

SHELTER HARBOR FIRE DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M., Saturday, August 14, 2010

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

East Beach Road

Charlestown, RI

Draft Minutes

I. The Moderator called the meeting to order and a quorum was declared present.

II. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Annual Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2009, were unanimously approved.

III. The Moderator appointed Joe Rucci as Parliamentarian for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

IV. Announcements:

A. A Moment of Silence was observed in remembrance of: Mr. David Boyd; Mr. David Carter; Mr. Finn Caspersen; Mrs. Lois Leadbetter; Mr. Adger Williams.

B. The following new residents were announced: Ian and Emily Perkins, 38 Gounod Road; Tom and Christie Peters, 23 Haydn Road; Ken and Tracey Pontarelli, 105 Donizetti Road; James and Maureen Stifel, 100 Donizetti; Ray and Marnie Talamona, 8 Brahms; Jason Osborn, 51 Verdi Road; Denise Williams, 37 Gounod Road.

C. The Moderator extended thanks to Sue Nardone, Cheryl Ferris and

Jayne Staley for their work in the off-season to produce the 2010 Directory.

D. A special word of thanks was extended to Rochelle and Jim Levins for assembling and distributing the Beach Pass packets to the community.

E. The Moderator reminded the community of the Annual Beach Party on August 21, at 5:00 p.m.

F. The Moderator extended thanks to Mary Harrop, Helene Hardick, and the Community Events Committee for well-attended events, especially the July 4 parade featuring almost as many marchers as spectators. Thanks were also extended to the McEntees for the SHFD logo wear sale.

G. Thanks were also extended to the Staleys for use of their property for the community events, the adult Cocktail Party on July 23, and the Westerly Town Band Concert on August 11.

H. The Moderator thanked John Bruno for arranging the Westerly Town Band Concert.

I. Elly Heyder was thanked too for updating and managing the SHFD website. The Moderator noted the website will be utilized more to reduce mailing costs moving forward.

J. Phyllis Visnauskas and Brenda Manning were thanked for arranging the well attended, and highly successful, SHFD Ladies' Luncheon.

V. Report of the Tax Collector (on file) – Tom Lloyd reported SHFD residents approved a budget of \$190,000 last year at a rate of .98, and all taxes were collected with the exception of \$34.01. The current

grand list has been reduced \$12,590,900. In order to fund the proposed budget of \$183,900 the mil rate will have to increase to 1.01 per \$1,000 of value. The SHFD Tax Resolution was read aloud. Later in this meeting, the voters approved the SHFD Tax Resolution for the July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011, Fiscal Year (on file) and gave permission for the Tax Collector to advertise and collect taxes. Upon motion duly made and seconded the report of the Tax Collector was unanimously accepted without discussion.

VI. Report of the Treasurer – Glen Berwick presented and explained the recommended 2010 – 2011 Budget (on file and previously distributed). Upon motion duly made and seconded the SHFD voters accepted the \$183,900 Budget.

VII. Report of the Audit Committee –The Moderator extended thanks to Jack Hardick, Chair of the Audit Committee, and committee member, Steve Miller. The Audit committee examined the financial records of the SHFD for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, and found them to fairly present the financial position and results of operations at that date. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the SHFD voters approved the report.

VIII. Comments on Reports of Committees

A. Beach – Rhea Palczynski reported there was a new sign at the beach and thanked Bob Hatfield for getting it made. Rhea also thanked both Rochelle Levins for distributing the beach passes and her committee for work with the lifeguards. Moving forward until the beach closes, there will be vacancies in the lifeguards on duty, particularly at Grove Dock, as some are leaving soon for the rest of

the season.

B. Beanpot – Karen Matheson stated that volunteers are always needed and help is welcome.

C. Bylaws – Joe Rucci stated there was no activity over the past year and there is no report.

D. Community Functions –Mary Harrop thanked all the people who helped the committee and expressed special thanks to her husband, Jim, and Helene Hardick, her vice chair. Mary asked all her committee members to stand for acknowledgement. Two new events were added this year - the band concert and plant swap. Next weekend the book swap is on Bev Howland's back porch. Mary Harrop will stay on as committee chair with Helene Hardick as vice chair. A signup sheet was distributed to help with the various events of the season.

E. Harbor Master and Assistant for Dinghies and Moorings, Boat Racks – John Bruno stated that, based on the Westerly Harbor Management Committee (HMC) draft ordinance, it is not certain that our mooring field will continue to be managed by SHFD. This plan will continue to be monitored by the Harbor Master. Residents are strongly encouraged to register their moorings with John Bruno to substantiate ownership and location. The Moderator assured residents that the town plan is being monitored and the BOG will notify residents as needed. The Moderator thanked John Bruno, Steve Dreska, and Bob Hatfield for their work.

F. Finance – Mark Pratt thanked his committee and stated there was nothing new to report.

G. Roads – Jack Waters referenced the resurfacing of the roads west

of Wagner. Subject to BOG approval the roads east of Wagner are slated for resurfacing next year. Considerable money was spent on snowplowing last winter. In response to a request for sweeping the roads, Jack stated they may be swept next year depending on how they come out of the winter. Mark Pratt mentioned that the money spent on the roads was from the capital reserve and was accumulated over many years. That kept the tax rate from being increased.

H. Safety and Security – Tom Lloyd stated the lock combination at Point Dock and at the tennis courts will be changed to 3653 after the conclusion of the annual meeting. The logs at the beach have been painted with yellow lines and residents are reminded to use these as parking guidelines. Additional off-season patrol by Weekapaug Security was eliminated for the upcoming year, but the Westerly Police will still patrol roads.

I. Tennis – Helen Romano thanked her committee members and stated she didn't have anything to add from the Tennis Committee report distributed to residents and asked for any input.

IX. Actions Required of the Meeting

A. Approval of the Budget F/Y 2010-2011 – Treasurer Glen Berwick reviewed the proposed Budget. Upon motion duly made and seconded and following discussion, the SHFD voters approved the Proposed Budget F/Y 2010-2011.

B. Election of Officers F/Y 2010-2011 – Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following officers were elected by acclamation for the 2010-2011 term: Gail Mallard, Moderator; Glen Berwick, Treasurer;

Tom Lloyd, Tax Collector; Nonie Price, Clerk.

C. Elections of Members of the Board of Governors – Upon motion duly made and seconded, the SHFD elected by acclamation for three year terms: Elly Heyder and Mark Pratt. The Moderator thanked Elly and Mark for being willing to serve on the BOG. The Moderator thanked Jim Dey for making the SH Inn available for the BOG Meetings over the past year.

X. Old Business – None

XI. New Business

A. Motion No. 1 Regarding “The Forest”

This motion was proposed by Jayne Staley and seconded by Harry Staley.

The motion to name “The Forest” the “Finn M. W. Caspersen Forest” with appropriate signage was read by the Moderator. Jayne Staley explained her motion. The moderator explained the boundary lines of the 57-acre forest that had been purchased by Mr. Caspersen for the community at a very low rate some years ago with the thought it would be conserved. The primary entrance to the forest is on the corner of Gounod and Handel. Motion No. 1 was carried unanimously by voice vote.

B. Motion No. 2 Regarding Nopes Island Conservation Association

(NICA)

On behalf of the SHFD BOG, the motion was proposed by Gail Mallard and seconded by Vernona S. Price.

The Moderator read the motion to designate \$1,500.00 to the Nopes Island Conservation Association (NICA) legal efforts to preclude RIMS from having vehicular access over NICA-owned property on the Barrier Beach. She also explained the location of property owned by SHFD on either side of the Sand Trail. Richard Hosp, President of NICA, was present at the SHFD Annual Meeting to explain the properties involved in the motion. Questions, comments, and debate followed. To close debate, a call to question was duly made and seconded and passed by voice vote. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Motion No. 2 was then carried. A paper vote was requested next and taken. Motion No. 2 carried with 62 “Yes” votes and 14 “No” votes.

C. Motion No. 3 Regarding The Establishment of a Plan for Addressing Zoning Violations and Resulting Legal Expense

The motion was proposed by Harry Staley and seconded by Elliot Parkhurst.

The Moderator read the motion. Harry Staley explained, “The motion arises from litigation involving the Conservation Society and a Shelter Harbor resident concerning the subdivision of a lot into three building lots. That matter is before the Court and will be decided

there.” Mr. Staley further stated the litigation suggests other potential issues that could face the SHFD in the future, requiring the district to take some action to foresee and be prepared for them. Mr. Staley said he would be in favor of withdrawing the motion if there were a long-range planning committee to research his concerns. Discussion followed including background on the SHCS litigation, concerns about the effects on the community of subdivisions of existing lots, and questions about whether SHFD would have legal standing in zoning issues. The Moderator called on the SHFD attorney, Peter Ruggiero, to respond regarding the authority of the SHFD to involve itself in zoning issues. Mr. Ruggiero responded he couldn’t answer that question because there are two types of standing and doesn’t know the circumstances to say whether SHFD qualifies for which standing. A prepared statement of opposition to the motion was read aloud addressing concerns about the wording of the motion, that the Act of Incorporation does not give SHFD responsibility in zoning matters, and that it had potential to be a financial sinkhole.

Further questions, comment, and debate were stopped when Mark Pratt moved to table Motion No. 3, which motion was duly seconded. Before a raised-hand vote, the Moderator stated that if the motion to table Motion 3 passes, she will work with the BOG, do some committee work, and prepare a report, or a motion, for the next meeting. The Motion to table passed.

XII. Public Comment

- A. Vivian Duff commended the lifeguards this year for their work with some challenging surf conditions.**
- B. John Bruno announced that at the SHFD Beach Party Saturday, August 21st, parking will be tight, and residents may want to also use the Weekapaug Yacht Club spaces if the SHFD lot is full.**
- C. Harry Staley stated he felt the meeting was conducted too quickly and with insufficient opportunity to understand issues and express dissent.**
- D. Betty Waters suggested the SHFD might be able to have a special meeting to discuss the last motion (Motion No. 3).**
- E. Sabra Carter reminded all residents of the access to “Our Beach” across from Point Dock.**
- F. Vivian Duff stated that the last motion (Motion No. 3) should be put on the front burner.**
- G. Karen Matheson asked residents to voluntarily honor “no smoking” on the beach.**
- H. Rochelle Levins is looking into doing a pictorial history of SH and would appreciate any pictures that could be donated.**
- I. Alan Handell commended his neighbors (Bruno and Waters) for their help over the last two winters and gave thanks to the BOG.**
- J. Doug Edgar stated there have been no fisher cats.**
- K. Ed Nardone commended Steve Matheson for building the new mailbox stand on Donizetti.**
- L. A request was made to include a map of SHFD roads in the next directory.**

XIII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded the annual meeting of the SHFD was adjourned.

Recorded by:

Nonie Price, Clerk