

Mason's Island Fire District Meeting
January 12, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Teleconference
Minutes of Meeting

This was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom with public access provided through live streaming on the MIFD Facebook page. This is a public page that can be accessed with or without a Facebook account using the following link: https://www.facebook.com/Masons-Island-Fire-District-108125314222221/?view_public_for=108125314222221

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm. The following Board members were in attendance: Ethan Tower, Thomas Cooke, Thomas Flaherty, David Krupp, Kristin Foster, Scott Parry, John Parry, William Taylor, and Lee Hisle. Alex Ellison joined the meeting at 6:00 PM. Rufus Allyn was not in attendance.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

There were no additions, deletions, or changes to the agenda. Scott Parry commented that his wife Priscilla had run into the contractor who provided the new street signs and they discussed that the signs on Great Marsh and Heron appeared to be left justified instead of center justified. The contractor stated that she should tell Lee Hisle that he would replace them at no cost. Lee and Scott will review the signposts in question.

3. Approval/Correction of Previous Minutes

a. Motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2020

Tom Cooke indicated that the version presented included revisions from Bill Taylor. Tom Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes advised, Bill Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. President's Report – Ethan Tower

a. Emergency Calls – 3 for December; 21 for the fiscal year

Ethan reported that of the 3 calls in December, 2 were kitchen fires. He confirmed that there have been 21 calls so far for the fiscal year.

b. Traffic Counters – MIPOA has offered them to MIFD

Ethan reported that MIPOA President Betsy Lebel has offered the traffic counters to MIPOA. A discussion ensued concerning the possible uses of the counters, including determination of the extent of usage by Enders Island traffic for a potential request for contributions from Enders Island for road maintenance. Kristin Foster has agreed to store the counters for possible future use. MIFD agreed to take custody of the counters.

5. Treasurer's Report – Bill Taylor

Referring to his transmittal email for the Balance Sheet and the MIFD Income Statement, Bill noted that fees to Pacheco in the amount of \$2,295 for drainage work

was reallocated to Drainage from the Trees & Brush account, leaving a balance in the Trees & Brush account of \$4,600. Bill added that funds in the amount of \$13,800 were transferred from the Roads Reserve to pay for the new street signs. Bill noted that \$10,000 was transferred from the P&L to the Catastrophe Reserve Fund which is now up to \$34,681. Finally, Bill stated that he has received the bill from the Mystic Fire Department for the second half of coverage provided by MFD. He will pay the bill shortly.

Bill reported that the Garvey Steele review has been completed and that he will be picking up the bound hard copies.

Alex Ellison, who joined the meeting at 6:00 supplemented Bill's information with a report that MIFD is \$374.42 short of our Total Collectible goal. The shortfall is due to two delinquent accounts from 2019.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Shore Line Erosion – Kristin Foster

Kristin reported that Bill Pryor had arranged for a training presentation to the Shoreline Committee by James O'Donnell, CIRCA Director at UConn. The session addressed risks presented by sea level rise and options to improve resiliency and protect the roads. Kristin added that O'Donnell will be doing a site visit as well.

Kristin reviewed the trifold approach to protecting the road for sea rise, including: (1) protecting the existing land – she noted that the distance from the shoreline to Chippechaug Trail recently decreased from 37 feet to less than 34 feet – by creating a raised berm with salt water-tolerant plants halfway between the shoreline and the road. Julia Parry supplied a plant resource guide by R. Scott Warren, retired emeritus from CT College for this although complaints about loss of view might result from this approach; (2) beefing up the marsh itself, which would require finding engineers knowledgeable about plants that might be used to create a "living shoreline." and (3) long term solutions such as raising the level of the road. This would require a significant increase in the Roads Reserve. Kristin noted that all solutions, with the possible exception of the berm approach, are anticipated to cost in excess of \$150,000. Discussion about the viability of different approaches, including the effectiveness of a berm in the face of rising waters and the pros and cons of concrete walls. Other approaches, including structures designed to break up wave patterns, were also discussed.

Recognizing that time is of the essence, the Shoreline Committee will try to have cost estimates for different approaches for consideration at MIFD's March meeting.

b. Pond Committee – Chris Ficke / Martha Ficke

The Fickes were not available for the meeting. The current goal is to sort out what The Pond Committee will recommend for the budget. Dredging the north end and the south east corner of the pond will cost approximately \$100,000. Other options include installation of a “bubbler” and/or continuation with the algicide treatment. Discussion ensued about what MIFD’s obligations are and what the right course of action is, particularly when the Masons Island Company is the owner of the pond.

c. Tick Tax – Jean Anderson / John Parry

i. Deferred until February

d. Committee on Traffic Volume – John Parry

- i. Report posted for comment. Hearing in April.** John Parry confirmed that no further comments have been received concerning the report which was posted on-line for review by residents.

e. Traffic Control – Ethan Tower

- i. Guardhouse windows have been improved.** Ethan noted that Rufus Allyn had work done on the windows which can now be fully opened so that drivers will see that there is a guard present. Ethan discussed improving the stool for guards for both comfort and visibility. He added that the signs approved at the last meeting are on their way.

Ethan will be contacting ACE Security in connection with establishing a contract for services this summer. He noted that the experience with the guards assigned in 2020 was good.

f. Vehicle Stickers – Ethan Tower

- i. Green on white, numbered, semi-permanent (not static cling).** Ethan stated that we have run out of the red stickers and that new stickers are needed. The Board discussed use of dark green stickers against a white background so that they can be seen. Residents with red stickers will not be immediately required to replace the red stickers with green ones – the green stickers will be phased in over time. Discussion ensued concerning whether to number the stickers and whether a form should be used for requesting stickers. Ethan, who is currently handling the stickers, stated that it would not be difficult to track numbered stickers and that he believes the form is a good idea. The Board agreed to move forward with the purchase of numbered green stickers.

g. Drainage – Ethan Tower

- i. Japanese Barberry behind Anderson’s house on Money Point.** Ethan reported that Rufus Allyn is in touch with landscapers to get advice about how to handle the Barberry. He noted that the berm installed in front of

the Reichart's property appeared to be helping. Scott Parry noted that with heavy rains, water was getting behind the berm and that it probably needs to be extended further. Ethan noted that he would alert Rufus to the situation.

h. Roads Committee – Tom Flaherty

Ethan noted that MIPOA should be represented on the Committee along with Rufus and Tom Flaherty (representing MIFD) in accordance with agreements made at the time of the road transfers. Tom Flaherty agreed to reach out to MIPOA. Ethan added that MIFD would need recommendations from the Committee by March in connection with putting the budget together.

i. Nominating Committee – Kristin Foster / Scott Parry

Kristin and Scott reported that Fred Lebel, Jenny Milne, and Dexter Murphy have agreed to serve as the three non-Board resident members of the Nominating Committee. They will reach out to members whose terms are expiring as well as potential new board members to determine a slate of candidates.

j. Appointments – Ethan Tower

- i. Traffic Control: TBD.** Ethan will look for a Traffic Control person in the Spring.

7. New Business

a. Request for “Slow/Caution” sign for intersection of Anchor Lane, Nauyaug Point, and Nauyaug North – Ethan Tower.

Ethan reported receiving a concern that traffic moving North on Nauyaug Point and onto Nauyaug North is often moving very fast. Kristin, who lives on Anchor Lane, confirms this, and added that there are significant line of sight issues because of brush on several properties. A discussion ensued concerning whether a slow/caution sign or a stop sign was advisable. Ethan indicated that the situation would be reviewed and that neighbors with plants blocking line of sight would be contacted and that he would discuss a stop sign for Anchor/Nauyaug North with Rufus Allyn.

- b. Drainage on Yacht Club Rd – Kristin Foster.** Kristin noted that water draining down from the intersection of Huckle Berry Lane and Yacht Club Road was pooling and freezing by the speed bump near the area frequently used for parking by tennis players. Ethan noted that this had not been a problem prior to the resurfacing of the road. Discussion ensued concerning possible approaches to correcting the problem. Ethan will follow up on the issue with Rufus Allyn.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9 at 5:30PM

9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.