

**Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting**  
**Masons Island Yacht Club**  
**September 8, 2020**

**Attending:** Ethan Tower, David Krupp, Bill Taylor, Kristin Foster, John Parry, Tom Flaherty, Scott Parry, Lee Hisle, Tom Cooke, Rufus Allyn, and Alex Ellison. President Ethan Tower called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was present.

**New Business: Pond Survey – Martha Ficke:** By consensus of the Directors, this item was moved to the beginning of the agenda. Ms. Ficke reported that SOLitude will identify options for treating the ice pond and provide a cost estimate for the options. The firm is expected to do a survey of the pond in October. The Board discussed investigating a “bubbling” technology that might provide a lower cost approach to treatment of the pond. It also discussed the possibility of finding potential alternatives to SOLitude.

**Clerk's Report:** M/S/P approving the minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting.

**President's Report – Ethan Tower:**

(1) Emergency Calls – Ethan reported that for July and August there were eleven emergency calls, half of which were EMT calls. Of the remaining calls, one was a CO2 issue and one was a gas leak.

(2) Traffic Report – (i) Traffic Control Data: Ethan noted that the traffic records reflect similar results over time: 25% visitors to Enders Island, 50% residents and 25% visitors of residents. Weekends continue to see heavier traffic with more turnarounds and more visitors. Traffic is also highest on nice days – Saturdays with good weather saw the highest numbers. Discussion ensued about the possibility of extending the guard service through October. It was noted that last year, a previously approved extension of the guard schedule was dropped due to low traffic. The Board agreed to watch the September traffic numbers to see if traffic volume would fall off and to make a decision later this month via e-mail about extending the guard schedule. Discussion ensued concerning the effectiveness of the new white signs and “no trespassing” signs installed in the district. (ii) Refusals to Stop: The Board was informed that an individual who had repeatedly driven past the guardhouse without stopping and at a fast speed has slowed down. A discussion ensued concerning potential modifications to the guardhouse to make the guard more visible to drivers and to improve the guard's view of oncoming traffic. (iii) Sticker Inventory: Board members noted that the stickers should have a solid background for easier identification. Discussion ensued regarding MIPOA's role with respect to the stickers. This led to a discussion about adding a MIPOA board member “observer” to MIFD meetings,

and similarly a MIFD “observer” to MIPOA meetings for better coordination. Scott Parry expressed a willingness to attend MIPOA meetings and Ethan Tower said he would discuss the concept with Betsy Lebel. (iv) Improvements for 2021 – While there were no issues for decision, Ethan indicated that he was putting together a “Safety Committee” to consider potential safety improvements.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bill Taylor provided the MIFD Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020, the MIFD 2020-2021 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report and a corresponding report for the prior fiscal year. He noted that \$33,844.27 had been added to the Roads Reserve bringing the Roads Reserve fund to \$74,743. He added that for the prior fiscal year, expenses were 10% below budget. At this point, only four property owners have not paid their taxes for an outstanding amount of \$4,300. He added that one half of the fire department expenses have been paid and that MIFD is expecting a bill for \$7,900 for the new street posts. A discussion concerning the disposition of the old street posts ensued.

**Unfinished Business:**

- (1) **Shoreline Erosion – Kristin Foster:** Kristin Foster identified the members of the working group for this issue which includes Jim McAuley, Rufus Allyn, Bill Pryor, and Rob Christian. She then reported on a site visit by DEEP to discuss the erosion of the shoreline by Chippechaug north of the Allyn’s Alley dock. DEEP identified two potential approaches: an “upland landscape” approach using “upland plantings” between the shore and the road utilizing shrubs, rocks, etc. The second approach was a “soft” shoreline project which would require the support of the Army Corps of Engineers. This approach would essentially amount to rebuilding the marsh with rolls of wire matting, grasses, rocks, and plantings. A discussion ensued concerning the feasibility of the two approaches, MIPOA’s role in the process, the use of engineering firms, possible financial support from FEMA and looking for other potential funding sources.
- (2) **Street Signs – Lee Hisle:** Lee Hisle reported that 13 signposts remain to be installed. He explained that installation of the signposts required a heavy stone slurry as gravel would not hold the signposts in place. A discussion ensued concerning the visibility of the lettering on the signposts.
- (3) **Traffic Control Signs – Ethan Tower:** The Board discussed the transition from the orange signs to the new white signs reading “no public recreation.” There will be no further changes to signage for this year. A discussion ensued concerning the efficacy of “do not enter” signs.
- (4) **Future of Old South Road – Rufus Allyn:** Rufus informed the Board that a sale of Old South Road to MIPOA was not moving forward at this time. He noted that the road was

drivable in the event of a real emergency and that, given the designation of the land, there would be pushback on any major improvements to the property.

(5) **Report of the Committee on Traffic Volume – John Parry:** John reported that we are still waiting for approval of the report by MIPOA and noted that it is on their agenda.

(6) **Contract with Mystic Fire District – Scott Parry and John Parry:** Scott and John provided information about their contract discussion with the Mystic Fire Department (MFD). Under the contract, MFD provides fire protection and emergency response services to residents within the boundaries of MIFD. The MFD is seeking two significant changes: (1) removing a price cap in the current agreement and changing the contract price to reflect the current price; and (2) reducing the notification period for contract price changes from 90 days to 45 days. The MIFD Board discussed the potential problems of the reduced notice period in the face of statutorily mandated deadlines for MIFD. Scott and John concluded that MFD would be sending a proposed revised contract.

(7) **Appointments – Ethan Tower:** Ethan has had discussion with MIPOA President Betsy Lebel about establishing a joint Safety and Security Committee. Ethan is waiting to hear from Betsy and had nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

(1) **Pond Survey – Martha Ficke:** This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

**MIFD Meeting Calendar:**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 5:30 pm at the Masons Island Yacht Club.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:01 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cooke