

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2019

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

I. President's Opening Comments

Barbara Truncellito called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. The Trustees approved the minutes from the July 13, 2019 General Meeting.

II. Reports

o Membership Report – Rich Brodman

Rich noted that we currently have 552 members for 2019, including 53 new members. We ended 2018 with 549 members so have already increased that for 2019. The Board discussed the fact that some people do not renew because it is not easy to sign up and pay. The Board reiterated our commitment to implementing a new online membership system, which will make signing up and paying much easier.

We also discussed implementing a procedure to have attendees at general meetings sign in as either a member or guest going forward.

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

There was very little financial activity since the June 30 financials. We collected \$130 in additional dues and paid out \$115 in expenses, for a \$15 increase. As of June 30, our fund balance increased from \$11,714 to \$15,492 as we collected \$10,255 in dues and additional contributions, less expenses (printing, postage, bicycle safety flyers, IT, insurance) of \$6,477.

o BLTA Website and Facebook Group – Tom Zesk and Betsy Aras

Tom updated the group on the website usage as recorded by Google Analytics. We had over 1.3 million user hits in July, with an average session time in excess of 1 minute. He also noted that Betsy had populated our new Calendar on the website with events through the end of summer.



Betsy discussed the Facebook Group. It has continued to grow tremendously this year, and currently has over 200 members, an increase of approximately 100 over last year. Betsy noted that she had revised the Welcome Message, and the questions for members requesting approval, in order to clarify that the Group is only available to BLTA members, and to more easily ascertain whether individuals requesting approval are BLTA members. Rich also noted that he would provide updated membership lists to Tom and Betsy to confirm new Facebook Group member requests.

The Board reiterated that members can post on the Facebook Group only if the posts are approved in advance by Tom or Betsy, which is our current policy.

III. New Business – Items for Discussion

- o Potential Survey on Water Meters – Barbara Truncellito and Bill Chnelich

The Mayor has requested input on the process for having water meters installed at each Barnegat Light residence. The Board agreed that we would work with Borough Council to develop a survey to send to our BLTA distribution in order to let homeowners weigh in on whether the meters should be installed en masse by one contractor engaged by the Borough, or whether each resident would have their own contractor install them.

Bill will work with the Borough Council and Borough CFO to approve the wording of the survey.

- o LBI School Board Meeting and School Consolidation – Barbara Truncellito and Virginia Simmons

Virginia Fitzsimons and Jack Byrnes attended the School Board meeting and Virginia updated the Trustees. The School Board voted to send all 225 students from PreK – 6th to the LBI School and to close the Ethel Jacobsen school. A number of parents at the meeting objected and certain School Board members, including Marilyn Wasilewski, the Barnegat Light representative, were not allowed to speak at the meeting.

There are new elections for the School Board this Fall. The BLTA Board agreed that we would obtain position papers from each candidate and post them on our website, email distribution, and Facebook Group.

The BLTA Board also agreed that Jack Byrnes would attend the next School Board meeting on behalf of the BLTA and inquire as to why the Barnegat Light representative was not allowed to speak at the School Board meeting.

- o Charitable Contribution to Barnegat Light Beach Patrol – Rich Brodman

Scott Caffery, Captain of the Barnegat light Beach Patrol (BLBP), will be a speaker at our September 14 General Meeting. The BLBP is in need of equipment and is accepting donations. Rich requested that the Board consider making a donation to the BLBP to help fund their needs. The Board approved a donation of \$500 for the BLBP for equipment needs.

o Speakers for September 14 General Meeting – Rich Brodman

The September 14 General meeting will feature Megan Keller of the Long Beach Township Police Dept., Scott Caffery, Captain of the Barnegat Light Beach Patrol, and Mayor Kirk Larson. It will be held at the First Aid Squad Building on West 10th Street.

We also will conduct a business meeting prior to the speakers, where our new Board Trustees will be formally voted on by the attendees.

o Miscellaneous Items – Barbara Truncellito

- Barbara and Bill asked the Board to consider whether we should accept sponsorships or advertising on any of our website and social media sites. The Board did not discuss this but agreed to consider it at a future meeting.
- Barbara noted that there was likely to be a Teal Initiative for Ovarian Cancer sponsored by the Borough Council. If this is a townwide initiative we will likely be asked to participate.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM. The next meeting is the BLTA General meeting at the First Aid Squad Building on September 14, 2019 at 9:30 AM. The next Trustee Meeting is on October 12 at 10:00 AM at Bill's house.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
September 12, 2019