

**Masons Island Fire District Special Meeting  
November 9 – 6:15 PM  
Masons Island Yacht Club  
Minutes of Meeting**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Ethan Tower. Board members Tom Cooke (Secretary), Bill Taylor (Treasurer), Kristin Foster, David Krupp, John Parry, and Scott Parry were present. Board member Bart Chamberlain, Roads Manager Rufus Allyn, and Tax Collector Liaison Alex Ellison were not present.

**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 October 19, 2021.**

Item 4.b.ii. of the October 19, 2021 of the Minutes presented to the Board was amended as follows: "Ethan has agreed to represent MIFD on the Roads Committee for the remainder of the year." With that amendment, the Minutes were approved by the Board.

**4. President's Report – Ethan Tower**

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

Ethan confirmed a total of 2 emergency calls in October.

**5. Treasurer's Report – Bill Taylor**

Bill reported that MIFD received another property tax payment from the Town of Stonington which has not yet cleared. Recent bills received include \$1,500 for striping the roads, \$492 for four poster feed, the final Ace Security bill for 2021, and \$754 for coastal plantings. Payments made since the last meeting include payment of \$850 for Errors & Omissions insurance. Bill also provided a printout of the check register for the period beginning on October 1 to the present. Bill added that MIFD is only over on one line item which is for signs (51181) in the amount of \$1,000. This was anticipated and will be covered by other funds. Bill concluded by advising the Board that MIFD's records have been provided to the accountant for review.

**6. Committee Reports:**

**a. Tick Committee – Jean Anderson**

John Parry reported on behalf of the Tick Committee that an email was sent out last week to residents requesting that they complete and submit the Tick Program Document for selection of tick prevention services and information about any tick-borne diseases during 2021. He reported that 20 forms have been received to date. The Tick Committee is working with Dave Ludwig to bring him up to speed on Tick Committee duties. Ten residents without email addresses

were added to the list. John also reported that a reminder email would be sent in December.

**b. Shoreline Protection Committee – Kristin Foster**

Kristin reported that the planting of switchgrass on Chippechaug Trail was completed on October 22 with 19 volunteers participating. The entire project only took 1 hour. A data sheet has been prepared based on 11 points along the shoreline at Chippechaug has been prepared to track erosion. She noted that Town of Stonington First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough will be coming to inspect the erosion site. Kristin invited Board members to join participate in the inspection. Kristin added that Fenwick was spending funds to eradicate phragmites which is an invasive species, and which is pushing out native species. Phragmites is not as durable a species in the face of potential erosion. Kristin reported that GZA anticipated providing a report by the end of November although there may be a delay. She expressed the hope that the report will address raising the road. Discussion ensued concerning the potential for governmental assistance if access to the island is compromised. Discussion included the availability of grants to towns with plans to address the impacts of global warming. The Board discussed opportunities to establish relationships with Town of Stonington officials and committees.

**c. Traffic Control – Scott Parry**

Scott has taken on responsibilities for traffic control. He had nothing further to report at this time.

**d. Roads Committee – Ethan Tower**

Ethan stated that the Yacht Club Road drainage issue will be addressed in December. He noted that work on Great Marsh Rd. will include redoing the drain line while utilities are being completed. He added that a surveyor may be necessary to clarify property lines on Nauyaug Point Road. The Board discussed the emergency access road and its maintenance.

**e. Nominating Committee – Scott Parry / Kristin Foster**

The Board discussed as a priority the replacement of Tom Flaherty who resigned from the MIFD when he moved off-island for the balance of Tom's term. Scott and Kristin are in the process of reaching out to residents.

**7. Unfinished Business**

- a. **Board Vacancy** This item was addressed in 6.e. above.

**8. New Business**

**a. Fishing Ban for the Pond**

A concern was raised that the carp placed in the pond might be depleted by people fishing in the pond. Discussion ensued concerning whether the carp, which are herbivores, would be at risk of being caught. The Board concluded that

no action need be taken at this time, and that the matter would be revisited in the Spring.

**b. Holiday Party**

In view of continued concerns about COVID and social gatherings, the Board decided to postpone a party until the Spring.

**9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 14 at 6:15 PM**

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Cooke II - Secretary