

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting
August 19, 2025 – 5:31 PM
Mason's Island Yacht Club**

1. Call to Order

- a. President Scott Parry called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. Board members Kevin Riley (Vice President), Ricardo Kleinbaum (Clerk), Bill Taylor (Tax Collector) Catherine Deichmann, Tom Giola, Jeff Miceli, and Nancy Taylor Ross were present. Also attending were Tick Committee rep. Dave Ludwig, Lou Allyn (MICO), Barry Saluk, and Bob Domurat (MIPOA Roads Rep.). Board members Ethan Tower (Vice President) and Kristin Foster were absent.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

- a. New Business –
 - i. Discussion of the presence of glass debris on the streets associated with the biweekly recycling program. (Kristin/Tom G.)
 - ii. Comments on MIPOA draft announcement; website upgrade plans. (Ricardo)

3. Approval of Previous Minutes –

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 2025 monthly meeting minutes with one formatting change (addition of Sloped Rock Revetement paragraph) in the Living Shoreline Protection section. The motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ethan Tower (not present)

- a. Scott and Nancy noted no material items related to the monthly and fiscal year end financials Ethan circulated before the

meeting. Ethan had cited that year-end results were very close to projections presented at the May 2025 annual meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a. Fire & Safety Committee – Jeff Miceli

- i. Jeff noted 2 incidents in June and 8 incidents in July. The June events included a deck barbecue (“building”) fire on Seagull Lane. Jeff stated that he was alerted by Ricardo that the fire engine companies were unaware of fire hydrant locations. The Board discussed the need to enhance knowledge of fire hydrant locations with the dispatch center, the Mystic Fire Dept, and local residents. Jeff noted he would follow up to source a map with fire hydrant locations. The July events included multiple false alarms and two downed power lines.
- ii. Jeff plans to identify a new contact at the Quiambaug Fire Dept.
- iii. Jeff reported that the Emergency Protocol “rollout” will take place shortly after Labor Day. Board members encouraged holding a public meeting in the near future. Jeff recommended moving forward with the purchase of “higher end” radios to reach the Town communications center.

b. Tick Committee – Dave Ludwig, Fran Hoffman (absent)

- i. Dave discussed the timing for application of the second and final seasonal bifenthrin (synthetic tick) treatment. After a short discussion, the Board agreed to schedule the application in late October/early November and notify homeowners.
- ii. Dave added that the deer feeders will be operational in early September, and that he is finalizing a new vendor contract with an approximate increase of \$3/week for

each of the four stations. (10 treatments in the fall, 12 in the spring, according to Dave.)

- iii. Jeff and Dave noted their ongoing research, incorporating URI and Connecticut Ag Station, input on the appropriate protocol for the 2026 treatment program.

c. Living Shoreline Road Protection – Kristin Foster (not present)

- i. Board members reviewed Kristin's report circulated before the meeting. The document detailed news that the Town of Stonington was not invited to submit a full proposal for a National Coastal Resiliency Fund grant, as well as Mason's Island Company's (MICO) recent decision to withdraw permit applications to the Stonington's Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) for a Coastal Area Management (C&M) review, and to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Lou Allyn notified P&Z that the engineer's design might harm MICO's revetement and dock, and also withdrew consent for the DEEP application, reversing MICO's written consent for land use in January and email permission to continue with permitting on May 16, 2025, according to Kristin's email. She also noted that the third permit (US Army Corps of Engineers) remains pending, however, three permits are needed for execution of the Shoreline Protection project addressing erosion.
- ii. Scott noted that Rob Christian has offered to take another aerial photograph of the cove. He also sought Board consent on spending up to \$350 for additional switch grass bushes and plants to be planted at the end of next month. There were no objections.

d. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann

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- i. Catherine commented on the June and July gate house traffic reports circulated before the meeting. Turnarounds for both months totaled 1,229 underscoring the effectiveness of guard control, according to Catherine.
- ii. Catherine noted that sticker requests are up about 30% over the same period last year due to increased vehicle purchases on tariff concerns and the need for replacement of aged older stickers.

e. Nominating Committee – Catherine Deichmann

- i. Catherine indicated that three Board position terms end at the end of the current 2025/26 fiscal year (Jeff Miceli, Scott Parry, and Ethan Tower). She requested these directors advise the Committee over the next few months of their intentions for future service.

f. Facilities Committee – Tom Giola, Bob Domurat

- i. Tom summarized recent interactions with lawn maintenance and tree vendors. He noted that Pacheco has provided a detailed mowing map (included in the August Facilities Report) and supplied an updated insurance certificate.
- ii. Tom and Bob are seeking an alternative tree repair vendor. They cited plans to remove dead trees on Schoolhouse and Nauyaug Point Rd, and trimming of oaks on Chippechaug. A quote from a new vendor recommended by Pacheco has been requested, according to Tom.
- iii. Tom updated the Board on the previously reported drainage issue from several homes on Money Point Rd. He detailed three options to either mitigate or remedy the longstanding problems: 1) create new surface low points to redirect the water across the road (est. \$50K); 2) raise the road and create a new low point with a new catch

basin (est. \$105K) or 3) edge the grass on the shoulder and thus lower the road grade (est. \$4,200). Tom recommended option 1. He and Scott agreed that the next step would be to secure a proposal from an engineer design firm (approx. \$1,200) for the first option listed above.

- iv. Tom discussed issues related to non permitted driveway work and easements on two other properties.
- v. Tom reported on consideration at a recent MIPOA meeting to place survey monuments (markers) at all access points to the water.
- vi. Tom noted that he has identified a new location to store signs and other materials under the kitchen stairs at the yacht club, and has received consent from MIYC. A discussion followed on potential alternative storage areas.

6. New Business

a. Distribution of Enders Island Decals/Traffic –

- i. Scott asked for Board input on MIFD policies regarding the distribution and recognition of Enders Island decals. At issue was concern by another Board member about the implications of allowing Enders Island to issue stickers to visitors, according to Scott.
- ii. Barry Saluk noted that Enders Island stickers have been issued only to regular visitors and with names registered. He also stressed the need to maintain goodwill.
- iii. Scott emphasized that the purpose of the traffic stickers is two fold: 1) to facilitate expeditious transit past the guardhouse for those with legitimate purposes to visit the community; and 2) to convey to residents the ability to park throughout Fire District including MICO lots and "right of ways."

- iv. A Board discussion ensued on the impact of potentially restricting recognition of Enders Island stickers at the guard house. This led to questions about the value of the guard house in reducing traffic flow to the community and related safety benefits. Scott noted that visitors to Enders Island would be allowed to proceed whether or not they have a sticker. He added that any action to not waive through vehicles with Enders Island decals would not reduce traffic flow but would rather inconvenience drivers as well as other incoming traffic.
- v. A discussion followed regarding the overall policy of window decals, including: 1) our practice of not attempting to reclaim decals from former residents; and 2) whether it might be inappropriate to hand out standard decals to Yacht Club associate members whose access authorization is similar to Enders Island visitors. As non-residents, those traveling to the yacht club do not have the right to park at Allyn's and at other MIPOA locations.
- vi. The Board agreed that MIFD stickers have always been and should remain available to family members of Mason's Island residents. Lou Allyn noted the increased volume of landscaping trucks, and parking on roads. Scott suggested sending out an email reminding homeowners about on-street parking.
- vii. Scott plans to contact Father Tom about the Board discussion and remind him to be judicious in issuing stickers to people who are frequent visitors, and also to remind visitors that they need to follow and respect driving laws.
- viii. Kevin expressed concern about the increased volume of speeding vehicles, and the failure of many drivers to respect road rules. A discussion followed on whether the installation of speed cameras would be practical, and whether speed limits and bumps are indicated. Scott

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noted that past speed mitigation practices included the reduction of the speed limit from 250 to 20 mph, based on earlier traffic monitoring.

- ix. Ricardo commented on the absence of speed bumps on Schoolhouse Rd, given speeding and increased vehicular traffic associated with house construction. Scott added that a speed bump existed at one point on the road but has since been removed. Bob D. added that in the past notice of adding speed bumps and road signs was often met with opposition from residents.
- x. The Board discussed a possible extension of the ten mph speed limit along Yacht Club Road to address the risks arising from the narrowing bottleneck of cars, golf carts and pedestrians down the hill. Scott asked Bob to price out temporary speed bumps for the areas as well. Required approvals to allow exceptions to road ordinances.
- xi. Scott raised the issue of the appropriate protocol for discussion and final approval of requests for exemptions to road ordinances and right of way use upon recommendations from the Facilities Committee. After discussion, the Board agreed that the voting group for these issues would consist of the MIFD officers: President, Vice President, and Treasurer who would report back to the broader MIFD Board at monthly meetings.

b. Broken Glass on Streets

- i. Tom addressed Kristin's request to discuss the presence of broken glass on roads associated with recycling trucks. Bob reported on conversations with Jill at the Town of Stonington Solid Waste to address the issue. Nancy noted the related safety concerns for children and pets.

c. Draft Email from Bill Pryor/Website Upgrade Plans

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- i. Ricardo discussed Bill's draft email circulated to MIFD Board members regarding construction project guidelines, solar panel tax credits, Roads Manager contacts, and a planned website redesign.
- ii. He stressed the importance of input and buy-in from Board members for the website upgrades, and recommended setting up an "About Us" section to explain the interplay with MIPOA and MICO.
- iii. Ricardo suggested the Board consider segregating the MIFD website from the joint site with MIPOA. Catherine Deichmann then introduced the following motion:

Move to establish a stand-alone public website for records retention, guidelines for home and property modifications, vehicle sticker applications, and other communications under MIFD's mandate to the community, and in conformity with Freedom of Information Act guidelines.

The motion was seconded by Kevin Riley followed by a discussion on the timing of the launch and selection of software applications. The motion carried with all six Board members present voting in favor and three Board members absent.

In addition to the President, present for the vote were Board directors Kevin Riley (Vice President), Ricardo Kleinbaum (MIFD Clerk), Catherine Deichmann, Jeff Miceli, and Nancy Taylor Ross. Also present were Bill Taylor (Tax Collector), David Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.) Bob Domurat (MIPOA Roads Committee rep.), Lou Allyn (MICO), and MIFD resident Barry Saluk. Absent from the vote were Ethan Tower (Treasurer), Kristin Foster, and Tom Giola.

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 5:30PM

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District