

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Trustees Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2017

Attending:

John Tennyson MaryAnn Crutchlow
Ed Ebenbach Kimberly Patterson
Bill Chernelich Barbara Truncellito (phone)
Tom Zesk Rich Brodman
Andy Moutenot
Jim Slyfield

Excused:

Dottie Reynolds

Guest:

Philip Kahn

I. John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

II. The Trustees approved the minutes from the July 15, 2017 general meeting.

III. Reports

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

Bill presented a brief summary of the activity from July 15, which was primarily new membership dues, and noted that the financials would be posted for the September general meeting.

o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach

Ed presented the 2017 membership report as of August 10. We currently have 528 members, including 51 new members. Our membership is ahead of last year and is equal to approximately 42% of property owners. We currently have over 800 email addresses, which allows us to provide updates and information to our members and interested parties.

The Board discussed a process to reach out to new property owners who have not joined the BLTA, and existing members who have not yet renewed.

o LBI School Board Referendum

We discussed the presentation at the July general meeting given by Superintendent Peter Kopack and School Board member Marilyn Wasilewski, and some additional discussions with Trustees which were held afterwards. In a discussion held after the meeting, Superintendent Kopack said that the School Board did not approve a formal designation of the use of proceeds, although it was anticipated that they would be used to reduce or pay down bond debt. He also commented on different aspects of the BLTA fact sheet that we handed out at our July general meeting.



We discussed the next steps that the BLTA should take to provide information to our members and Barnegat Light voters in advance of the September 26 LBI School Referendum. We agreed to post on the BLTA website the BLTA fact sheet revised to include the comments from Superintendent Kopack. We also agreed to include this information on the email blast that we send to announce our September general meeting.

- Joint Committee of Taxpayers' Associations (JCTA) – Tom Zesk
Tom Zesk attended the JCTA meeting on August 7. The two major topics were an update on the allocation of tax between LBI and Stafford for the high school, and JCTA dues for 2018.

The JCTA noted that the preferred resolution to the school tax allocation issue was to achieve a more equitable allocation through negotiation and mutual consent. It was believed, based on a meeting that the JCTA sponsored with Attorney Vito Gagliardi, that a court challenge would take many years and would be costly for all parties. There will be a meeting of the Mayors of each of the LBI towns in September, and we were encouraged to discuss this meeting with our respective mayors.

The second main topic was the level of JCTA dues from each of the Taxpayer Associations. Dues were not formally imposed for 2017, but the by-laws provide for dues of \$100 per Association. The \$100 will be imposed for 2018 and is due on January 1, 2018. Dues for 2017 are voluntary since the Association budgets are already established.

We discussed both items at the August 12 BLTA Board meeting. On the tax allocation issue, the Trustees agreed that we should make sure that Mayor Larson is aware of the September Mayors meeting, and provide him with relevant information from the Vito Gagliardi meeting. With respect to dues, we agreed to pay the \$100 for 2018, but we would not make a voluntary payment of dues for 2017 since they were not imposed prior to our finalization of our budget.

- Borough Council Report – John Tennyson

John mentioned three key items that were discussed at the Borough Council meeting on Wednesday. First, the Council is considering holding a referendum on the dog park. Although it is used by a lot of dog owners, including 230 non-Barnegat Light owners, there have been a number of issues and conflicts arising among the users. The second issue the Council discussed was the 25th St. bay beach temporary closure and how to address the issues with the beach. The third key issue was the potential ordinance to



raise the allowable house height from 30 to 32 feet. A Rutgers study was presented by Bob Doll at the meeting.

- BLTA Website and Survey update – Kimberly Patterson

Kimberly presented information on the website analytics which showed a continued increase in users and time spent on our website. We discussed this and also discussed the advertising we did in the Discover magazine, and the Trustees decided to use our website in lieu of print advertising in the future. Kim was going to add some sliders and pop-ups to the site to inform users about membership and remind members to renew their membership.

Kimberly also discussed the BLTA Survey results, and how we should respond to the areas of key interest by our members. The 25th St bay beach was the number one issue noted in the Survey. We agreed to discuss this with the Mayor so that improvements could be part of the Borough 2018 budget process. We also discussed whether we should use BLTA funds to provide enhancements to the beach, and decided to revisit that once we know what the actions the Borough will be taking.

- Newsletter for 2018

The Trustees discussed the process and format of the annual newsletter which we generally send out in January/February each year. The cost was higher than prior years. The current format is very well received by our members, and we decided to retain that format, but to look at additional vendors for next year to see if we can effect any cost reductions.

IV. New Business – Items for Discussion

- Recap of June and July BLTA General Meetings

The Trustees discussed the two general meetings that we held in June and July. Both were very well attended and our speakers were well received. We agreed to look into acquiring a projector and screen for future meetings to enhance the presentations since some speakers were interested in presenting slides or pictures. We also discussed holding a wine and cheese reception for members and prospective members next spring at the new Pavilion on the former Coast Guard property, and will investigate that.

- Speakers for September 16 BLTA General Meeting – Rich Brodman

Rich discussed the speakers for the September 16 BLTA general meeting. The September meeting will be 'theme' focused, featuring some of our important Barnegat Light organizations. We will have presentations from the Barnegat Light Coast Guard



(Chief Warrant Officer Paul Ashley), The Barnegat Light Historical Society and Museum (Karen Larson), and the Barnegat Light Postmaster (Dorothy Mathis). In addition, Mayor Kirk Larson will discuss key Borough topics and take questions from the audience.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
August 21, 2017

DRAFT