

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023

By Zoom

FINAL

Trustees

Attending:

Rich Brodman
Tony Dandola
Bill Chnelich
Jack Byrnes
Betsy Aras
Wendy Baker
Mary Ann Crutchlow
Kay McDonnell
Scott Neff
Phil Kahn

Non-Trustee Board Members

Attending:

Bruce Allen
Maddy Pantzer

Excused/Absent:

Jack Byrnes

Rich Brodman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Scott Neff and seconded by Tony Dandola to approve the minutes. The minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Reports

1. Membership – Kay McDonnell

Kay reported that our membership campaign continues to proceed well. We have a total of 492 active 2023-2024 members, which include individual/lifetime/business members. Discussion ensued about the 68 members whose membership lapsed back in 2021-2022. Those folks have not been included on the current year membership renewal notices. Wild Apricot is not set up to do that. We will need to create a personal email for those past members, 51 of whom have emails, encouraging them to rejoin and/or those 68 folks will be included in the snail mail membership drive which will go out in early June. Rich reported that we will be mailing to approximately 834 contacts. It was also discussed that we need to compare our membership list with the town tax rolls – this has not been done in several years. Phil will work on that.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Bill Chnelich

- o At the April 2023 meeting the Treasury Report as of March 31, 2023 was presented for review. It was then adjusted to include the additional Flag Box costs and it will be posted to the website shortly.
- o Dues received April 1 to May 17 were \$3,600 bringing our YTD dues to \$10,900 meaning we have \$2,575 (approximately 103 memberships) to go in order to reach last year's annual dues total.
- o Contributions received April 1 to May 17 were \$540 bringing our YTD total to \$3,300 which is only \$500 short of last year's annual total.

- Our only expense since March 31 is approximately \$1,150 for insurance premiums due this month (this includes the additional \$10,000 of coverage for our updated bond. I will pay this bill shortly. We will also have the Wine & Cheese Social expenses to pay this month.
- Our March 31 Fund Balance was \$27,693 and it has now increased to approximately \$32,000. It will drop a bit to cover the expenses noted above.
- There are a few things on my to-do list:
 - File Federal and NJ tax returns
 - Wrap up the 2022 Financial Package for review by the Finance committee.
 - Arrange for an increase in our Bond insurance to \$35,000.

3. Social Media – Betsy Aras, Wendy Baker, Scott Neff

No Report

4. Little Free Library –Mary Ann Crutchlow

The Little Free Library continues to thrive – nothing new to report. Rich mentioned the box of books that we found last month dropped off by the Post Office. It was filled with paperbacks that had their covers ripped off. Rich disposed of these books. Not sure who dropped them off.

5. Donation to Barnegat Light – Rich Brodman

The BLTA will be donating a defibrillator to the Borough (estimated cost \$1500-\$1800). It will be placed at the pickleball court or the pavilion. First Aid Squad Capt. Scott Pojednic is researching the proper defibrillator for us to purchase. We hope to have a cost estimate by June.

6. Speaker Topics for our three General Meetings in 2023 – Jack Byrnes and Bruce Allen

Rich reported that the speakers are set for our three general meetings. We will just need to confirm with them and get short bios from the main speakers so we may introduce them to the membership. Bruce Allen has reached out to his speakers and is awaiting information for their introductions. If Jack Byrnes is unable to introduce Ginny Haines at the June meeting, Rich Brodman will handle it. Additionally we will make a \$100 donation to a charity of the primary speaker's choice as a way of thanking them for participating in our meetings.

- **June General Meeting:**
 - Primary speaker is Ginny Haines, Ocean County Freeholder;
 - Secondary speaker is Police Officer Matt Verub or Lt. Hartmann of the LBTPD – they will speak briefly on bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- **July General Meeting:**
 - Primary speaker is a NJ State representative speaking on endangered species of birds;
 - Secondary speaker is First Aid Captain Mark Pojednic who will speak about the defibrillator and CPR. After the meeting he will hold demonstration on CPR to whomever wishes to stay around and participate.
- **September General Meeting:**
 - Primary speaker is Karter Larson who will present information on the fishing industry in Barnegat Light
 - Secondary speaker is Tom Altman, Postmaster of the Barnegat Light Post Office. He will introduce himself to the town and review postal services.

7. Wine and Cheese Event – Sunday, May 28th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Pavilion

- a. Rich Brodman reviewed the list of assignments he had sent out regarding the Wine and Cheese event set for Memorial Day weekend. More details were discussed, and everything is set to go. We

are encouraged to bring our spouse/significant other and friends and neighbors to this event. Rich will speak briefly at some point during the event. He has also invited the mayor and council to stop by. Our bartenders are not trustees, so that will give the trustees more time to circulate and chat with the attendees. Maddy Pantzer created a one-page synopsis of our newsletter which will be available for attendees to pick up. It will direct them to the website to read more.

8. **Borough Council Meeting – Rich Brodman and Bruce Allen**

Four topics of interest were discussed at the Borough Council Meeting.

1. Any discussion of the proposed change to Section 215-90 of the Building Code describing setbacks for buildings in Barnegat Light was not discussed as some council members are still reviewing the recommendation by the Planning Board and may meet with the Planning Board again for more information. Currently 25 feet, the Council is considering increasing the setback to 35 feet. Four council members are in favor of pursuing this further with the Planning Board and three council members just want to proceed with the vote on the ordinance. Terry Brady doesn't want the town to do anything that looks like exclusionary zoning, which is against State laws.
2. Beach badge and dog pass revenues are up. The town is still in need of summer employees, most notably beach badge checkers and people to monitor the pickleball courts.
3. During the public session several residents were concerned that people who own two-family homes are getting charged double rates for sewer and water – the council stands behind this billing system.
4. The new 10 x10 foot building near the pickleball courts is well underway which will house equipment, sell beach badges, tennis passes, Kayak/small boat stickers, and passes for pickleball. This replaces the booth that is located behind the post office. A bathroom will not be included. There will be a slight delay in the completion of this building.
5. The new budget was submitted (not with any details yet) but it shows an increase of a ½ penny per \$1000 of assessment – approximately \$40/home increase. The second reading will take place at the June council meeting.
6. Ed Wellington reported that there has been an increase of homeowners dropping off furniture items and other garbage items at the cardboard recycling bin and near the bay beach. He reported that Barnegat Light has a great, expensive trash pick up contract and you can put most anything out in front of your house and it will be picked up. Items should not be left on town property. *(The BLTA trustees decided that we will send out an email to our contacts soon reminding homeowners of the recycling rules and how garbage collection is handled – the information is already on our website under “homeowner information”.)*

9. **JCTA – Rich Brodman**

Rich reported that the JCTA has been quite busy and pre-occupied with the results of the Wind Survey. The Sandpaper will be doing an article (written by Maria Scandale) in the very near future about this survey and what the results revealed.

10. **New Business -- NONE**

The next meeting of the BLTA Trustees will be held at 9:00 a.m. (prior to the general meeting) on Saturday, June 24, 2023. Trustees and committee members should arrive by 8:30 a.m to help with set-up for the meeting and then plan to sit and meet for a brief business meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Aras (Acting Secretary)