

**Masons Island Fire District Meeting**  
**July 13, 2021 – 5:30 PM**  
**Masons Island Yacht Club**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

1. **Call to Order:** MIFD President Ethan Tower called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. Board Members Bart Chamberlain, Tom Cooke, Tom Flaherty, Kristin Foster, David Krupp, John Parry, Scott Parry, and William Taylor (Treasurer) were in attendance. Roads Manager Rufus Allyn and Tax Collector Liaison Alex Ellison were also present.
2. **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes:** Section 4.b.i.1. was corrected to reflect that Tom Cooke's term will not conclude at the end of the year, and that John Parry's term will be ending at the end of the current year.
3. **Approval/Correction of Previous Minutes**
  - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting of June 8, 2021 as presented to the Board. The motion was approved.
4. **President's Report – Ethan Tower**
  - a. **Emergency Calls:** Ethan reported that there were 5 emergency calls for June, bringing the total to 36 for the fiscal year.
  - b. **Appointments**
    - i. **Nominating Committee: Scott Parry / Kristin Foster:** Scott and Kristin agreed to continue serving on the Nominating Committee. With respect to MIFD, terms will be ending for Bill Taylor, David Krupp, and John Parry.
    - ii. **Shoreline Protection Committee: Kristin Foster.** Kristin will continue to serve on the Shoreline Protection Committee.
    - iii. **Roads Committee:** Tom Flaherty will continue to serve on the Roads Committee.
    - iv. **Tick Committee:** Jean Anderson will continue to serve on the Tick Committee as will John Parry.
    - v. **Ordinances & Permits:** John Parry agreed to serve on the Ordinances & Permits Committee.
    - vi. **Traffic Control:** Ethan reported that he is continuing to look for volunteers for Traffic Control.
5. **Treasurer's Report – Bill Taylor:** Bill reviewed the Profit & Loss statement for 2020-2021, noting that bills were still being submitted for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, including bills for tree trimming and mowing. He noted that he had received bills for Pond Maintenance from the Pond Committee for expenses which were not approved by the Board. He pointed out that Board approval will be required for pond expenses, and discussion ensued concerning the purchase of chemicals for treatment of the pond, which the Board voted to discontinue earlier in the last fiscal year.

Bill stated that he expected to transfer additional funds to the Reserve Fund for Roads once all of the bills are in and he can finalize a number for the year-end surplus.

Bill proceeded to review the 2021-2022 Profit & Loss statement, noting that funds have been added to the Road Improvement Projects line (in the amount of \$5,000). He also pointed to activity in the "Insurance" and "Property Tax on Parks" line items.

## 6. Committee Reports

a. **Tick Committee – Jean Anderson:** On behalf of the Committee, John Parry reported that the Committee will begin work on a communication plan for circulation in December 2021 or January 2022. He stated that Lydia Herd has requested relocation of the four-poster (deer tick mitigation) on the conservation property adjacent to her property. The four-poster attracts coyotes and Lydia is concerned that her dogs are suffering from diseases as a result of contact with coyote feces. The Tick Committee is hoping to relocate the four-poster somewhere else in the conservancy.

b. **Shoreline Protection Committee – Kristin Foster:** Kristin stated that GZA should have the deposit in hand and should begin work on the engineering feasibility study shortly. Receipt of the final plan is anticipated in November. She reported that she has asked GZA to list MIFD as a named insured on the insurance covering the project.

Kristin added that there was a site visit with Juliana Barrett, UCONN Seagrass at Avery Point, who provided information on salt plants for the marsh such as switch grass and American beach grass. Switch grass is recommended to secure the upland soil to be planted in the grass area. American Beach grass is suggested for planting in the sand "new beach area" above the high tide line. The plantings are intended to stabilize the shoreline. Kristin is looking for sources for the plantings.

c. **Committee on Traffic Volume – John Parry:** John noted that the new speed limit signs still need to be installed. Rufus asked for a list of locations and John responded that Rufus should replace the old ones currently in place. He added that the 10 mph signs at either end of the Yacht Club are already in position. Rufus indicated that he would contact contractors about the cost of installing bases for moveable signs with a maximum of 3 signs.

Rufus added that a resident was putting up cones blocking the right of way on Plover Road. Rufus has moved the cones noting that people have the right to park along Plover.

### d. Traffic Control – Ethan Tower

i. **New "Dead End" Signs – "Dead End / No Turnaround":** Ethan presented the results of the on-line vote of Board members in connection with the potential removal and replacement of existing signs, in addition to the possible location/relocation of "Dead End – No Turn Around" signs at

locations providing drivers the opportunity to turn around before proceeding. During discussion on the issue of signs, the Board agreed to remove existing “Dead End” signs. It further agreed to find appropriate locations on roads which dead end which would give drivers the opportunity to turn around, and discussion about appropriate locations ensued. Members of the Board expressed support for the proposed redesign which limited the content to “Dead End/No Turnaround.”

Tom Cooke made a motion to add a sign on Chippechaug directing traffic to Enders Island to turn left at the intersection. The motion was seconded. After discussion by the Board, including input from the Roads Manager, the Board passed the motion.

- e. **Roads Committee – Tom Flaherty:** Tom reported on conversations with residents about the proposed paving of Crossover Road and indicated that the proposal would have more support in the future.

Tom added that the proposed changes to Yacht Club Road would take the contractor about 2 weeks to complete.

Rufus noted that a new sinkhole had appeared on Chippechaug and that he was arranging for a repair. He also noted that utilities, including conduits 600 feet in length, were being installed on Great Marsh Road. The additional utilities would not be paid for by the Fire District. Finally, Rufus reported that crack sealing would be completed in September.

Kristin Foster asked that a white line be painted on Nauyaug where the new stop sign was recently installed.

## 7. Unfinished Business

### a. Issues Raised at the Annual Meeting

- i. **Speed Limit Sign for Andrews:** The Board confirmed its decision at the prior meeting that a speed limit sign is not required for Andrews Road.
- ii. **Dead End Sign for Osprey:** Ethan reported on his conversation with residents on Osprey. Based on the information provided, the Board concluded that there was not sufficient traffic on Osprey to warrant a dead end sign. The Board noted that it would continue to make decisions about signs based upon a clear need, and that individual requests without more information are not sufficient for adding or removing signage.
- iii. **Send an Email when Something Is Posted to the Website:** The Board confirmed its decision at the prior meeting that emails should be sent in connection with special items (such as the Annual Minutes, Committee Reports, and other informational postings).
- iv. **Add a One-Way Sign and/or Speed Bump to Bayberry.**
  - 1. **“Single Lane – No Thru Traffic”.** Ethan provided information based on his discussion with residents living on Bayberry. Based

on the information provided the Board was supportive of adding signage on Bayberry.

**8. New Business**

- a. **Contact information on website:** The Board agreed to the removal of individual Board Member contact information due to concerns about misuse. The generic email will remain which gives residents and others a means of contacting the Board.

**9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14 at 5:30PM**

**10. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Cooke - Secretary