

Shelter Harbor Fire District

Board of Governors Meeting

Friday January 13,2023

Quonnie Grange Hall

1)CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Moderator Patrick Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Board of Governors (“BOG”) members attending were: Bob Palumbo, Jack Waters, Marianne Nardone and Alex Platt. Absent: Denise Williams and Michael McEntee. Also attending were Treasurer Renee Davis, Tax Assessor/Collector Anne Thomas and David Petrarca, District Counsel. The meeting was conducted in person.

2)MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24,2022 MEETING (REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE)

Moderator Kinney asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes. Some minor spelling and punctuation corrections were pointed out. With these minor changes, the draft minutes were unanimously adopted by a 4-0 vote of the Board of Governors.

3) NEW BUSINESS (REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE VOTE)

At the December 11, 2021 BOG meeting Richard Ferris and Rick Wiatrowski made a proposal to install a new floating kayak, dinghy and stand-up-boards launching system at Grove Dock. The goal of this new launching system is to assist SH residents of all ages and abilities to safely use their small boats on Quonnie pond. Our existing ramp areas have historically been exposed to tide level changes that promote the growth of slippery aquatic vegetation which is treacherous to walk on as you launch or dock a small boat. A separate construction project was also to be undertaken to replace the existing swim dock which has one or possibly two years left in its useful life. These two projects were initially to be accomplished in phases. At the SHFD annual meeting on August 9,2022, the two projects were approved as part of the F/Y 2023 budget at \$!8,000 a piece or a combined expenditure of \$36,000.

As the two projects were developed during the fall of 2022, it became apparent that the most effective solution from a cost and space utilization standpoint might be to combine the two proposals. Design discussions revealed that a single enlarged dock could be used for multiple purposes by swimmers as well as users of kayaks, dinghies and stand-up- boards. This combined proposal was also projected to eliminate the persistent past storm damage to the wooden swim dock during the winter months.

The proposal to combine the two approved projects would eliminate the existing wooden swim dock when it became unrepairable. The new larger, longer swim dock would be relocated closer to the large boat area. This will isolate swimmers from large boats and motors. It will also expand the swimming area. The kayak and dinghy and stand-up- boat launches are to be attached to the proposed new swim dock. A new dry surface non -skid float ramp was also be installed as a further

safety measure.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee on November 30,2022, Richard Gregory and Denise Williams led an extended discussion regarding the proposed Grove Dock improvements. Mr. Gregory and Ms. Williams had met with three contractors and received three quotes to do the work on Grove Dock. Livia Carega made a motion seconded by Anne Thomas to hire Artisan to build the Grove Dock improvements. After further discussion the motion was tabled. Bob Palumbo referred the Grove Dock improvement project back to the Board of Governors for further clarification and direction. There were several additional open issues which needed to be addressed and decided by the BOG before the proposed combined project could move forward.

For example, do the new combined plans for Grove Dock improvements need permits before construction can begin? If they do, the cost of these permits has not been budgeted in either of the Grove Dock improvements approved by the BOG at the 2022 annual meeting. Additionally, the new integrated plan for Grove dock improvements has a ramp which was not included in either of the proposals approved at the Shelter Harbor Annual meeting. Also, funds cannot be moved from one approved project to another without going through the approval process. Finally, Grove Dock was damaged by the recent storm surge. After a spirited discussion, the BOG decided to get several quotes to repair the existing Grove Dock and to pause indefinitely the Grove swim dock replacement and the kayak, dinghy and stand-up-board launching improvements until the open questions identified by the Finance Committee can be determined and a new comprehensive plan for Grove Dock improvements can be evaluated.

4)Questions and Comments FROM the SHFD Community

Anne Thomas raised an issue about repairing the sand path from the sand road parking lot to the Shelter Harbor beach. The sand path has been badly eroded as a result of the recent storm surge. Bob Palumbo indicated we lease and did not own our beach area. Therefore, the Weekapaug Fire District would be responsible for making any repairs. Anne Thomas also noted she had sent the SHFD Board and Officers her latest Tax collection report by separate email.

5)Adjournment

As there was no additional topics for the BOG to consider, Moderator Kinney asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marianne Nardone made a motion to adjourn ,which was seconded by Alex Platt. The BOG voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted.
Paul W. Eldridge, Clerk