

GUIDELINES
FOR
MASON'S
ISLAND
PROPERTY
OWNERS
AND
RENTERS

2013

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This booklet was written by many members of the MIPOA/MIFD community and is intended to provide information on a wide variety of issues regarding living on Mason's Island. The success of these guidelines is dependent upon a "good neighbor" attitude and behavior of all MIPOA residents and renters. Local Town of Stonington ordinances are sometimes referenced; they are enforceable on Mason's Island.

Included are the functions and responsibilities of the Mason's Island Fire District ("MIFD" or the "District"), the Mason's Island Property Owners Association, Inc. ("MIPOA") and the Masons Island Company ("MICO" or the "Company"). Also included is how the entities interact with each other to ensure the continued beauty and distinctiveness of our unique island community. Care has been given to offer residents direction in how to obtain information on a wide array of issues.

This general discussion of the functions and responsibilities of MIFD and MIPOA is subject in all respects to the provisions of the By-Laws of MIFD and the Certificate of Incorporation and the By-Laws of MIPOA. Copies of these documents may be obtained by going to www.mipoa.info or from the Secretary of MIPOA or the Clerk of the District. Information on both organizations boards and committees are also covered on this website along with an archive of recent seasonal newsletters and communiqués.

The annual Meetings of both MIFD and MIPOA are typically held on the Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend at the Mason's Island Yacht Club.

Further information is available at websites for:

MIPOA/MIFD www.mipoa.info

Masons Island Company www.masonsisland.com

Town of Stonington www.stonington-ct.gov

Mason's Island Fire District ("MIFD" or the "District")

MIFD is a legal municipality under the laws of the State of Connecticut. It encompasses all of the Island lying south of the gatehouse and an area just outside the gatehouse extending to the west, and north of Schoolhouse Road, as indicated on the included map. It is a part of the Town of Stonington.

MIFD levies property taxes on real estate, motor vehicles and trailers to cover costs for the following: fire protection, maintenance of roads and rights of way (which MIFD is obligated to maintain under contract with MIPOA), trash collection, maintenance of the Ice Pond, security and traffic control, flood or erosion control system, and maintenance of recreation areas. Committees appointed by the MIFD Board of Directors administer budgets and contracts for these purposes. MIFD owns the park area located near the north end of the Ice Pond.

All taxpayers owning property with an assessed value of \$1,000 or more, as well as electors of the Town of Stonington residing in the District, are eligible to vote at annual and special meetings.

Mason's Island Property Owners Association, Inc. ("MIPOA")

MIPOA is incorporated under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is a voluntary membership organization of property owners within the District. To maintain the privacy of the roads on Mason's Island, MIPOA owns the roads. All property owners are eligible and are encouraged to become members of MIPOA. To become a member, annual dues must be paid to the Treasurer of MIPOA.

MIPOA has two standing committees: the Architectural Review Committee and the Property Maintenance Committee. MIPOA may own property and roads, and has other limited purposes, but has no taxing powers.

MIPOA maintains an email list of all property owners and sends out informational emails as appropriate. The association also has a welcoming committee whose members visit new property owners with useful information concerning Mason's Island.

All members in good standing (i.e., whose dues have been paid) are eligible to vote at annual and special meetings and are encouraged to attend.

Multiple owners of a property are entitled to only one vote and owners of multiple properties have only one vote at annual and special meetings.

Masons Island Company ("MICO" or the "Company")

The Company is a family owned real estate development company and is the owner of most undeveloped property within the District. It also owns the Ice Pond, recreation areas and certain beaches and docks. The use of these facilities has been deeded to most property owners.

Fire Protection

MIFD has a contract with another local fire district for fire protection (currently it is Mystic Fire Department's B.F. Hoxie Engine Company). The fire station is within a short distance of Mason's Island and is equipped with tanker trucks. To augment the need for water, water pipes have been installed at the north and south ends of the Ice Pond, which permits fire-fighting equipment to draw fresh water (when the pond is not frozen) to fight fires up to 1,000 feet from either hydrant. The cost of fire protection is one of the largest expenditures in the MIFD budget.

Roads

With minor exception, all roads and rights of way within the District are the property of the Mason's Island Property Owners Association. The Roads

Committee (with representation by MIPOA and MIFD) is responsible for the maintenance of all roads and rights of way. The Committee also is responsible for the installation of road signs, painted lines and speed

bumps. A general contractor is hired to oversee and provide these services when needed.

Traffic Control

Although MIFD is authorized by State law to hire police officers, it has not done so. The Town of Stonington Police patrols the District.

The District's Traffic Advisory Committee is authorized to hire a Traffic Control Officer, who is stationed at the guardhouse on summer weekends and holidays, as well as other times throughout the year. The Officer's primary duty is to control traffic entering the District and limit traffic to authorized persons. The Traffic Control officer is not a police officer and does not have the power of arrest. Any infractions of the law should be reported directly to the Stonington Police, not to the Traffic Control Officer.

Anyone without a Mason's Island decal on their vehicle is required to give their name and destination to the Traffic Control Officer at the guardhouse. To better enable the Traffic Control Officer to recognize residents at the main gate, residents should display a Mason's Island decal on the driver's side windshield of their vehicles. Decals may be obtained from MIFD's Traffic Advisory Chairperson or their designated representative(s). When residents sell or trade-in their cars, they are asked to remove the decal in order to prevent access to the Island by non-residents who buy their old cars. Residents are also requested to leave the names of guests visiting during duty hours with the Traffic Control Officer.

THE SPEED LIMIT ON ALL ROADS WITHIN THE DISTRICT IS 25 MPH.

However, the narrow and curvy nature of some of the Island's roads frequently requires slower speeds.

No unregistered motor vehicles of any type may be operated on roads within the District*. Only persons with a valid operator's license may drive on the roads.

Overnight parking on roads is prohibited including the pavement and unpaved shoulder on either side.

Although the roads are private, all Town of Stonington and State of Connecticut motor vehicle laws and regulations apply and are enforced.

There are no sidewalks on the Island. Pedestrians are required by state law to walk facing oncoming traffic. Bicycles are required to go with traffic. Please wear reflective material and carry flashlights after dark.

*Exception Golf Carts, Club Carts, Vespas (see next section)

Golf Carts, Club Cars, Scooters, Mopeds, and Pocket Bikes

Golf carts, Club Carts and similar vehicles are unregistered vehicles and are allowed to be operated within Mason's Island Fire District since our roads have speed limits of 25 mph or below. Consistent with state law, the minimum requirements for operation are:

- The operator MUST carry his or her valid Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license while operating such vehicle. NO UNLICENSED OPERATOR IS PERMITTED TO DRIVE THE VEHICLE WITHIN MASON'S ISLAND FIRE DISTRICT.
- Each vehicle shall be equipped with an operable horn.
- Each vehicle shall be equipped with a flag that is positioned to assist operators of motor vehicles in observing the location and operation of such vehicle.
- Operation is limited to daylight hours only.
- No authorization shall be granted for operation on any street or highway where the posted speed limit is more than 25 miles per hour.
- Any person who operates a vehicle in violation of these requirements, or the violation of any insurance requirement, or any other conditions or limitations outlined above shall be asked to no longer operate the vehicle.

"Motor Driven Cycles" (i.e. scooters, mopeds and pocket bikes) with engine capacities less than 50 cubic centimeters with seat height of at least 26 inches are not required to be registered. They should be driven solely by someone holding a valid driver's license.

Pocket or Rocket Bikes look like mini-motorcycles and have seat heights under 26 inches. A driver's license, registration or title is not required to operate pocket or rocket bikes. However, these are NOT allowed on Mason's Island roads since they are considered too small to be driven safely. They are allowed only on private property (not MIPOA roads!).

ATVs, 3 wheeled vehicles and Go Carts are NOT allowed on Mason's Island roads.

Trash Collection

The Town requires that residents separate recyclables from other trash. Special instructions for recycling are available at the Town of Stonington web page www.stonington-ct.gov and going to "Solid Waste and Recycling" under the Town Departments. Stonington currently uses single stream recycling with nothing needed to be sorted in the standard blue recycling bin.

Rubbish and non-recyclables, exclusive of household hazardous waste, must be placed in Yellow Municipal Plastic Bags, which can be purchased at local supermarkets and other stores. Fees from the sale of yellow rubbish bags pay for the cost of disposal. This "Pay by the Bag Program" is discussed further on the Town of Stonington web site.

A private company under contract to the Town of Stonington handles rubbish collection. Collection is generally made early on Thursday mornings (Friday, if Thursday is a holiday). The collector picks up all yellow bags and recyclables at each house. Residents are encouraged to avoid placing their trash on the roadside. However, residents will need to tell the collectors where to find their refuse (i.e. inside a basement door, garage or shed). If

you have any problems or questions, contact the District Chairperson for Refuse.

MIFD receives numerous comments from residents whose neighbors leave trash and recyclables containers by the road or in full view overnight or longer. Residents are asked to put away promptly all trash and recycling containers. Residents who expect to be away on collection day are encouraged to ask a neighbor to place these objects out of sight.

The Stonington Transfer Station accepts all other refuse, including bulky waste such as furniture, mattresses, appliances, TVs, computer monitors, leaves, yard waste and other items for recycling. Reusable items such as household furnishings, books, and other products can be dropped off at the Reusable Shed at the Transfer Station. For current fees and hours of operation call the Transfer Station (860-535-5088).

Items classified as Household Hazardous Waste are identified on the Town of Stonington website. The communities in Southeastern Connecticut schedule several days each year when they accept Household Hazardous Waste at various collection points. To find out the date and location of the next Hazardous Waste collection call the Stonington Solid Waste Office (860-535-5099).

PODS, Dumpsters and Other Storage Containers on Properties

While we understand the need for PODs (Portable On Demand Storage), Dumpsters, or other Storage Containers on properties during building and renovations, property owners are asked to minimize their use and inform MIPOA's Property Maintenance Committee Chairperson of the approximate duration for such equipment. This addresses the concerns neighbors have expressed about the process and timeline of removal.

Parks, Ponds, Beaches and Recreation Areas

All park and recreation areas are either the property of the Company or the District, and are maintained and operated by the District. In addition to the defined areas, there is a five-foot wide footpath right of way around the shores of the Ice Pond and across private properties for the use of property owners. The District maintains this path. Skating on the pond is at the risk of the individual, parent or guardian.

NOTE: The small pond on the south side of the causeway by the Ice Pond is owned by adjoining property owners and does not have a right of way around it.

In 1995 the Company and The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc. entered into a conservation easement which prohibits development on a 46.5 acre tract of land abutting the east side of the Great Salt Marsh, including 17.5 acres of marsh land. Residents of the District are permitted to walk along trails and paths on this land and to enjoy the beauty of the woods and marsh.

The Company owns several beaches. Most of these areas are open for use and enjoyment. One issue that becomes troublesome is when people are trying to enjoy the area and dogs are left loose to romp in the water or freely roam the beach and rocks. This is particularly a concern when the beach is small (i.e. at the end of Skiff Lane). The animal owner may not understand how this adversely affects others. In order to allow enjoyment of these areas without adverse conditions, we will have the following guideline at the beach at the end of Skiff Lane: No dogs are allowed on the beach between May 1 and the day after Labor Day between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Docks and Mooring Areas

Designated docks and waterfront areas within the District are the property of the Masons Island Company. Certain property owners are given the right in their deeds to use such docks pursuant to the fees and regulations set by

the Company. There is also access to the water at the end of all MIFD roads that lead to the water's edge.

The Company's docks are located at Allyn's Alley, at the foot of Plover Lane, at the end of East Forest Road, and at the bulkheads in Poggy Bay and the Great Salt Marsh. The Company permits residents to dock small boats and rents outhaul space to residents on a seasonal basis. It is the responsibility of the boat owner to provide and properly maintain appropriate dock lines, outhauls, blocks and ladders. Residents interested in dock space or outhauls should contact Masons Island Company. Small boats, dinghies and kayaks may be stored at Allyn's Alley beach upon application to the Company for a permit.

Swimming beaches are not to be used for boat storage. A condition of the dock permit issued to the Company by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection prohibits storage or placement of boats on marsh areas.

There are official mooring areas off the east and southwest sides of the Island as shown on U.S. Coastal Charts. In 1995, a comprehensive harbor management plan was approved by the voters of the Town of Stonington which, among other things, sets specifications for moorings and ground tackle and grants authority to the Harbor Master to (1) assign mooring locations, (2) issue mooring permits, (3) collect an annual fee of \$10 per mooring and (4) remove illegally placed moorings. It is the responsibility of boat owners to frequently check their ground tackle and mooring pennants for chafe and wear. Please note that the waters of the Town of Stonington, including the Mystic River, are a "no discharge" area. Application for a Mooring Permit is made to the Masons Island Harbor Master. This form is available at www.masonsisland.com/dock_mooring_forms.htm

Waters around Mason's Island

New slow/no wake regulations were passed by the Connecticut State Legislature for the Mystic River in 2012. The new slow/no wake zone with

its 6 MPH restriction consists of two specific areas. Area 1 is located between the entrance to the Mystic Harbor and Red Navigation Buoy No.22. The entrance to Mystic Harbor is defined in detail in the Connecticut Boater's Guide as a line beginning at the southernmost tip of Mouse Island along the north shore of Ram Island to the southernmost tip of Mason Point. Area 2 extends from Red Navigation Buoy "26" northward to Green Navigation Buoy "53". These areas will be marked with floating signs provided by the DEEP. The area between Navigational Buoy "22" to Navigational Buoy "26" maintains the original no wake designation with speed restrictions within the proximity of other boats and docks. The intention is to allow the performance trial runs for engine maintenance. The harbor master and local police will still enforce issues of safety and damaging wakes in this area.

The *Connecticut Boater's Guide* published each year by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is a digest of boating laws and regulations: Part One – Mandatory Boating Education and Certification; Part Two – Registration; Part Three- Safety Equipment Information; Part Four – Boating and Environment Awareness; Part Five – Boating Regulations; Part Six – Boat Launch Information & Digest of Local Regulations; Part Seven – Rules of the Road and Navigation; Part Eight – Safety Information.

For more information contact the Mystic River Harbor Master or the Mason's Island Harbor Master.

Shooting and Trapping

State Law prohibits the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling or place of public gathering. This applies to the water as well as the land. In addition, the Company strictly prohibits the discharge of firearms, setting of traps, or any use of a bow and arrow on any of its property without its written permission and a State Hunting Permit. Infractions of these rules should be reported to the Stonington Police.

Animals: Roaming Dogs, Rabies

Roaming dogs are a nuisance and generate a considerable number of complaints by residents. Under State Law all dogs are required to be kept on a leash when off its owner's property. Complaints about roaming dogs should be made directly to the Stonington Dog Warden or the Stonington Police Animal Control Officer. Upon receiving a complaint, the Dog Warden will take a loose dog to the pound at Greenhaven Road. The owner can retrieve the dog by paying a redemption fee. Redemption fees escalate significantly for subsequent infractions.

Barking should be controlled to avoid disturbing others. Residents who are sufficiently disturbed by barking dogs can notify the Dog Warden. Excessive barking is treated as a nuisance under Stonington laws and owners are subject to fines. Subsequent violations are treated as misdemeanors and require a court appearance.

One common complaint is barking of dogs left unattended while the owner leaves the premises. MIPOA strongly recommends neighborly conversation with the offending dog's owner if a problem arises. Many times the offending dog's owner is not aware that this occurs during their absence.

Dogs are not allowed on the grounds of the Mason's Island Yacht Club at any time.

Dog owners are also subject to substantial fines for failure to maintain a dog's current license, and for failure to maintain a current rabies certificate, and for biting.

Many residents and visitors to the Island have dogs, and dog waste has become a considerable nuisance and health hazard. There is a Town ordinance regarding animal waste. The Town of Stonington has a "pooper scooper" ordinance, which requires dog owners to pick up after their pets

and imposes a fine of \$35.00 per occurrence for failure to do so. **PLEASE CARRY A BAG TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**

Raccoons, skunks and other nocturnal animals may be rabid. The appearance of these animals in daylight is a likely sign of rabies, and the Police should be called immediately. Animal bites, when the skin is broken, should be referred to the Stonington Health Officer or a physician.

Lyme Disease

Like many coastal communities, Masons Island has been a prime habitat for deer ticks, the carriers of debilitating and deadly diseases such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and babesiosis. The Mason's Island Fire District (MIFD) Board of Directors has been very proactive in tackling this problem and has developed a Lyme Disease Prevention Program designed to protect our residents from tick borne illness to the extent possible. The Program encourages universal tick control by providing residents with tick control options attractive to constituents based on effectiveness, affordability and ecological neutrality.

In addition to our annual tick control program, MIFD has further participated in multiple scientific studies in conjunction with The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, The CT Department of Environmental Protection, and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station to further develop tick control programs and to evaluate their effectiveness.

These studies have been implemented in conjunction with tick scientists from across the country including Dr. Kirby Stafford, Vice Director and Chief Entomologist with the CT Department of Entomology and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Thomas Mather, the Director of the URI Center for Vector Borne Diseases and Dr. Mat Pound, Research Entomologist for the Knippling-Bushland US Livestock Insects Research Laboratory out of Kerry Texas.

We continue to research the entire issue of Tick Control with the goal of developing the best possible community-wide program. Specifics on the MIFD Lyme Disease Prevention Program and the latest available results from ongoing scientific studies are available on the MIPOA website www.mipoa.info under the Lyme Disease Prevention link. The website is updated annually in May.

As Mason's Island residents, you are encouraged to actively participate in the MIFD Lyme Disease Prevention Program as well as take personal precautions to protect yourself and your family as well as your pets from all tick borne illnesses. Good tick management techniques include the following:

- Wear protective clothing, and shower after working outside.
- Treat pets with tick control products.
- Check yourselves, your children and your pets frequently for ticks and tick bites.
- Eliminate tick habitats from your properties by removing leaves, brush and debris.
- Keep areas under bird feeders clean.
- Refrain from feeding deer.

House Construction

Before a new building or addition is undertaken, it is recommended that the Owner and/or Architect meet with the Town's Planning & Zoning and Building Officials to understand the many Code related issues that, among other things, affect setbacks, septic systems, access and height. In addition, the requirements of the Owner's Land Deed should be reviewed and Masons Island Company deed restrictions understood and adhered to. It is the responsibility of property owners to obtain all necessary permits regarding construction from the Town of Stonington.

Architectural Review

MIPOA's Architectural Review Committee seeks to preserve the aesthetic charm and natural beauty of Mason's Island. To this end, its function is to recommend approval or disapproval of new construction and changes to existing property, including additions, modifications, outbuildings and fences. The Architectural Review Committee considers the suitability of new construction to its lot, the immediate neighborhood and the community. For this reason each building is considered individually. The style of a house is secondary to pleasing proportions and suitability to the site. It is important to know that the Committee has no enforcement power; it serves in an advisory role to homeowners and the Company. All property owners are encouraged to discuss their plans with the Architectural Review Committee.

When property owners decide to build a new house or remodel an existing one, they should obtain a copy of the detailed guidelines for building in the District. This information is available from the Company or the Chair of the Architectural Review Committee. The deeds for most properties within MIPOA's boundaries provide that any construction plans be drawn by a registered architect and be approved by the Company. Owners of such properties are required to submit preliminary plans to the Company for approval. Preliminary plans are reviewed by the Company and by the Architectural Review Committee. The Committee submits its recommendations regarding such plans in writing to the Company and the Company in turn will provide written approval or disapproval to the property owners.

Although both the Company and the Committee endeavor to move quickly, review of construction plans can take a week or two in the best of circumstances. Disagreements are generally resolved through discussion between the owners, Company representatives and the Committee Chair, but inevitably consume additional time. Property owners should take this process into consideration when planning their projects.

Property Maintenance

MIPOA's Property Maintenance Committee has established guidelines to encourage District property owners to maintain the appearance of their houses and grounds to a standard appropriate for the area. It also facilitates dialogues between property owners and conducts other activities to help accomplish its goals. Property owners who believe they have a grievance are expected to address their issues directly with their neighbors as the first step and, the Board believes, best route to problem resolution. If this approach fails to produce acceptable results, MIPOA, upon request, stands ready to clarify.

The Property Maintenance guidelines are:

1. NOISE

- Loud, disturbing and excessive noise is not allowed before 6:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and before 8:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. Clotheslines are not to be visible from neighbors' properties or roads.
- Construction and renovation projects are limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Use of power lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws and similar equipment are to be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If possible, please limit noise on Sundays.
- While many of the water sports (i.e. kayaking and sailing) are typically quiet and slow, Jet Skis, Personal Watercraft and Sea Doos are completely the opposite. While we appreciate the diversity and endless fun on the water, excessive noise is something that remains a distraction from our tranquil environment. Limited use of jet skis near our shores would be greatly appreciated.

2. Garage Sales, Estate Sales, Tag Sales and similar sales are prohibited.
3. Posting of ALL SIGNS is prohibited, including but not limited to realtors' "open house" and "for sale" signs, workmen's signs (builders, renovators, painters, roofers, etc.) and political advertising.
4. PROPERTY APPEARANCE
 - Reasonable property appearance, landscaping maintenance and neatness of grounds are to be sustained.
 - Raked leaves should be kept from blowing onto neighbor's property
 - Sometimes material (i.e. telephone books) is left by the mailboxes as a means of distribution. We understand why it has been done; however, if these items are not claimed within one week of their distribution, we would suggest removing them.
5. Landscaping overgrowth should not block neighbors' views. Property owners are reminded that as neighbors' views become obscured, enjoyment of their properties may diminish and property values may be adversely affected. Property owners are advised to document by photograph and written description their views (in each season) as soon as possible after acquiring their property as the basis from which to address matters involving future maintenance of those views.

A provision in many deeds permits the Masons Island Company to enter those properties for the purpose of pruning trees and bushes in a reasonable manner to maintain views from adjoining properties. The deed provisions also require Company approval for plantings along road lines.

Property owners are encouraged to contact the Company when planning landscaping projects. From time to time the Company clears the rights of way and the roadsides. Please contact the Company if you have a request regarding maintenance of a particular location.

When dealing with disagreements between neighbors regarding view maintenance, the Committee and the Company will always attempt to strike a balance between view maintenance and privacy concerns. The Chair of the Committee will advise all parties in writing as to the suggested course of action.

6. Effective January 1, 2013, Senate bill, SB440 addresses the application of fertilizers containing phosphorus on established lawns. Property owners are strongly encouraged to make every effort to minimize use of chemicals on their lawns, trees, yard plantings and gardens. Most pesticides are harmful to the environment, and chemical fertilizer run-offs accelerate the growth of undesirable algae in the Ice Pond and the ocean.
7. Boats over 20 feet in length, house trailers, recreation vehicles, tractors and backhoes, farm equipment, business vehicles and inoperable autos are not to be stored on properties. The Board recommends that all boats and trailers be stored in garages or boat yards or a commercial storage facility. If boats of less than 20 feet in length are stored outside, the Board recommends they be stored off the road and out of sight from neighbors to the extent possible and that their covers be of dark green or brown (not bright blue or white).
8. Exterior house lights should not shine into neighbors' windows or create any unnecessary glare. If possible, use a timer and be mindful of your neighbors wanting to enjoy the evening skies without the glare of lights.
9. It is nice to feel that leaving a bike or wagon unattended for hours is safe on Mason's Island. Items should be labeled and identified with the owner's name. When items are left for extended periods of time, it is very helpful to know to whom the item belongs.

Property Owners Issues Regarding MIPOA Roads and Rights of Way

If a Property Owner has an issue with a MIPOA Road or Right of Way, please address the concern with a member of the Roads Committee.

Documenting the concern in writing with photos will be extremely helpful. Once received, the roads committee will review it. There is a "triage" system for addressing issues, with emergency issues having the highest priority.

Rentals

Mason's Island is a desirable area for rentals. The peace and tranquility of the area, particularly its perfect locale on the water in the summer, are all valuable amenities for renting your property. However, one of the major conflicts to rentals is the need for the renters to know the guidelines and respect the community atmosphere. Therefore, it is important for all landlords to provide a copy of **Guidelines for Mason's Island Renters'** brochure and/or these guidelines to their renters (regardless of length of stay).

The Gatehouse

MIPOA has jurisdiction over the posting of any notice on the Gatehouse. Individual notices by MIFD, MIYC, and MIPOA can be posted for a limited time. Notices of special interest, for example Mason's Island Yacht Club events or missing animals, may be posted with approval from MIPOA. Once their purpose has been served, all notices should be promptly removed by the individual who posted them.

Emergency Preparedness Tips

We should all have a basic emergency plan that can be used for any emergency. The three basic preparedness steps: Get a Kit, Make a Plan, and Stay Informed.

There is Information at the Town of Stonington web page www.stonington-ct.gov in the “Emergency Management” section with information about Disaster Management, Hurricane Preparedness, American Red Cross, etc. The State of Connecticut’s Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection also offer help at <http://www.ct.gov/despp>.

At times we lose electricity, and it is imperative for everyone to contact Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) at phone number 1-800-286-2000 to be included on its list. Even during times of massive outages do not assume CL&P is aware of the situation; we have learned from experience that having more residents report outages will get us higher on CL&P’s list for attention. Downed wires and poles are safety hazards and must be reported as emergency situations. In the case of downed wires, please call 911 in addition to CL&P to report the problem as a life threatening situation. Today’s power lines carry significantly higher voltage than those of the past and electrocution is a serious concern. Do not assume wires are dead or attempt to move them, and stay away as the ground may be charged.

Donna’s Garden

Donna’s Garden was initiated in the fall of 2010, it is located on the west side of the gate house and measures 100 feet by 100 feet.

The land is owned by Masons Island Company and together with many generous gifts and donations the garden continues to improve year after year. The garden is for the sole use of MIYC and MIPOA members and as such you are invited to share in its harvest and bounty as well as weed, water and supply plants. The garden is divided in to 10 plots with each plot assigned to a named plot leader. Please see the notice board on the Garden Shed for more details.

Mason’s Island Yacht Club (www.masonslandyachtclub.com)

The Mason's Island Yacht Club (MIYC) is located on the southeastern end of Masons Island. Founded in 1928, MIYC is a private family oriented club that provides social and athletic events for its members and guests. Athletics include instructional and competitive programs in sailing, swimming, tennis, and bocce

Most MIYC programs are held in the summer months but the Club is open throughout the year.

Please obey the stop signs at each entrance to the property and watch for children at all times.

Membership in MIYC is by sponsorship. All property owners within the boundaries of the Club are eligible for Active membership or summer privilege. July, August, or full Summer Privilege memberships are available to immediate family members of current members and to renters of property within the MIPOA.

St. Edmund’s Retreat (www.endersisland.com) St. Edmunds’s Retreat is located on Enders Island which is connected to Mason’s Island by a short causeway south of MIYC. The Edmundite Brothers have the deeded right to operate a retreat for priests and novitiates on Enders Island, although they have expanded their efforts to include certain substance abuse programs. Residents of Mason’s Island are invited to enjoy the grounds of Enders Island.

