

Mason's Island Fire District Meeting
February 9, 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 5:33 pm. The following Board members were in attendance: Ethan Tower, Thomas Cooke, Thomas Flaherty, Scott Parry, John Parry, William Taylor, Lee Hisle, and Rufus Allyn. David Krupp, Kristin Foster, and Alex Ellison were not in attendance. Chris Ficke joined the meeting on behalf of the Pond Committee.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

There were no additions, deletions, or changes to the agenda.

3. Approval/Correction of Previous Minutes

a. Motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2021

Bill Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Lee Hisle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. President's Report – Ethan Tower

a. Emergency Calls – 2 for January; 23 for the fiscal year

Ethan reported that according to the Mystic Fire Department, there were 2 calls in February, both kitchen fires. There have been 23 calls for the fiscal year.

5. Treasurer's Report – Bill Taylor

Bill reported that the accountant has been paid \$2,500 for the annual review. The snow plowing budget is based on fixed pricing and has been paid in full (leaving \$.13 in the budget). Recent expenditures of \$1,496 include payments for the new signs to be installed in the spring, and \$642 for new stickers. Payments to the Mystic Fire Department have also been completed for the year.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Pond Committee – Chris Ficke

Ethan stated that Chris Ficke was likely to join the meeting late and this item was held in abeyance.

b. Tick Tax – Jean Anderson / John Parry

John Parry, on behalf of himself, Jean Anderson, and Mary McAuley, stated that they believe it is important for make the Tick Management Program part of the

MIFD budget in order to ensure its continued success. The current voluntary program is extremely labor intensive and runs the risk of losing participants and endangering the island's "herd immunity." The program would continue to apply to personal property owners and would offer a choice of two vendors at a projected cost of approximately \$35,000. This reflects the \$25,000 currently being spent by property owners on the Program and would also include property owners who either use their own vendors for tick treatment or do nothing at all. Property owners currently participating in the program would be "grandfathered" so that their most recent choice of vendors would be continued.

John asked Board members to submit any further thoughts and recommendations so that a formal recommendation can be presented to the Board at its March meeting. John, Jean, and Mary recommend an informational meeting be held for property owners in late April, approximately one month prior to the Annual Meeting. The meeting could also include other Board initiatives, such as the traffic safety report and its recommendations.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating incentives for residents to choose an environmentally safe product. John indicated that recent studies have shown that these products are more effective than previously believed. The Board agreed to wait and see what choices are being made by property owners before further pursuing this issue. There was also a discussion about the notice required from contractors prior to spraying.

c. Shore Line Erosion – Kristin Foster

Kristin, who was not available, sent a "Shoreline committee update" which is attached. Ethan noted that the committee's goal was to have estimates for different approaches to the erosion on Chippechaug Trail by the March meeting.

Pond Committee, cont'd – Chris Ficke

With the arrival of Chris Ficke, the Board resumed discussion of the status of the pond. Chris stated that the Committee was getting estimates for cleaning up the north end of the pond, noting that there is equipment that could conceivably reach out 40 to 50 feet for excavating. He added that excavating and dredging are the two options at this point. While Chris does not yet have an estimate in hand, he expects that costs will exceed \$100,000. He asked that MIFD cancel the SOLitude algicide contract so that the funds could be used for other projects, such as installation, operation, and maintenance of a bubbler. Ethan stated that he would get in touch with SOLitude.

The survey showed a greater build-up of silt in the north end of the pond (8" to 12") versus the middle of the pond (4"). Rufus noted that the spring feeding the pond is located in the north. A discussion ensued concerning the status of

MIPOA's initiative to purchase the pond, the costs associated with cleaning the pond and the existence of several projects (including the tick tax and shoreline erosion) competing for funds. Ethan noted that all of these projects will need to be presented to property owners for discussion. The Board urged the Pond Committee to have a recommendation prepared for MIFD's March meeting.

d. Committee on Traffic Volume – John Parry

- i. Report posted for comment. Hearing in April.** John Parry confirmed that there still have been no further comments on the report which was posted on-line for review by residents. He noted that the plan is to present the project to property owners at a hearing in April.

e. Traffic Control – Ethan Tower

- i. Remaining budget will allow coverage for last 2 weekends in April, first 2 weekends in May, 7 days starting May 15.** Ethan confirmed the information as presented in the agenda item. There was some discussion about the possibility of monitoring traffic volume and further discussion about whether 7 days a week is necessary in May. The Board agreed to collect data for comparison with last year's numbers. Ethan noted that the 7-day schedule allowed the guards to become familiar with regular resident traffic and added that he would get in touch with Ace about scheduling.
- ii. Request for signs at the intersection of Anchor Lane, Nauyaug Point, and Nauyaug North.** After reviewing the location, Ethan reported that a stop sign will be installed at the intersection of Anchor Lane, Nauyaug Point and Nauyaug North on the north-bound side at Nauyaug North. The Board expressed gratitude to the Fickes who removed some brush on their property to allow for better visibility. There was additional discussion about the addition of speed limit signs as well. Rufus agreed to get estimates on the installation of stop signs.

f. Vehicle Stickers – Ethan Tower

- i. New stickers are available; application form has been posted.** Ethan confirmed the information presented in the agenda item. Discussion ensued about creating a deadline for switching from the old red stickers to the new green ones.

g. Drainage – Ethan Tower

- i. Japanese Barberry behind Anderson's house on Money Point.** Rufus spoke with landscapers about how best to get rid of the Japanese Barberry and reported that the only effective solution is to dig it out. The land in question belongs to Mason's Island Company, which will not pay the costs of removal.

- ii. **Drainage on Yacht Club Road - \$7500 estimate.** Ethan confirmed the information as presented in the agenda item. The plan is to put the amount in next year's budget. Work can begin when the roads thaw.

h. Roads Committee – Tom Flaherty

Tom Flaherty reported that the review of the roads will take place after the weather has improved. He noted that the Yacht Club drainage issue previously discussed will be included in the report. It was noted that the work done in conjunction with the installation of new water lines and hydrants has left most roads in the island in good condition. Rufus added that there are areas that will require crack sealing.

i. Nominating Committee – Kristin Foster / Scott Parry

Scott reported that the Nominating Committee was presenting Bart Chamberlain as the candidate to replace Lee Hisle whose term expires this year. A brief discussion followed concerning the process for approval of candidates.

j. Appointments – Ethan Tower

- i. **Traffic Control Representative: TBD.** Ethan plans to identify a Traffic Control Representative during the Spring.

7. New Business

- a. **Request for signs at the Nauyaug Point Beach – Ethan Tower.** Ethan received a complaint from residents concerning the identification on the web of "Nauyaug Coast" as a tourist destination. Discussion ensued concerning the website and what steps, if any, could be taken to have misleading information removed. Board members pointed out that the location in question is rocky with no real access. Board members agreed to look into the matter.
- b. **Website Administrator – Ethan Tower.** Ethan reported that MIPOA and MIFD are looking for a website administrator to help with the posting of information on the joint website. No recommendations were made at this time.

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

9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.