

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting
September 15, 2026 – 5:30 PM
Mason's Island Yacht Club**

1. Call to Order

- a. President Kevin Riley called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Board members Anne Navin (Vice President), Nancy Taylor Ross (Treasurer), Catherine Deichmann, Adam Duczynski, Kristin Foster, Scott Parry, and Ethan Tower (Facilities Committee) were present. Also attending was Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.), Bill Taylor (Tax Collector) was absent.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes

- a. None.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes –

- a. A motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Kristin to approve the July 2026 monthly meeting minutes after the Board agreed to accept Kristin's retraction of the statement that public funds might be available for the Catastrophe Reserve Fund. The motion carried.

4. President's Report – Kevin Riley

- a. Kevin shared information from the September 14 MIPOA meeting regarding the legal issues associated with the East Forest dock sale and the decision to install a stop sign on the northbound side of the Chippechaug Trail/Seagull Lane intersection. When complete, the intersection will have a four way stop, according to Kevin. Foliage trimming is also planned to improve visibility. He noted that MIFD has no plans to install larger traffic signs directing visitors to Enders Island.
- b. Kevin discussed the rationale for holding an executive session. Ricardo clarified the regulatory criteria (FOIA) and best practices (Robert's Rules of Order) associated with an executive session.

5. Treasurer's Report – Nancy Taylor Ross

- a. Nancy referred to the previously circulated financials, noting receipt of tax revenue receipts (\$710K) – in line with budget; outlays for the fire department contract (\$209K), paving of two roads (\$74K), and annual insurance (\$17K) – The insurance outlay was slightly over budget due to an adjustment necessary to reflect the increase in subcontracted work not known previously to the carrier, according to Nancy.

6. Committee Reports

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

- i. Anne shared details from her attendance at a Stonington Police Dept meeting on establishing Red Cross shelters. She disclosed that the Town has plans for a shelter at Stonington High School and is exploring the creation of a Community Emergency Response Team. Board members noted the omission of off-island shelter contingencies in the MIPOA/MIFD Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- ii. Anne distributed a new table she generated to track EMS call incidents on a monthly basis. In FY 2026, 58% of the EMS calls were medically related, 13% were smoke/CO/fire alarm calls, 7% were wires down. For July and August 2026, Anne reported 13 fire department calls, down from 14 for the same months in 2025.
- iii. Nancy noted that 411 calls from a portion of the west end of East Forest Road are routed to NY State, and thus may present an emergency issue.
- iv. The Board discussed the parameters for Mystic Fire Dept payments next year and agreed that the negotiation team will include Kevin, Nancy and Anne.

- v. The Board agreed to resume discussions with the Quiambaug Fire Dept to discuss a potential business relationship. Quiambaug has expressed an interest in talking to MIFD.

b. Tick Committee – Dave Ludwig

- i. Dave disclosed that higher costs associated with the deer treatment program for the fall 2026/spring 2027 requires modifications to the protocols. He noted that either a reduction in the number of deer poster stations or the number of visits is necessary. Dave recommended, and the Board agreed, to retain the stations and reduce the number of visits in the fall from ten to eight and from thirteen to twelve in the spring. With the adjustment, the tick program expense would come to \$12,650 or \$650 over the current budget. If other tick program expenses come in below budget, adjustments could be made, according to Dave.
- ii. The Board discussed the correlation between deer counts and the incidence of ticks. David plans to ask the vendor to monitor corn consumption at the stations, given the higher deer counts. A discussion followed on the challenges of containing tick borne infection risks in the District.

c. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann

- i. Catherine reported that the video recordings from the traffic control booth (“TCB”) were not available at the time Stonington Police requested footage. She added that the existing camera coverage was not functioning as intended; the software is not retaining desired

footage long enough. A discussion followed on alternative surveillance technologies, taking into account the constraints of not having wifi service at the TCB.

d. Facilities Committee – Ethan Tower

- i. Ethan referred to Hugh's new monthly report which provided a comprehensive itemization of roadside shrub trimming needs, tree maintenance and monitoring of catch basins and drainage activity.
- ii. Ethan reported on the status of permit issues for three properties including 28 East Forest (absence of driveway in renovation plans submitted to Town), 28 Chippechaug (complaint to Town re: storm water discharge), and 37 Nauyaug Point (under review).
- iii. Nancy noted that 65% of the tree trimming budget has been spent.
- iv. Ricardo inquired about the snowplowing contract. Ethan indicated that the Facilities Committee will be selecting the vendor with the best offer: approximately \$20 to \$24K compared to \$18K last year. Ethan added that it is still unclear if MIFD taxpayers or our vendor will be responsible for fire hydrant snow clean up in relation to the new Town of Stonington ordinance requiring homeowner clean up following storms. The Facilities Committee plans to talk to the vendor about the additional work.

7. New Business – E Mails, Website management

- a. Scott said he will continue to serve as webmaster and manage the email box, and will copy Kevin and Ethan.

8. Executive Session

- a. Kevin made a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss a pending claim to which MIFD might be a party. The motion was seconded by Scott and was carried unanimously, satisfying the regulatory requirement of 2/3 approval by all Board members present to move into an executive session.
- b. The Board discussed the matter and agreed to reconvene following further input from Ethan. No votes were held.

9. Next Meeting: October 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the monthly meeting and Executive session at 7:22 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District