

**Masons Island Fire District Meeting
February 15, 2022 – 6:15 PM
Masons Island Yacht Club**

Minutes of Meeting

1. Call to Order

MIFD President Ethan Tower called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm. Board Members present included Mr. Tower, William Taylor (Treasurer), Thomas Cooke (Secretary), Catherine Deichmann, Kristin Foster, David Krupp, John Parry, and Scott Parry. Board Members absent included Bart Chamberlain. Other absences included Roads Manager Rufus Allyn and Tax Collector Liaison Alex Ellison.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

There were no Agenda additions, deletions, or changes.

3. Approval/Correction of Previous Minutes

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

A motion to approve the minutes from December 14, 2021, as presented to the Board was made, seconded, and unanimously passed. The January 2022 meeting was cancelled.

4. President's Report – Ethan Tower

a. Emergency Calls – 1 for December and 2 for January; 30 for the fiscal year.

Ethan confirmed that there was 1 Emergency Call in December and that there were 2 Emergency Calls for January bringing the total for the fiscal year to 30.

5. Treasurer's Report – Bill Taylor

Bill reported that MIFD received an additional \$17.96 from the Town of Stonington taking total taxes collected to \$1,928 over budget for the year to date. The second Mystic Fire Department installment of \$24,492.50 has been paid. The last installment to Allied Snow in the amount of \$2,662 was paid as well. Discussion ensued concerning Allied Snow's bill of \$4,400 for 32 additional hours based on a snow fall estimated by Allied Snow in excess

of 15 inches. The Board requested that Ethan speak to Rufus Allyn about the bill, and that Allied Snow provide the basis for their snow fall estimate.

a. All budget requests due by March 1.

Ethan stressed that budget requests should be submitted prior to March 1, including but not limited to a proposed budget for roads and for potential costs associated with plans to address the shoreline erosion issue on Chippechaug Lane.

b. Review budget at March meeting; vote at the April meeting.

As noted in the Agenda the plan is to review proposed budgets at the March meeting and to adopt a budget proposal at the April meeting.

6. Committee Reports

a. Tick Committee – Jean Anderson / John Parry

John informed the Board that the Tick Committee has completed its work for the upcoming tick season, and that Ethan has signed contracts with the two service providers. 75% of eligible residences signed up for the program – an increase over last year. Funds in the amount of \$28,539 will be sent to the vendors (which does not include common areas). This is approximately \$7,000 under budget. John also noted that Seascape’s charges will increase in 2023.

b. Shoreline Protection Committee – Kristin Foster

Kristin stated that she received the “final” feasibility study from GZA earlier today and that she has not had time to review it. She informed the Board that some of the Committee members had visited Conn College where they are starting a “reef ball” project, as the college is facing an erosion problem like the one faced on Chippechaug. She stated that thirty-eight reef balls have been made. The balls have holes which allow water to pass through. Waves are break up as they brush across the balls, and sediment builds up behind the balls. It took Conn College a year to get approval from DEEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. Conn College is seeking a grant for a larger project. Estimates are that it will take 5 years to build up sediment behind the balls. The total cost to Conn College for the balls and permitting was approximately \$10,000. Costs were reduced through student volunteer labor and would be higher otherwise. The college started the project 3 years ago. Discussion ensued concerning the possible use of reef balls on the Chippechaug

site, including discussion of making the reef balls using the college's frames.

i. Grant applications.

The task force submitted a grant application jointly with the town of Stonington seeking \$34,500 in funding for a permit-ready design for a living shoreline. MIFD will know if the grant is approved by late May (hopefully by the annual meeting). This NFWF grant, called the Emergency Coastal Resiliency Fund does not require matching funds. An application to the Long Island Futures Fund is being considered. This would require a 25% match.

ii. GZA Final Report.

GZA's recommended alternative has a price range of \$270,000 to \$360,000 including permitting, installation, and a 25% contingency. Discussion ensued concerning the installation of a berm. GZA will provide a berm plan to the Town for review. Further discussion ensued concerning the use of reef balls, questions about other potential engineers (such as the engineers working for Enders Island).

c. Traffic Control – Scott Parry

i. Continue with the same plan as last year.

Scott had nothing to report. Ethan suggested that we start planning a schedule for this year.

d. Roads Committee – Ethan Tower

i. Paving of Crossover.

Scott noted that one resident previously opposed to the paving is now in favor of it. Discussion ensued concerning whether there are any issues with run-off if the project moves forward. Ethan will talk to Rufus about drainage. Ethan noted that Rufus is interested in doing a drainage project on Money Point Rd. in front of Melinda Carlisle's house. These issues will be covered in March.

e. Nominating Committee – Scott Parry / Kristin Foster

Scott and Kristin reviewed a list of potential candidates for the Board, including potential candidates interested in taking on the Treasurer

position. The Committee will continue its search and report back with potential candidates. The Board agreed that it would be useful to have position descriptions for the President, Treasurer, and Secretary/Clerk positions.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

Board members raised the possibility of seeking other candidates for fire control services for the purpose of controlling costs. It was noted that this is not an issue for this year.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15 at 6:15PM

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Cooke, Secretary