

Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting
December 16, 2025 – 5:30 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), Ethan Tower (Treasurer), Catherine Deichmann, Kristin Foster and Jeff Miceli were present. Also attending were Bob Domurat (MIPOA Roads rep), Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.), Bill Taylor (Tax Collector), Lou Allyn (MICO). Board members, Tom Giola, Ricardo Kleinbaum and Nancy Ross were absent.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes –

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 2025 monthly meeting minutes inclusive of two changes: 1) Correcting the first name of meeting attendee “Hannah Hardaway” to “Harriet Hardaway”, and 2) removing “five foot” in the Deed Restriction Enforcement comment from Section 6. (b) on page 5.
- b. The motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report – Ethan Tower

- a. Bills are trickling in, no surprises.
- b. Interest and dividends are a little ahead of projections.
- c. No decisions have been made regarding the \$120K earmarked for the now-defunct Shoreline Restoration Project that currently resides in the Roads Reserve account. If we want to reallocate this money now for some reason, we would have to call a Special Meeting, or we could wait and do it at the Annual Meeting.

4. Committee Reports

- a. **Fire & Safety Committee – Jeff Miceli**

- i. Two incidents in November (1EMS call, 1 smoke detector activation).
- ii. The Emergency Preparedness Team identified three docks with a minimum low-tide depth of six feet that can accommodate the MFD fire boat for access to MIFD. These include the MIYC dock and two docks on the south end of Mason's Island (the Christian and Auger docks). In addition, there may be two more docks in Poggy Bay with approximately five to six feet of depth at low tide.
- iii. MHHA requested inclusion in our Emergency Plan. Because MHHA is covered by the Quiambaug Fire Department, while our plan is based on coverage by MFD, the team proposed that MHHA coordinate with Kingfisher and Mason's Island North residents—who are also served by QFD—to use our plan as a model to develop their own. Scott will follow up with MHHA to communicate this approach.

b. Tick Committee – Dave Ludwig

- i. Deer feeder season is over.
- ii. 2025 surveys are going out soon.
- iii. Jeff has been in contact with Dr. Megan Linski from the state's tick monitoring program to discuss establishing a monitoring program in MIFD using their methodology and to seek input on updating the MIFD tick questionnaire. They have offered to provide on-site training and to present a tick seminar for residents. Jeff will follow up with her.

c. Living Shoreline Road Protection – Kristin Foster

- i. Kristin is sending Scott more documents for the MIFD website.
- ii. We received an invitation from DEEP to pursue another grant application, but there's really no point since Lou has decided “rock sills will never be allowed.”
- iii. Kristin is working with the Town to button up the outstanding National Fish and Wildlife grant.

- iv. The SP team is still tracking erosion at the site, which is now trending toward the south.

d. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann

- i. No report.

e. Nominating Committee – Catherine Deichmann

- i. The 2026 Nominating Committee, comprised of Catherine Deichmann, Kevin Riley, Tory Christian, Amy Estabrook, and Gail Lane, was approved by the Board.
- ii. Scott explained his reasoning for adding Kevin Riley, as VP, to the Committee.
- iii. We have three Board Members whose terms will expire in June: Scott Parry, Ethan Tower, and Jeff Miceli.
- iv. The Committee will also nominate a Tax Collector for a one-year term.
- v. The Committee will not be responsible for replacing Tom Giola, who is leaving the Board in June. Since he is retiring mid-term, the Board must choose his replacement.
- vi. Kevin asked about having part-time residents join the Board. Ethan explained that State statutes and our By-Laws require members to be physically present to count toward the quorum and to participate by vote. Joining a physical in-person meeting by teleconference is probably ok so long as a quorum is physically present and the public can hear what is being said. Having meetings 100% via teleconference is now allowed by State statute but Bylaw amendments would be needed and there would have to be a mechanism in place for the public to participate.

f. Facilities Committee – Bob Domurat

- i. Allied plowed this week but did not sand. Same driver as last year. No problems.

- ii. MIPOA has instructed Bob is going to install a NO TRESPASSING PRIVATE ROADS signs near Bailey Briggs' property on Schoolhouse Road. Apparently that has become a shortcut for the Kitchen Little/Mystic Marina crowd?
- iii. Catherine asked about an item in the monthly report regarding cutting trees on private property around the pond. Bob had no further info on this.
- iv. Louis Allyn suggested – in light of CT Water's plans to work on Allyn's Alley and Old South – that we consider widening the road shoulders to accommodate two-way traffic in case Chippechaug becomes blocked.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. New website:
 - i. Scott is still working on the new website. Documents are archived by year. We are still missing 2022 Annual Meeting minutes.
- b. Deed restrictions study:
 - i. MIPOA is actively exploring transferring the MICo deed restrictions to MIPOA. Stay tuned. Kevin asked for information about MICo's timeline for relinquishing their controls. Lou Allyn says they don't have one.
 - ii. Kevin asked if there was anything to prevent individual property owners from approaching Lou to sign a quit claim for their property. Apparently, there isn't.

6. New Business

- a. Kristin suggested we implement a policy to require a new tree to be planted whenever a tree in the ROW is taken down, to maintain the community's tree canopy. She counted the growth rings in a recently-felled tree and determined the tree was a little over 80 years old. That would fit with the post-1938 "regreening" of the island. Questions arose regarding how we could implement such a policy.

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:30 pm

8. Adjourn

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

Minutes prepared by Board Member Catherine Deichmann. Submitted by Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District

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