

**Masons Island Fire District Meeting
October 19, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Masons Island Yacht Club
Minutes of Meeting**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by President Ethan Tower. Board members Tom Cooke (Secretary), Bill Taylor (Treasurer), Bart Chamberlain, Kristin Foster, Scott Parry, and Roads Manager Rufus Allyn were present. Jean Anderson (Tick Committee) and resident David Ludwig were also present. Board members Dave Krupp, John Parry, and Tax Collector Liaison Alex Ellison were not present.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

There were no deletions from the Agenda. The order of the Agenda was amended to place the Tick Committee report from Jean Anderson between the President's Report and the Treasurer's Report. Two items were added to the agenda, including a discussion of potentially filling the Board vacancy created by Tom Flaherty's relocation, and a request from the Lebel's to purchase property from MIFD which is adjacent to their property.

3. Approval/Correction of Previous Minutes

a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2021.

The minutes for the September 14, 2021 meeting as presented were approved without modification.

4. President's Report – Ethan Tower

a. Emergency Calls – 6 for September; 21 for the fiscal year.

Ethan confirmed a total of 6 emergency calls during September.

b. Appointments

i. Traffic Control: Scott Parry

Scott has agreed to take on the Traffic Control duties.

ii. Roads Committee: Ethan Tower

Ethan confirmed that the Nominating Committee will need to recommend a Board member to serve on the Roads Committee. Rufus commented that the drainage project for Yacht Club Road by the tennis court will take place in December. He added that minor paving work remains to be done and that it will be completed prior to December.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Tick Committee – Jean Anderson

Jean confirmed that the SeaScape and BioTech have agreed to continue providing tick control services. Jean has negotiated a sliding fee scale that will

reduce the cost per household as the number of participating households increase.

Jean stated that a sign-up email will be sent to residents in November. Participating residents will be asked to pick their preferred vendor, and the choice of vendor will be used in future years unless a change in vendor is requested by the resident. Future communications will remind residents that they have the option of changing vendors. As the program is now included in the MIFD budget residents will not need to send checks as in the past. Residents will have until December 31 to indicate their participation and choice of vendor, which will facilitate beginning the program earlier in the spring than in past years. The email will be sent to the MIPOA mailing list. Jean will follow up with residents who have not responded by December 31st.

Jean noted that the Yacht Club and vacant lots are not covered by the program. The Community Garden, which receives the botanical treatment, is covered, and was included in the budget. Jean added that it would be helpful to have an updated list of residents to include new residents.

Finally, Jean stated that the 4-poster previously on the Herd's property needs to be moved. After discussion, Rufus Allyn agreed to placement of the 4-poster on Old South Road.

New Masons Island resident David Ludwig was present for the meeting and expressed interest in participating on the Tick Committee in the future.

6. Treasurer's Report – Bill Taylor

Bill reported that an additional \$2,064 in property tax revenues had been received putting MIFD at 100.7% of its property tax budget. Additional bills for clearing trees and brush in the amount of \$3,500 brings line item 51120 to \$9,202.50 to date. Additional costs include payment of \$513 to fund the erosion study, \$8,100 for crack sealing and \$3,800 for tick prevention supplies. Bill added that the purchase of carp for the pond amounted to \$612. Other expenses included \$162 for the PO Box and \$754 for the switchgrass plantings along Chippechaug.

7. Committee Reports

a. Shoreline Protection Committee – Kristin Foster

Kristin stated that the switchgrass will be planted on Chippechaug by volunteers this coming Friday. White flags denote the 30 locations where the grass will be planted. Rocks will not be used. Kristin explained that the land in question is identified as "vulnerable land" (within 2 feet of high tide) and that, as a result, any changes to the land must be approved by the Town of Stonington according to Candy Palmer, liaison for the planning and zoning board. Adjacent landowners had expressed concern about the use of rocks for erosion mitigation. In the absence of any written support from DEEP in connection with their suggestion to add rocks, and in the face of potential unexpected "flash back" with

unanticipated consequences to the area, we will not proceed with rocks. MIPOA has approved the use of the switchgrass as the planting area is on MIPOA land.

Discussion ensued concerning the maintenance of the switchgrass. Rufus will speak with Pacheco to ensure that the grass is not accidentally mowed. There will be no in-water planting as MIPOA does not own anything beyond the high tide mark.

b. Traffic Control – Ethan Tower

i. See traffic control reports for 2020 and 2021

Ethan reviewed the traffic control reports for 2020 and 2021 to date.

c. Roads Committee – Ethan Tower

Ethan stated that the only significant activity on the roads is the plan to address the Yacht Club Road drainage issue which is scheduled for December.

d. Nominating Committee – Scott Parry / Kristin Foster

Scott and Kristin informed the Board that Bill Taylor has agreed to serve another three-year term and will continue as Treasurer for one additional year. With Tom Flaherty's move off-island, the Nominating Committee was asked to find a potential Board member who would also head the Roads Committee.

8. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New Business

a. Snowstorm Letter – stakes, mailbox damage, contact person (Rufus)

Ethan will prepare a letter to residents concerning snow plowing during the winter identifying Rufus as the contact person for plowing and describing the guidelines for when plowing will occur (which is after 2 inches of snow has fallen). In addition to providing MIFD's mailbox policy, the letter will encourage residents to install orange stakes identifying the edge of the road.

b. Meeting time – move from 5:30 to 7:00?

The Board agreed to move the meeting start time from 5:30 to 6:15 to accommodate the work schedule of one of the Board members.

c. Label property purchase request

The Lebel's have asked MIFD to consider selling them property owned by MIFD adjacent to the Lebel's property. The Board understood that the Lebel's are hoping to expand the building footprint on their current property. In order to do so in accordance with Town of Stonington zoning regulations, they would need either a variance or a larger property parcel. The Board expressed concern that there was no precedent for selling MIFD-owned property and noted that MIPOA recently chose not to sell property in its ownership. A Board member will

communicate the Board's concerns to the Lebel's and recommend that they first try to obtain a variance for their contemplated project.

d. Tom Flaherty replacement on Board and Road Committee

With Tom Flaherty's move off-island, the Nominating Committee was asked to find a potential Board member who would also head the Roads Committee.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9 at 5:30PM

As noted above, the next meeting will take place at 6:15 PM.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Cooke II - Secretary