

Shelter Harbor Fire District Board of Governors Meeting

Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Dunns Corners Fire Department

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Patrick Kinney at 9:10 A.M. The meeting was conducted in person.

Board members present : Robert Palumbo, Alex Platt, Marianne Nardone, Denise Williams, Michael McEntee. Absent: John Waters

Others Present: Treasurer Renee Davis, Collector of Taxes and Assessor Anne Thomas, and Clerk Paul Eldridge, District Counsel David Petrarca.

Moderator Kinney welcomed all District residents to the meeting.

II. Minutes of January 13, 2023 BOG Meeting (Review, Discussion, and Possible Vote)

Moderator Kinney asked if the Board members had reviewed the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting on January 13, 2023. No corrections or additions were made. A motion was made by Alex Platt to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Marianne Nardone. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

III. New Business – (Review, Discussion and Possible Vote)-

a. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Rene Davis reviewed the Shelter Harbor Fire District Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement as of April 25, 2023. Treasurer Davis indicated we are “currently on” budget for FYE 2023 thus far. Treasurer Davis said her “best estimate” projection of the amount of money which will be spent during the remainder of FYE 2023 will be no more than \$25,000 over the FYE 2023 budget. The biggest potential expenses which would put us over budget is extra money spent on Shelter Harbor road repair. Treasurer Davis also noted the FYE 2023 Capital Budget provided for \$63,500 in expenditures on several infrastructure improvements. However, for reasons discussed at the January 13, 2023 Board Meeting we will not be spending approximately \$55,000 contained in the FYE 2023 Capital Budget. In response to a question from

Treasurer Davis, District Counsel Petrarca confirmed the Capital Budget items do not have to be spent during FYE 2023. Additionally, the Board can exercise its discretion to cover a shortfall in the operating budget

On a motion by Robert Palumbo seconded by Denise Williams, the BOG voted 5-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

- b. Assessor/Tax Collector Report-Anne Thomas indicated all but three property owners had paid their FYE 2023 taxes. Only \$2,104 still needs to still be collected. The District has collected a total of \$267,611.96 so far. Two residents appealed their assessments and obtained reductions in assessed value of a combined \$128,500. On a Motion by Alex Platt seconded by Marianne Nardone, the Tax Collector report was accepted by a vote of 5-0.
- c. Update on Pending Shoreline Access Legislation -Deming Sherman provided a written update on legislation pending in the R.I. legislature which would attempt to set a boundary line between public and private property. However, the bill passed in the R.I. House of Representatives and the one being considered in the R.I. Senate would establish the boundary line in different points on the beach. As of today, no compromise bill has been proposed
- d. Update on Grove Dock Repair- Jim Brower reported that Grove Dock was fully repaired and the bill for the repair work has been paid.
- e. Review of the 2023 edition of the Shelter Harbor Fire District Rules and Regulations for the Use of the Beach ("Beach Rules")- The new Beach Rules booklet covers a variety of subjects: 1) parking lot etiquette; 2) the need for more people to start using the beach bus and the expanded bus schedule; 3) reemphasizes the need to wear beach buttons; 4) swimming and safety regulations and a variety of other pertinent information. A new requirement for receiving 2023 beach passes will be a signed acknowledgement that residents will comply with the Beach Rules and also make sure their guests and renters understand the Beach Rules.
- f. Bylaw Update.- District Counsel Petrarca passed out copies of Article 3 of the Bylaws showing the removal of section 3(c) as approved by voters at the SHFD annual meeting in August, 2022. On a motion by Alex Platt which was seconded by Robert Palumbo, the Board ratified the Bylaw change by a vote of 5-0.
- g. Appointment of Long Term Roads Improvement Planning Committee members- The following people have agreed to

serve on this new Committee. They are: 1) Steve Sweeney, 2) Peter Wise; 3) Jim Stifel; 4) Judy Serio; 5) Robert Duff; 6) Karen Langston; 7) Robin Price. On a motion by Alex Platt seconded by Robert Palumbo. The appointment of the Committee members was approved by a 5-0 vote.

- h. Appointment of New Community Agents- The following people have agreed to serve as Community Agents : 1) Community Functions- Kate Dillon Jones; 2) Tennis - Joseph Micelli; 3) Website- Susan Carter Morgan. On a Motion by Denise Williams seconded by Robert Palumbo the Board approved the appointments by a vote of 5-0.
- i. Community Functions Announcement- Marianne Nardone reminded everyone of three early 2023 community events: 1) the new residents welcoming event will take place on June 24, 2023; 2) the Ladies' Luncheon will be held on June 29, 2023; 3) Independence Day Weekend events (including the parade) will take place on July 2, 2023, with a rain date on July 3, 2023. The Fourth of July community gathering will take place this year at Peter and Margaret Harks' house on Roscini Road.
- j. Beach Agent Report- Lauri Sweeney mentioned several updates: 1) beach pass distribution has been expanded to four dates; 2) the bus pickup route and hours of operation have been expanded; 3) the new Beach Booklet and Acknowledgement Page; 4) there will be two parking lot attendants this year and new orange parking lot dividers.
- k. Webpage Report- Bob Duff reported on the transition of Webpage responsibilities from him to Susie Carter Morgan.
- l. Directory Agent Report- Liz Miller reported she is still communicating with property owners, agents, activity/event volunteers and people included on the Services page. Liz expects the Directory to be finished soon. Liz also mentioned she would like to step down from her position after this year and would like the Board's assistance in finding a replacement.
- m. Tennis Agent Report- Mary Di Cecco reported the new court surfaces and nets weathered the winter well. The Pickleball lines were applied in October, 2022. The Rhododendron plants have been replanted.
- n. Road Agent Report- Steven Sweeney reported low hanging branches at Harbor Field were trimmed in October 2022. Snow removal was under budget because we had only snowfall requiring plowing during this past winter. Several

road repairs were made in the fall of 2022 on Bach, Brahms, Gounod and Verdi.

- o. Small Boat Racks Agent Report- Rick Wiatrowski reported the wracks are being checked and repaired as needed. Rack spaces continue to be in high demand. Rick is planning to add stand up paddle racks to maximize space at all our locations.
- p. Safety and Security Report—Alex Platt reported that Roland Helwig was installing one of the speed humps next week. There was an extended discussion of where to locate the remaining speed hump. The discussion focused on possibly around Harbor Field area that has backyards fronting Wagner Road. There was also a discussion about putting four-way stop signs on Brahms at the intersection of Wagner Road.

IV. Old Business

NONE

V. Discussion and Comments from SHFD community members

-Linda West sent a letter requesting stop signs be installed at the four way intersection of Wagner and Bach Road. Gail Mallard suggested a stop sign at the first intersection after passing the Shelter Harbor Inn. Moderator Kinney said he would try to get Town Manager Shawn Lacey to come to the next Board Meeting to discuss stop signs on Wagner Road after walking Wagner Road. Peter Nardone asked a question about liability issues with regard to the Beach Bus operations.

VI. Adjournment-Robert Palumbo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Alex Platt. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25A.M.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted May12,2023

By Paul W. Eldridge-Clerk