

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2017

Attending:

John Tennyson
Ed Ebenbach
Bill Chernelich (by phone)
Tom Zesk
Barbara Truncellito
Philip Kahn

MaryAnn Crutchlow
Kimberly Patterson (by phone)
Rich Brodman
Jim Slyfield
Andy Moutenot

Excused:

Dottie Reynolds

Guest:

Jeff Gordon

- I. John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 8:59 am. 0
- II. The Trustees approved the minutes from the August 12, 2017 Trustees meeting and the September 16 general meeting.
- III. Reports
 - o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich
Bill went over the financials for the 2017 year to date and the 12 months ended September 30, 2017, which were posted on the website under the September general meeting. Our fund balance increased by \$3,200 over last year. Dues increased as a result of increased membership, and we did not have the major expense of the bike racks. However, we had an additional expense for insurance and there was an increase in printing costs for our newsletters. We agreed to review the vendor relationship with our newsletter printer to reduce costs for next year. We still have a few expenses yet to be incurred this year for our contributions to the First Aid Squad and for aid to a Texas fishing village severely impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

The Trustees discussed whether we should increase our annual fees. We anticipate having some technology expenses, and we are considering spending \$6-7,000 fund some of the benches at the new Pavillion being built on 6th St.. We tabled the decision until the December meeting, after Bill discusses the issue separately with each of the Trustees. Bill also will have each Trustee catalog the major anticipated expense items for 2018.
 - o Joint Committee of Taxpayers' Associations (JCTA) – Bill Chernelich and John Tennyson
Bill attended the JCTA meeting on October 2. The major topic was an update on the allocation of tax between LBI and Stafford for the Southern Regional High School, and the request for \$5,000 from each LBI township to fund an exploratory study by attorney Vito Gagliardi.



John noted that he had attended a meeting where two members of the JCTA made the case for an exploratory study to Mayor Larson and Frank Mikuletsky of the Barnegat Light Borough Council. The Borough Council then requested input from the BLTA at the Council meeting last Wednesday. John commented that the long time frame involved (could be as high as ten years) and the high ultimate cost of litigation (upwards of \$500,000) made it difficult to justify the cost of a preliminary study when there is no precedent for a meaningful re-determination of the allocation formula.

The JCTA also noted that there is a proposal for an LBI charter school, which would provide an alternative to participating in the Southern Regional District school.

o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach

Ed presented the 2017 membership report as of October 13. We currently have 546 members, including 53 new members. This is the highest membership total in recent years, and represents a significant increase over last year's 517 members. We currently have over 800 email addresses, which allows us to provide updates and information to our members and interested parties.

Ed will be receiving data in November to do another property tax roll update to identify new property owners in the Borough. John noted that he should be able to get updated data from the Commissioner of Elections on voter registration in Barnegat Light.

o Borough Council Report – John Tennyson

John mentioned the key items that were discussed at the Borough Council meeting on Wednesday, in addition to the school allocation issue noted above. The water meter installation project is moving forward with commercial areas being done first. No firm start date was given. They have not yet decided on a water meter type for residences. There was also a discussion of whether to acquire a beach vehicle to transport people who are handicapped. There was no authorization and more discussion and testing will take place.

o BLTA Website – Kimberly Patterson

Kimberly presented information on future changes to the face of our website which are in process. She also noted that we will have updated website analytics information for the December Trustee meeting.

o Newsletter for 2018

The Trustees discussed potential topics for the annual newsletter, which we intend to send out in January/February of 2018. We will include updates on Barnegat Light



developments from the Borough Council, and a discussion of BLTA Trustee officer succession planning. Additional topics will be discussed at the December Trustee meeting.

IV. New Business – Items for Discussion

o BLTA Trustee and Committee Tasks

The Trustees discussed the important tasks that are performed by our Trustees and committee members and made assignments for the coming year. We also discussed officer succession planning as John and Ed's roles as President and Vice-President will be expiring after the 2018 year.

o Speakers for summer 2018 BLTA General Meeting

The Trustees discussed potential topics and speakers for our June, July and September general meetings next summer. Potential topics suggested include presentations from our fishing industry, a local craft brewery, a history of the Borough and/or Lighthouse, the LBI Garden Club, the school funding allocation issue, and the Surf City branch of the Ocean County Library. Rich Brodman and Tom Zesk will present a recommended list of topics and speakers at the December Trustee meeting.

o Benches for Pavillion

The Mayor requested that Borough organizations assist in supporting the new Pavillion being built on the former Coast Guard housing property on 6th St.. He specifically asked if the BLTA would consider purchasing indoor benches for the meeting room, which could be used for meetings and activities. The Trustees discussed using a portion of our funds to acquire 10-12 benches, which would cost approximately \$6,000-7,000. We agreed to discuss this in more detail at the December Trustee meeting.

o Wine and Cheese Reception

The Trustees discussed holding a wine and cheese reception for our members and potential new members next spring. We would like to use the new Pavillion, but will need to look at other venues if we cannot obtain a liquor license for the day at the Pavillion. Bill also agreed to check with our insurance carrier regarding insurance coverage for the event. We will discuss this further at the December Trustee meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next Trustee meeting is December 2 at 9:00 am at Borough Hall.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
October 27, 2017