



BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes

Sept 16, 2017

- I. John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance
 - o John thanked everyone for coming and discussed the agenda and speakers, and the process for asking questions with two Board members having roving mikes. He introduced today's speakers: Dorothy Mathis, Postmaster, Barnegat Light; Paul Ashley, Chief Warrant Officer, Coast Guard Station, Barnegat Light; Karen Larson, President of the Barnegat Light Historical Society and Museum; and Barnegat Light Mayor Kirk Larson.
 - o John noted that the LBI School Referendum is on Sept 26, and encouraged everyone to vote. He mentioned that there is a sample ballot on the BLTA website and a form for a change in voter registration or an absentee ballot.
 - o John also noted that the BLTA is contributing \$1,000 from our funds to a small fishing village in Texas which is similar to Barnegat Light, and will face many of the same issues that we faced following Hurricane Sandy.
 - o The minutes of the July 15, 2017 general meeting were formally approved

II. BLTA Reports

- o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich
Bill presented a quick summary of activity since last meeting, which primarily consisted of additional membership fees and normal expenses.
- o Nominating Committee Report – Jim Slyfield
Jim presented the slate of new and renewing Board members and officers. The existing Board members up for renewal are Kim Patterson, our Webmaster, and Mary Ann Crutchlow, who produces our newsletters and arranged for the Little Free Libraries. The new Board member up for approval is Philip Kahn. In addition, John Tennyson's term as President is up for renewal for two more years.

The slate of new and renewing Board members was unanimously approved, and John Tennyson was unanimously approved for another two-year term as President.

- o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach
Ed presented the membership report. Membership is at the highest point in the last 5 years. We have 540 current members, up from 516 last year at this time. We also have a BLTA Facebook group with 111 members currently. Ed noted that there are 64 non-



renewals and encouraged anyone who had forgotten to renew their membership to see him during or after the meeting.

o Communications – John Tennyson

John noted that the website is continually being updated by Kim Patterson, and news articles are posted every week. He encouraged everyone to visit the site on a regular basis. All comments and questions are welcome. Please see John or Kim.

III. Dorothy Mathis, Postmaster, Barnegat Light Post Office

Dorothy has been in Barnegat Light as the Postmaster for 15 years. She covered a number of relevant topics for town residents:

Rules for forwarding of mail for residents who are out of town, particularly 'snowbirds' who are out for 2-3 months:

- First class mail will be forwarded once a week for 12 months.
- Periodicals will be forwarded each week for 60 days. If you are out of town longer than 60 days, you should change the mailing address on periodicals.
- Catalogs and 'standard' mail will be discarded.
- Parcels will be forwarded with postage due.

All residents should use both their street address (line 1) and PO Box number (line 2) as the mailing address for all mail. The system is programmed to read both and this will make the mail sorting process go quicker.

If you have forwarded mail to another location (ex. Florida), and then have mail from that location forwarded back here, remember to visit the post office and cancel the original forwarding.

IV. Chief Warrant Officer Paul Ashley, Coast Guard, Barnegat Light Station

Chief Warrant Officer Paul Ashley of the Barnegat Light Coast Guard Station, has been in the Coast Guard for 21 years, and in Barnegat Light for 15 years. He spoke on a number of topics, including:

- The Barnegat Light Station has 39 men and women, and is open all year. He noted that visitors are welcome to stop in, although the station is gated.
- The Coast Guard can only enforce Federal rules and regulations, and will generally give citations for egregious or repeat violations.
- The main activities of the Coast Guard include search and rescues, escorting boats which have been caught by sudden storms, and monitoring Blue Fin Tuna



and shark fishing offshore. In other areas of the country (California in particular), the Coast Guard is heavily involved in stopping drug traffic, and has captured more drugs than any other agency.

- With the demolition of the Coast Guard barracks, Coast Guard personnel are given housing allowances based on Fort Dix, which is not very appropriate for this area. They are working with Congress to address the issue.
- There are 275 auxiliary Coast Guard volunteers between Toms River and Egg Harbor. Auxiliary volunteers are able to buy a uniform, and generally function as watchmen and cooks. They are able to take courses as well.
- The Coast Guard has a few helicopters, which are generally used to transport personnel to and from Cape May, and for routine patrols.

V. Karen Larson, Barnegat Light Historical Society and Museum

Karen Larson is President of the Barnegat Light Historical Society and Museum. The Barnegat Light Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the maritime history of Barnegat Light and its environs. The Society runs and operates the Barnegat Light Museum on 5th St and Central Avenue. Karen noted that the Society is in need of additional members to help out at the Museum. All are welcome, even if you do not have experience. The atmosphere at the Museum is light and it's a fun place to work.

Karen showed a number of old photos of Barnegat Light throughout its history, and she noted that a full photo exhibit is on display at the Museum. She discussed a number of items, including:

- The Museum is open from May through September, and is open on weekends from 10-4 in September. There are presentations every second Thursday while open. It is very child friendly. She encouraged everyone to visit while it is open.
- The Museum has the original lens of the Lighthouse on display, and is well known throughout New Jersey for this.
- She noted that during World War II there were German U-boats off the shore of Barnegat Light, and 680 ships were torpedoed in 1942. This is documented by the book *Shadow Divers*, and some of the ships are reflected in photos at the Museum.
- The Museum also has beautiful gardens on its grounds, which are open all year round. The LBI Garden Club maintains the gardens.
- There will be a Barnegat Light historical homes tour next year.



VI. Kirk Larson, Mayor of Barnegat Light

Barnegat Light Mayor Kirk Larson discussed a number of topics being considered by the Borough Council and fielded questions from the audience.

He noted that the Borough Council discussion on the proposed increase in the height restriction (from 30' to 32') was still on hold for now, but the Council is considering a number of other options. The restriction was originally proposed as a relief for houses on the bay side of town. The Mayor noted that at the June BLTA meeting, he took a straw vote of the attendees, which went strongly against an increase in the height restriction.

He also discussed the following additional items:

- There has been some beach erosion from 12th-14th streets, and he is hoping to address this over the winter.
- The Mayor reminded everyone that the LBI School Referendum was being held on September 26, and it is important that everyone votes. He supports the school district in the referendum. Marilyn Wasilewski, School Board member, thanked the Mayor for his support. She noted that there has been a large influx of children this school year, and the schools now have 237 LBI students, and 40 Choice students, a significant increase over last year.
- He also mentioned the General Election on November 7.
- The pavilion on the former Coast Guard barracks site will be breaking ground soon. It is likely that it will be landscaped with grass as opposed to stones
- The mini-golf project is still on hold until a State CAFRA Permit is received by the builder; this is taking longer than expected
- The State will come in this winter and set up a Piping Plover nesting area near the Lighthouse.
- The water meter installation was on hold for the summer, but will begin this Fall. Property owners will need to make sure their water meter pits are accessible.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
September 23, 2017