defibulator Medical Program-Allen Leadbetter M.D.;

6) Small Boat Racks- Rick Wiatrowski ;

7) Harbormaster(including docks and moorings) -Richard Ferris;

8) Website-Robert Duff

On a motion by Alex Platt, which was seconded by Denise Williams, the Community Agents listed above were approved by a Board Vote 6-0.

- F. Community Agent Reports

1)-Light

Richard Gregory reported on a problem which has developed with our LED street lights in several locations in Shelter Harbor. Some residents have complained about light “trespass” from the road into their yards and bedrooms. After investigating alternative ways of ameliorating the problem, Mr. Gregory met with Prism, a nonprofit organization specializing in installing efficient LED street lights in Rhode Island.

Prism’s recommendation was to install street lights which have shielding features, which will keep the light on the street where it belongs. The new equipment can be installed at an estimated price of \$250 to \$350 per street light. The installation cost would be paid by homeowners who want the new shielding equipment.

Mr. Gregory made two recommendations for Board action. First, to solicit and review applications from SHFD residents who want the new shielding equipment installed on street lights near their homes. Second the Hark, Leadbetter, Wiatrowski, Gregory/Thorson and Carter/Morgan families propose to purchase and install shielding equipment on the street lights on the corners of Handel and Rossini and Handel/Verdi . The new equipment would be paid for by the above mentioned families at their own expense. This would allow other property owners to view the results of the shielding street lights before making their own decisions as to whether to add the shielding equipment to street lights near their home. After an extensive Board discussion, a motion was made by Alex Platt and seconded by Marianne Nardone to have Mr. Gregory prepare an email to the community explaining the problem, the proposed solution and the projected cost of adding shielding to a street light. The email would also include an application to be returned to Mr. Gregory if a resident wanted a shield added. After the deadline for submitting an application is past, there

would be a second email to see if another resident objected to shields being installed on a specific street light. The vote on the motion was 6-0 in favor.

2) Directory- In Elizabeth Miller's absence, Paul Eldridge reported the 2022 edition of the Shelter Harbor Directory is almost completed, and will be distributed on the same days as the beach passes and buttons.

3) Small Boat Racks-Paul Eldridge read Rick Wiatrowski's report. Rick indicated in his report he was checking on the racks and making repairs as needed. The new rack assignment process is going smoothly for the most part. As always, the rack spaces are in very high demand and short supply. Rick is looking to add stand up boat racks to maximize space at all locations.

4) Beach- Lauri Sweeney reported the Shelter Harbor Beach will officially open at 10 A.M. on June 18, 2022. There will be a shuttle bus this year to transport residents and their guests to the beach and back to Shelter Harbor. The beach parking lot will have an attendant on weekends and holidays.

Beach Passes and buttons will be distributed to residents on June 4, 2022 at 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. and on June 18, 2022 from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. The beach passes, buttons and Shelter Harbor Directories will be distributed both days on Harbor Field.

5) Tennis- Mary DiCecco indicated several of the rhododendron bushes planted by the tennis courts were destroyed by vandalism. Although Roland Hellwig has been able to save some of them, we need some replacement bushes. Mary indicated it would be a big help if we could put up a fence around the bushes.

There was also a brief discussion of a letter sent to the Board by Lisa Pagliarulo in favor of building a pickle ball court or adapting the existing tennis courts to play either tennis or pickle ball. Lisa's letter had a list of people who supported installing pickle ball courts in some form. Lisa's letter had cost estimates for several construction options in installing the pickle ball courts. The BOG will discuss this in more detail at our scheduled meeting on June 18, 2022.

6) Roads and vegetation- Steve Sweeney's report contained updates on the condition of the Shelter Harbor Fire District roads and vegetation encroachment which is shrinking the width of our roads. Mr Sweeney's report indicates our roads are overdue for significant repair and replacement. Mr Sweeney's report also highlighted the pedestrian safety issue posed by vegetation overgrowth.

The BOG decided to defer a detailed discussion of Mr. Sweeney's report and recommendations until its next meeting on June 18, 2022.

G. Old Business

1) Speed "Humps" Update- Alex Platt reported the speed "humps" have been installed on Wagner road. Mr. Platt indicated he hoped to put signage up at the two locations in the future. There was a discussion concerning whether more speed

“humps “ might be needed.

2) Update on the Proposed Kayak and Small Boat Launch Improvement for Grove and Point Docks- Richard Ferris updated the Board on progress made in getting a permit from the Coastal Resource Management Council (CMRC). Once this is obtained, Mr. Ferris will report back to the Board with a more detailed report on the costs to engage engineers to provide engineering options to make the improvements and the costs to be incurred.

- H. Discussion and Comments from SHFD community members

1) An email was received by the Clerk from Art Weiner asking if a zoom listen only option could be provided so community members who could not attend a Board meeting in person could listen to the meeting. Legal counsel advised there was no specific legal provision allowing this. The BOG itself must meet in person , can broadcast livestream but there is no legal provision for virtual participation. Rhode Island is currently considering legislation regarding virtual/hybrid meetings.

2) Susan Carter Morgan sent an email indicating she supported the installation of pickle ball courts but only if they could be built on the basketball court space.(it was noted that SHFD only owns 2/3 of the basketball courts.) Ms . Carter Morgan is against altering the existing tennis courts into dual use courts.

3) Rochelle Levins commented that the beach bus route should be altered. The bus should make a right turn on Grieg road off of Verdi road and go down the hill and up to Rossini road to Brahms road and then right on Wagner road. By doing this the eastern part of the Shelter Harbor would gain greater access to the bus. Ms. Levins also spoke in favor of the proposed kayak and small boat launch improvement for safety at Grove and Point docks.

4) Kathy Peterson requested the calendar of community events be posted on the website.

5) There was also a request that job descriptions for each Shelter Harbor position be posted on the website.

IV. Adjournment

Vice Moderator Palumbo 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 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15P.M.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted May 15, 2022

By Paul W. Eldridge-Clerk