

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting
June 16, 2026 – 5:30 PM
Mason's Island Yacht Club**

1. Call to Order

- a. President Scott Perry called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Board members Ethan Tower (Treasurer), Catherine Deichmann, Kristin Foster, Tom Giola (Facilities Committee), Jeff Miceli and Nancy Taylor Ross were present. Ricardo Kleinbaum (Clerk) participated via remote dial-in. Also attending were Anne Navin (Vice President-Elect), Bill Taylor (Tax Collector), and Lou Allyn. Kevin Riley (Vice President) and Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.), were absent.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

- a. New Business - Meeting Schedule for 2026/27 – Ricardo
- b. New Business - Security Guards/Enders Island - Ethan

3. Approval of Previous Minutes –

- a. A motion was made and seconded by Ethan to approve the May 2026 monthly meeting minutes. Ricardo disclosed clarifying language in the Fire & Safety Committee/ Emergency Preparedness Committee report section pertaining to Anne Navin's assumption of Jeff's responsibilities in 2026/27.
- b. The motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ethan Tower

- a. Ethan referred to the previously circulated Treasurer's report noting the complete disbursement of funds for the Four Poster Program (tick management). The Board discussed the process (names and passwords) for transferring signature card authorizations after July 1.

5. Committee Reports

- a. **Fire & Safety Committee (Emergency Preparedness) – Jeff Miceli**
 - i. Jeff reported 3 EMS calls (all MIFD) in May.

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- ii. He described steps taken to hand over responsibilities related to the Emergency Preparedness initiative to Vice President-Elect Anne Navin.
- iii. Scott reported that Mystic Fire Chief Christopher Clarkin was suspended (placed on administrative leave) shortly after the MIFD/Mason's Island contract was signed.

b. Tick Committee – Jeff Miceli/Dave Ludwig (absent)

- i. Jeff confirmed that the four posters were picked up. The next cedar oil application is planned for June 26.

c. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann

- i. Catherine discussed scheduling and training of traffic control booth ("TCB") staff, the aging of vehicle stickers.
- ii. Referring to a report circulated at the meeting, Catherine said TCB staff counted 8,438 vehicles (just over half residents) transiting past the gate in May.
- iii. Lou Allyn referenced a recent incident regarding the entry of a vehicle with a kayak headed to Enders Island. He said Father Hoar recommended that non resident guests should provide prior notice and receive prior approval for admission past the TCB to ensure that any visitation purpose to Enders is retreat-related. Board members suggested that the TCB guards track vehicles with kayaks to determine if there is a problem.
- iv. A discussion ensued on the degree to which TCB staff can enhance screening of non-resident visitors to MIFD, specifically Enders Island. Board members considered the goal of reducing traffic volumes and visitors entering the District for recreational purposes, recognizing the operational and legal constraints of the TCB guards. Catherine noted that under current practice any driver disclosing a destination within MIFD will be waived through. She suggested that Enders Island could request MICO to add signage at the TCB. The Board agreed to work on refining

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the protocol and to maintain dialogue with Father Hoar on this topic. The Board recommended Kevin follow up.

- v. Catherine said she plans to meet with Nick Gelbar, Mason's Homestead Property Association President to discuss vehicle sticker issuance.

d. **Facilities Committee – Tom Giola**

- i. Scott and Tom discussed the status of securing vendor estimates for the repaving of Mallard Rd, Hickory Ledge and Osprey West as well as repairs for a section of Nauyaug Road North from Money Point Road 260 feet to the south and a section of Nauyaug Point Road from Money Point Road south to Anchor Lane. The Board noted the importance of canvassing homeowners regarding these projects prior to execution.
- ii. Tom also reported that J.D. Mchenry has been designated the new MIPOA facilities representative, discussed with Ethan the need for a new snowplowing contract, and is enlisting Pacheco to regrade gravel roads (Andrews and Crossover Rd) and clear a few fallen trees.
- iii. Ricardo inquired about the poorly applied center yellow lines in the District as Bob Domurat had mentioned earlier in the fiscal year that the vendor would repaint them. Tom replied that a decision was made to allow the lines to wear off and repaint them in two years. MIFD did not pay the vendor, according to Tom.

6. **Unfinished Business – Gate House Tapes – Lou Allyn**

- i. Lou asked about access to videotape at the TCB in the event of a criminal event at the Yacht Club (as an example). A discussion followed on the appropriate chain of communications between MIPOA/MIFD and the Stonington Police Department. Scott agreed to call the Police Dept and confirm they will call MIFD back if they need the tapes.

7. New Business – 2026/2027 Meeting Calendar – Ricardo, Flood Management Fund Idea, Kristin

- a. Ricardo recommended deferring any decision until he receives input from Kevin, as the incoming President. Once established, Ricardo agreed to circulate the meeting schedule and submit it to the Town.
- b. Kristin suggested creating a special fund within the Catastrophe Fund to cover damages related to storms and related flooding of Chippechaug Rd. She observed that at the current rate of shoreline erosion, the remaining land could be lost in fifteen years. Combined with the 20 inches of sea level rise by 2050 projected by UCONN's CIRCA, substantial funds will be needed to raise Chippechaug Trail at Allyn's Alley, according to Kristin. The Board agreed to consider the proposal in the 2027/28 year with adoption subject to voter approval.
- c. Kristin reported that she remains in contact with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation which did not yet close out the grant related to the MIFD suspended "rocks in the water" initiative. She added that the Foundation wants to add Enders Recovery Center as part of the project, and also increase the acreage impacted for the now suspended project.
- d. Lou Allyn followed up on the request for certificates of insurance for the traffic control booth, as detailed in the May 2026 meeting minutes. Ethan and Ricardo responded that the insurance paperwork was delivered to Rufus Allyn since the last meeting. Lou mentioned that his attorney, Eric Janney, is drafting a "hold harmless" agreement on this matter. The Board agreed to ask Kevin to follow up.

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8. Next Meeting: July 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District