

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
 General Meeting Minutes
 June 22, 2019

<u>Attending:</u>		<u>Excused:</u>	
Barbara Truncellito	Patty Robinson	Betsy Aras	
Rich Brodman	Kay McDonnell	Virginia Simmons	
Bill Chernelich	Jack Byrnes	Patty Francfort (Committee member)	
Tom Zesk			
Mary Ann Crutchlow			
Philip Kahn			

I. President's Opening Comments

Barbara Truncellito called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was the first BLTA meeting at the new Pavilion, and discussed some of the exciting new activities in Barnegat Light since last year. She also reviewed the agenda and the process for asking questions.

II. Reports

o Membership Report – Rich Brodman

Rich noted that we currently have 536 members for 2019, which is approximately 20 ahead of last year at this time. This includes 52 new members. We ended 2018 with 549 members and are on track to repeat that or increase it for 2019.

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

Bill presented the financials as of June 15, 2019. During 2019, our fund balance increased from \$11,714 to \$15,400 as we collected \$9,800 in dues and additional contributions, less expenses (printing, postage, bicycle safety flyers, IT, insurance) of \$6,200.

o BLTA Website and Facebook Group – Tom Zesk

Tom updated the group on the different pages of the website. The home page is unique, and has a number of news and event articles that are reposted from the Sandpaper, and are of specific interest to Barnegat Light property owners. The home page also has a section for Special Events in Barnegat Light that are upcoming in the next week or so. The additional pages of the website have information about the BLTA (meetings, newsletters, by-laws, etc.), news and events archives, and a Homeowners Resource page with links to key information sites on LBI.



Tom also discussed our Facebook Group, which is managed by Betsy Aras. It has continued to grow tremendously this year, and currently has over 190 members, an increase of more than 85 over last year, with 50 new members joining since January.

Tom noted that we are looking at adding a Calendar of Events to provide information on events coming up over the next few months.

III. Freeholder Virginia Haines Presentation with Q&A

Freeholder Haines opened her discussion with a compliment about Long Beach Island and said it is one of her favorite places in Ocean County. She discussed a number of recent activities in Ocean County, including the causeway bridge, rescue calls that have been responded to by the Sheriff's office, services for seniors and disabled individuals (transportation, meals on wheels, et al), the Library System, which is one of the best in New Jersey, and the AAA bond rating of the County, testament to its strong financial condition. Ocean County was the only state Agency that did not need to borrow to do post-Sandy reparations. The County financials are available online on the Ocean County web site.

Freeholder Haines also discussed some new programs being implemented by the County Administrator Mike Furie. These include a new County Parks App, with trail maps and other park information; a County Events App, that will be coming out soon; and the Ocean Ride program for seniors and disabled individuals.

The Freeholders meet every Wednesday at 4:00 at the Administration Building on 101 Hooper St, Toms River, and the meetings are open to the public.

Freeholder Haines then took questions on a number of topics, including working with the State on upkeep of State Parks and eradication of poison ivy in the parks.

IV. 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 Town flags were at half-mast in honor of a fishing boat captain who recently passed away at sea. He then commented that this was the first meeting at the new Pavilion, and gave a brief history of the history of the acquisition of the Coast Guard property, including the establishment of the open space tax in 2009 which facilitated the purchase, and the online auction where the Borough actually was able to outbid other bidders for the land with a final bid of \$3,130,000.

In the Q&A, he responded to questions on a number of topics, including:

- Vegetation at intersections which block the vision of motorists;
- Crosswalk signs for pedestrians on the Boulevard. Since it is a County road, Freeholder Haines offered to address this with the Freeholders;



- Walkways on additional beach streets;
- Consideration of paving the Skate Park;
- Tuesday morning Yoga, which is now being offered at the Pavilion;
- Water meter status. The State has been dragging its feet on the grant that would finance the installations, so this is on hold for now and we are working with the State to secure the grant;
- Restrooms that are being planned for the Pavilion; and
- Eradicating poison ivy from the beach areas.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

VI. July 13 BLTA General Meeting

The next BLTA General Meeting is on July 13 at 9:30 AM at the First Aid Squad building on W 10th St., and will feature Scott Lennox of the Barnegat Oyster Collective; Ewan Watson of Kitty Hawk Kites; and Kirk Larson, Mayor of Barnegat Light.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
July 9, 2019