

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting
July 21, 2026 – 5:30 PM
Mason's Island Yacht Club**

1. Call to Order

- a. President Kevin Riley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Board members Anne Navin (Vice President), Nancy Taylor Ross (Treasurer), Ethan Tower (Facilities Committee), Ricardo Kleinbaum (Clerk), Adam Duczynski, Catherine Deichmann, Kristin Foster, and Scott Parry were present. Also attending were Bill Taylor (Tax Collector) and Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.).

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

- a. New Business – Recommendation to increase Catastrophe Reserve Fund (Kristin)
- b. New Business – Proposal for tree replanting program/bush trimming (Kristin)

3. Approval of Previous Minutes –

- a. A motion was made and seconded by Kristin to approve the June 2026 monthly meeting minutes. No changes were made to the previously published draft.
- b. The motion carried.

4. President's Report – Kevin Riley

- a. Kevin summarized recent meetings with Father Hoar (Ender's Island) and Lou Allyn (MICO) regarding traffic and signage management at the Traffic Control Both. He noted that Father Hoar would consider financial contributions to improve the safety (widening, repairs) of Yacht Club Road. Kevin Miller was present at the meeting.
- b. A discussion followed on a proposal to introduce sheep to remove phragmites (perennial reed grasses) and poison ivy from road banks. After conducting research, board members agreed that it would be more economical and practical to weed whack the extraneous tall grasses.

5. Treasurer's Report – Nancy Taylor Ross

- a. Nancy referred to the previously circulated fiscal year end 2026 end and July 2026 financial statements. She noted receipt of FY 2027 tax receipts and first payment to new Roads Manager (\$1,700).

6. Committee Reports

a. Fire & Safety Committee (Emergency Preparedness) – Anne Navin

- i. Anne reported on her meeting with the Emergency Preparedness Team, noting the decision to not duplicate weather alerts issued by the Town to MIFD residents. She agreed to send future Fire Chief weather and emergency alerts to Ethan, the Roads Manager (Hugh) and J.D. McKenna (MIPOA) at road_facilities@mipoa.info.
- ii. Anne provided details on the Mystic Fire District Executive Board meeting she attended on July 9, observing the high level of financial disclosure, payments of bonuses to volunteer firefighters, and the upcoming executive session to address new leadership.
- iii. A discussion followed on the delineation (MIFD versus Quiambaug Fire District) of new properties in the Kingfisher development. Ricardo referred to the decision in 2022/23 to designate two properties to MIPOA/MIFD; one having only access to Schoolhouse Road and the other with a planned driveway onto Kingfisher Drive. The Board agreed to consider a negotiated reassignment based on driveway access.
- iv. Anne reported 5 MFD events in June: 3 medical, 1 fire alarm, 1 down wire.

b. Tick Committee – Dave Ludwig

- i. Dave noted that the Spring treatment was concluded; next applications are scheduled in the late fall.

- ii. Ethan stressed the need to keep tick program outlays within the \$12K allocated for the current fiscal year. Board members agreed to contact Mason’s Homestead Property Association President, Nick Gelbar, to cover partial contributions toward the guard house and the “four poster” component of the tick program.

c. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann

- i. Catherine summarized recent activity on the roads, criteria for decal issuance to employees, and ongoing access to the Traffic Control Booth (“TCB”). Ethan reported that MICO has been named as “additional insured” on both the Ace (TCB vendor) policy and MIFD’s general liability policy effective August 1. The Board agreed to continue to keep communications channels open with MICO on this topic.

d. Facilities Committee – Ethan Tower

- i. Ethan discussed the transfer of responsibilities from the previous Facilities Committee/Road Manager reps to J.D. McHenry and Hugh Robbins. He anticipates that MIPOA will take a more active role in project selection and management.
- ii. Ethan reported that road paving of Osprey and Hickory Ledge repaving by Ed French and Son is scheduled for the week after Labor Day. Mallard Road repaving has been pushed back to 2027 for budgetary reasons, according to Ethan.

7. New Business –

- a. Catastrophe Reserve Fund – Kristin suggested increasing the current \$100,000 target level for the catastrophe reserve (set after Hurricane Sandy) by a pre-determined amount each year to address the likely repairs needed for the effects of sea level rise and erosion. Kristin stated that matching grants might be available. A discussion followed on the rationale for the catastrophe road

allocations. Ethan noted the need to identify potential catastrophe road repairs before establishing a revised reserve fund level. The Board agreed to support Kristin’s proposal and address the details later in the fiscal year with the goal of presenting a motion to taxpayers at the May 2027 annual meeting.

- b. Tree Replanting – Kristin referenced the mandate in MIFD’s bylaws to “plant and care for shade and ornamental trees”. She recommended launching a program to restore plants and trees that have been removed in common (‘right of way’) areas. A discussion followed on the parameters and authority for MIFD to replant vegetation and trees. The Board agreed on the importance of having MIPOA take a lead in designating the location of replacement vegetation, while also managing expectations of property owners with land adjacent to the affected areas. It was agreed that further research is needed before implementing the initiative.
- c. Other - A discussion followed on ongoing road maintenance responsibilities. It was noted that all speed bumps have been retained (replaced and/or maintained) in the District other than the bump on Schoolhouse Road and another on Money Point Rd at the corner of Nauyaug North. Kristin conveyed Jeff Miceli’s concerns about excess drainage on Money Point Road. Ethan responded that the Facilities Committee is addressing the concern.

8. Next Meeting: September 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District