

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting**

**October 21, 2025 – 5:30 PM**

**Mason's Island Yacht Club**

**1) Call to Order**

- a) Board members Kevin Riley (Vice President), Catherine Deichmann, Kristin Foster, Tom Giola, Jeff Miceli, Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.) and Nancy Taylor Ross (Treasurer rep.) were present. Also attending were Lou Allyn (MICO) and Bob Domurat (MIPOA). Board members not present: Bill Taylor (Tax Collector), Ricardo Kleinbaum (Clerk), Ethan Tower (Treasurer) and Scott Parry (President).

**2) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes**

- a) None.

**3) Approval of Previous Minutes –**

- a) A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 2025 monthly meeting. The motion was carried.

**4) Treasurer's Report – Nancy Taylor Ross**

- a) Nancy reported receipt of an additional \$8,000 in MIFD taxes. Several monthly bills were paid including payment for the clearing of brush. During Ethan's 6-week absence. Nancy will assist as treasurer and will have the checkbook in her position. She does not have signature authority and will need the MIFD president to sign checks during Ethan's absence.

**5) Committee Reports**

**a) Fire and Safety Committee – Jeff Miceli**

- i) Jeff noted 4 incidents in September, three were EMS calls of which one was for Enders Island, and one steam leak.
- ii) The recent Emergency Preparedness Plan presentation to residents and follow-up email communication to residents essentially completes the action from MIFD/MIPOA presidents in August 2024 for Jeff Miceli and Rod Cooke et al., to prepare a plan in writing and roll it out to residents. Jeff commented on the benefit of having an MIFD board member to be an Emergency Preparedness Group core member.

**b) Tick Committee – Dave Ludwig**

- i) Seascope completed the final Talstar fall application last week, concluding the 2025 treatment season. The deer feeder contract for four units continues through next spring.
- ii) Following the recommendations noted in Dr. Scott Williams 2024 research publication' [Why a Single Pesticide Treatment in Fall Could Suffice for Blacklegged Tick Management](#), the MIFD pesticide treatments (Telstar) were reduced from three to two (spring and fall), and the cedar oil applications were consolidated into three spring treatments when nymphs are most active. Fran Hoffman, Ethan Weiner and Dave suggest continuing the spring and fall application of Telstar and to monitor the results by questionnaire before switching to a single pesticide treatment in the fall. Dave suggesting sending out the tick questionnaire in the spring and fall to raise awareness and will modify the existing questionnaire and send it residents in a couple weeks.
- iii) Jeff will contact Dr Williams to see about MIFD becoming a state monitoring site in addition to Groton in this part of the state. Also to get his view on the proposed 2026 MIFD tick treatment plan, tick monitoring and methodological differences in pesticide application in his publication and MIFD's vendor Seascope.

**c) Living Shoreline Road Protection – Kristin Foster**

- i) Kristin reported that with the help of 6 volunteers, 12 switch-grass bushes were planted and the area weeded. The plants replaced those damaged during the installation of the rock all.
- ii) No word yet from Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on the review of the living shoreline project application. Although a DEEP review is anticipated, it will be delayed because the application was pulled.
- iii) Kristin reviewed My Coast Connecticut a pilot project is a collaborative effort between Connecticut Sea Grant, the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, Long Island Sound Futures Fund to monitor the coastline. Volunteers submit a picture of flooded areas via mobile app or browser and My Coast combines this with weather and tidal information to add context use this data to make better decisions.

**d) Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann**

- i. Catherine reported that guardhouse traffic control is done for the season and will be cleaned. Bob was given a Dunkin Donuts gift card for his service. Preparation of a 2026 guard schedule will begin in February. The ACE rate for guard services will remain the same until next June.
- ii. Catherine noted the average number of cars per day this summer was higher compared to prior years.

e) **Nominating Committee – Catherine Deichmann**

- i. Catherine will report in November how many openings in the board to fill for 2026. The nominating committee will begin identifying members to fill the openings in January.

f) **Facilities Committee – Tom Giola, Bob Domurat**

Referring to the monthly Facilities Committee report, Tom provided updates on snow removal, tree trimming, water line upgrade options, road marking and signage, the Roads Manager transition, and road & driveway permit applications as they relate to MIPOA right of way and ordinance exceptions. The facilities committee continues to meet with Rufus to discuss a successful transition.

- i) **Snowplowing Contract** - Bob Domurat is finalizing the 2025-2026 contract with Allied for snow removal. The cost will be increased by \$1,000 to cover the insurance umbrella. Future contracts will need to be renegotiated, and costs are expected to increase. There are 3 to 5 contractors interested in working with MIFD.
- ii) **Roadside, ROW Mowing, Trees** -- Tom reported that Pacheco finished pond train trimming will be cutting the suckers and the low branches off the street trees on Chippechaug. Country Tree experts completed tree removals and trimming in September. There is a 60ft section along the curb on Chippechaug that needs to be backfilled with topsoil and seeded.
- iii) **Center Line Painting** – The roads team is not satisfied with the center line painting done with a hand cart instead of standard truck and will not pay the vendor. The vendor has acknowledged the problem and committed verbally to removing the newly painted lines and repainting the lines to be straighter. There are several trees being monitored for poor conditions and hazardous conditions.
- iv) **Drainage** – Pacheco is going to lower the shoulder along Money Point Rd in 3 areas so the water will flow off the road instead of ponding along the road. The excess topsoil will be used for backfilling the curbing on Chippechaug near Osprey. The drainage along Yacht Club Road needs board discussion at a future meeting.
- v) **Driveway Applications**: - No activity on pending applications. No application or permits have been received for the Halsey property. Mr. Halsey informed Tom the engineer has a plan but it is not available to review at this time.
- vi) **MIPOA Open Space** – Tom is working with Pacheco to develop a plan to clear drainage pathways in the open space areas. The Nature Conservancy completed their annual inspections of the protected areas and reported no issues.
- vii) **Capital Projects** - Connecticut Water is not planning to replace any piping on hickory Ledge or Mallard Rd since there is no leak history. Tom plans to hold a site meeting with the town to discuss the need for CAM applications anytime you add drainage or affect drainage or change grading. A CAM application requires an engineering report to be prepared. Connecticut Water is planning to start efforts to update the piping on Old South and Allyn's Alley.
- viii) **MICO Deed Restriction Management**-- Lou Allyn stated that the Mason's Island Company is no longer enforcing deed restrictions and wants to transfer this responsibility —

potentially to MIPOA or MIFD. Tom Giolo met with the town planner, who confirmed it's possible to create a unique Mason's Island zoning district to preserve existing restrictions, but this would require local initiative and coordination.

Bob Domurat and others noted the complexity of the transfer with legal implications, since the restrictions are written into individual property deeds. MIPOA is exploring options and legal pathways to maintain key restrictions related to aesthetics, sightlines, and neighborhood character.

Lou Allyn recommended MIPOA stay out of neighbor disputes (especially over tree trimming and views) and let property owners resolve them privately. Others disagreed, saying the deed restrictions are important and should be upheld.

There was no clear decision or timeline for addressing the deed restriction issue. MIPOA is taking the lead on this effort. The group acknowledged that enforcement has lapsed, legal issues are complicated, and community input is needed. Tom Giolo suggested MIPOA consider surveying residents to determine which restrictions are valued.

**6) Unfinished Business**

None

**7) New Business**

**a) Tom Giola on Holiday**

- i) Tom reported that he will be far away from MI until January/February and will monitor what's going on remotely. Bob Domurat will be the primary person to go to on the Facilities Committee during this time.

**b) Firework Notifications**

- i) The notice for the recent fireworks display at the Yacht Club following a wedding did not reach all residents and several were unsure what was going on and concerned. It was mentioned emergency preparedness program email list for residents is the most up to date list and recently shared with MIPOA.

**8) Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 5:30PM**

**Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Miceli MIFD Board Member filling in for Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District