

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
 Trustees Meeting Minutes
 June 20, 2020

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

I. President's Opening Comments

Barbara Truncellito called the Trustee Conference Call meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The Trustees approved the minutes from the May 9, 2020 Trustee Meeting.

II. Reports

o Membership Report – Rich Brodman

Rich noted that the latest update of the database for 2020 shows that we have 527 members so far, only 17 behind last year at this time, a very good result given the COVID environment. We ended up with 564 members for the full year 2019.

Rich also noted that our digital newsletters have been very well received, with over 78% being opened. This is much better than typical digital newsletters, which on average get about a 40% open rate.

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chnelich

Bill presented an interim financial statement as of May 31. BLTA Income year-to-date is \$11,715 (\$10,575 of dues and \$1,140 of contributions) and expenses were \$5,375 for an increase in the fund balance of \$6,340. The current fund balance stands at \$18,573 as of May 31.

Bill noted that the BLTA has transmitted \$7,000 to the fund established by the JCTA at Bank of America to provide gift cards for food to the St. Francis Food Pantry, and meals for medical workers at the Southern Ocean Medical Center. \$6,000 were contributed by our members and \$1,000 was from the BLTA.

The Paypal/Stripe payment option is in place and is working well, along with the online membership form.

Bill also informed the group that the financial reports and backup information from 2019 have been submitted to Phil Kahn for review as required by our by-laws.

o BLTA Website and Social Media – Betsy Aras

Betsy updated the group on website changes for the summer. Since many more property owners are present during the summer, the website will have less articles, focusing on those of direct relevance to Barnegat Light property owners. The calendar for the Borough has been updated and Betsy has been updating our BLTA calendar on the website also.

The Facebook Group now has 238 members, most of whom are active and read our posts. The activity level has increased during the COVID period.

o Borough Council – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara and other Trustees attended the June Zoom meeting of the Borough Council, and encouraged all Trustees to attend when possible. The primary topics included the presence of Coyotes in town, and the issue of dogs being present at the Bay Beach for sunset viewing, which ultimately causes issues with bacteria in the water. There were a lot of comments on this expressed at the meeting.

o School Board Strategic Planning Committees– Barbara Truncellito

Barbara reported that the LBI Consolidated School Board had been focused on teacher labor negotiations over the last month, and a contract was approved with 1.9% salary increases.

The engineering report for the two elementary schools was completed and will be delivered soon. The reports of the strategic planning committees are expected to be delivered in July. Minutes of School Board meetings are posted on the School Board website.

o Joint Committee of Taxpayer Associations (JCTA)– Barbara Truncellito

Barbara attended a conference call of the Board of the JCTA. The primary discussion was on progress on the fund established by the JCTA at Bank of America to provide gift cards for food to the St. Francis Food Pantry, and meals for medical workers at the Southern Ocean Medical Center. The meals are provided by participating restaurants. The contributions to the JCTA Fund are split 50/50 between St. Francis Food Pantry and the Medical Center.

The goal was to raise \$10,000 and the JCTA (together with the separate Taxpayer Associations) has already raised \$14,000. \$7,000 of that total came from the BLTA (\$1,000) and BLTA members (\$6,000). The hospital has a smaller number of current COVID cases, but St. Francis will have needs for the next 3-

6 months. The JCTA will keep approximately \$1,300 in reserve for the hospital, but will primarily fund St. Francis going forward.

III. New Business – Items for Discussion

○ Garden Club Potential Donation – Rich Brodman

Rich discussed the financial issues being faced by the LBI Garden Club, and whether the BLTA would consider making a donation, especially given the role of The Garden Club in maintaining the Barnegat Light Museum gardens and the monarch butterfly preserve at the Pavilion. The Board discussed making a donation earmarked for the work being done at the Pavilion and Museum gardens, and decided to table this until the August meeting, pending a review of the By-laws.

○ 2020 Events and General Meetings – Rich Brodman

Rich discussed the status of meetings for the summer, given that the May Wine and Cheese event was postponed until the Fall and the June 20 meeting at the Pavilion was cancelled. The Board decided not to do a virtual meeting in July. The Board discussed having a virtual meeting in August, but due to the complexities, has decided to have a live meeting in September if allowed under the COVID guidelines, along with a Fall Wine and Cheese event. LBI Flood Plane manager Sean MacCotter, and Mayor Kirk Larson would be the primary speakers at a September meeting, along with BLTA Committee Reports.

○ BLTA Officers – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara noted that the 2-year terms of the BLTA officers are up for renewal in September. The Board approved a motion recommending additional 2-year terms for Barbara Truncellito as President, Dr. Rich Brodman as Vice President, and Bill Chernelich as Treasurer. The officer recommendations will be presented to the full membership for approval at the September meeting in accordance with our By-laws.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM. The next Trustees meeting will be a conference call or a Zoom meeting, on August 8 at 10:00 AM.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
July 23, 2020