

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting
November 18, 2025 – 5:30 PM
Mason's Island Yacht Club**

1. Call to Order

- a. President Scott Parry called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Board members Ricardo Kleinbaum (Clerk), Catherine Deichmann, Kristin Foster, Jeff Miceli, and Nancy Taylor Ross were present. Also attending were Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.), Bill Taylor (Tax Collector), Lou Allyn (MICO) and Stonington High School student, Hannah Hardaway. Board members Kevin Riley (Vice President), Ethan Tower (Treasurer), and Tom Giola were absent.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

- a. None.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes –

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 2025 monthly meeting minutes after inclusion of additional items and corrections to the Living Shoreline Road Protection and Roads Committees sections.
- b. The motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report –Nancy Taylor Ross

- a. In Ethan's absence, Nancy summarized invoice activity from Pacheco and Connecticut Water, and receipt of \$235 from the Town of Stonington.
- b. Nancy also mentioned the need to address the I Line invoice in connection with recent (deficient) repainting of yellow lines on the District Roads. (See Roads Committee section below.)

5. Committee Reports

a. Fire & Safety Committee – Jeff Miceli

- i. Jeff noted two EMS incidents (Carbon monoxide and Smoke alarms) in October, both were false alarms.
- ii. Jeff then provided an update on the Emergency Preparedness Plan, notably his meetings the Mystic Fire Dept to learn about the chain of communications during an emergency and interface with the Town Operations Center.
- iii. Jeff noted the need to identify locations on the south side of the island with water depth of six feet or more in order to allow for emergency boat landings. Board members offered alternative suggestions.

b. Tick Committee – Dave Ludwig

- i. Dave and Jeff discussed the need to improve the timing and content of the annual tick activity survey. Dave recommends adding a question as to whether households have observed more, less or additional tick activity, in addition to requesting a response to the incidence of tick borne disease among family members and pets.
- ii. The Board agreed that it made more sense to move up the annual questionnaire to the late fall of the current tick season from the following spring. Dave recommended release of the survey sometime after Thanksgiving and before Christmas.
- iii. Jeff reported plans to meet Megan Linske of the State of Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Active Tick Monitoring Program. He hopes to secure feedback on the questionnaire, and pitch possible inclusion of Mason's Island under the State program. If inclusion is not an option, Jeff would like to enlist the State's assistance in developing our own "low tech" tick monitoring program.

- iv. Jeff recommends sending the State of Connecticut summary publication to Seascope (our tick treatment vendor) to coordinate appropriate timing of future applications.
- v. Dave noted that all the deer feeders are now operational.

c. Living Shoreline Road Protection – Kristin Foster

- i. Kristin discussed feedback she received from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) in relation to permit applications for the revised “rocks in the water” project, notwithstanding Mason Island Company’s (“MICO”) late summer 2025 decision to disallow work on the site.
- ii. Kristin noted that DEEP accepted the plan “as is” and had minimal comments, other than to recommend placement of the materials to a location closer to the parking lot, i.e. south of the switch grasses. However, GZA has clarified that the reference area was for overflow of materials, and thus not the primary site in deference to MICO, according to Kristin.
- iii. Kristin also referred to the semi-annual report submitted on September 30 in connection with a grant related to the permit application referenced in earlier meeting minutes.
- iv. She also summarized two future grant options from DEEP: 1) No match grant for a water based EPA eco-systems project, subject to landowner approval; and 2) Matching fund federal grant with Long Island Sound Futures Fund (50% contribution). We could secure a 45% to 50% match, though subject to MICO collaboration, according to Kristin.
- v. Kristin reported that there has been no observable land loss since March 2025, though there was a 5” loss from October 2024 to March 2025 in a pocket, south of the pipe installed by Lou Allyn in 2022. The eastern side of Chippechaug Cove’s marsh is experiencing continual erosion with sediment accumulation on the cove’s beach and degradation of the marsh’s eastern side into “island” clumps, according to Kristin.

d. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann

- i. No report on traffic volume.
- ii. Catherine mentioned plans to issue green decals in the spring.
- iii. Jeff asked for clarification of the discrepancy in traffic turnaround volume between the monthly traffic and the summary reports. Catherine will consult with her data person and report back to the Board.

e. Nominating Committee – Catherine Deichmann

- i. Catherine noted that she will bring the Nominating Committee to the Board for approval in December. Scott recommended inclusion of the Vice President on the Committee.

f. Facilities Committee – Bob Domurat

- i. Bob reported that he replaced five stop signs.
- ii. Ricardo asked about the valve line replacement on Seagull where part of the road remains exposed after a utility company repair. Bob responded that due to the small amount of asphalt needed, Connecticut Water would likely repave in the spring, and anticipates re-installation of sod next year, as well.
- iii. Bob noted successful completion of the water drainage remediation (creation of new surface low points) project along Money Point Rd, as described in the August 2025 minutes.

6. Unfinished Business

a. New Website – Scott Parry

- i. Scott reported completion of the new site: MIFD.info with a new URL in tandem with MIPOA.info. A discussion followed on the document retention requirements. Ricardo reminded the Board that since MIFD functions as a municipal agency, it is required

under Connecticut government guidelines to maintain meeting minutes (along with budget documents) in perpetuity.

- ii. Scott stated that any old meeting minutes not transferred to the new website would be retained in the shared Google drive. He stated that before launching the new website, an email would be sent to the community. Ricardo requested delegated access to the new website and recommended designating others as back up users.

b. Deed Restriction Enforcement

- i. Scott revisited the future of deed restrictions in light of MICO's plans to stop enforcement. At issue is the idea of approaching the Town of Stonington to establish MIFD as an independent zoning district, designated residential zone or some alternative structure to assume MICO's role. (Refer to September and October 2025 minutes.) According to Scott, this could allow the community to retain its current five foot setback requirements, among other provisions.
- ii. Scott mentioned speaking to Ethan's view that under the idea of setting up a separate zoning district, the Town could control the management and potentially re-align the setback parameters from those desired by the community. Scott believes there would be little motivation do so.
- iii. Jeff noted that the Board agreed at the October 2025 meeting to defer leadership on this issue to MIPOA. Nancy added that Board members had recognized MIPOA as the entity deciding what deed restrictions should be enforced, and that MIFD would become the implementing entity.
- iv. The Board then discussed how the decision making authority might be shared between the Town and MIFD. Catherine cited a number of uncertainties, including the cost of enforcement, the degree to which the Town would participate and the possible need for an Enforcement Board along with indemnity outlays.

* MICO has stated that it seeks to retain the "right of first refusal" deed restriction.

She raised the need to address these issues once MIPOA has defined the areas of desired responsibility and practical enforcement.

- v. Scott agreed to meet and discuss these issues with Jeanne Anderson who will become MIPOA's president as of December 1, 2025.

7. New Business -

- a. Ricardo reported that trash receptacles are still being left on the streets following Tuesday collections. Catherine urged Board and community members to contact Jill Senior of the Stonington Solid Waste Dept. (860) 535-5099.
- b. Bob D. noted that the glass issue on the roads has been addressed.
- c. The Board recognized the need to remind homeowners to collect bins shortly after collections, consistent with a recent email announcement.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 5:30

9. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District