

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
 Trustees Meeting Minutes
 August 20, 2021

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

I. President's Opening Comments

- o Approval of Minutes – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara Truncellito called the Trustee Zoom Conference Call meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Trustees approved the minutes from the July 24, 2021 General Meeting.

II. Reports

- o Membership Report – Rich Brodman

Rich presented the latest membership report. Membership at this point is significantly above the end of year total for the last few years. We have 581 current members, with 50 of them being new members. The total is close to 50% of all Barnegat Light property owners.

Rich noted that 20 of our spring newsletters were returned with wrong addresses. Apparently the November tax roll update did not include all address changes due to a backlog and time lag. Rich and Phil have obtained the correct addresses and will send another copy with a quick note. There were 40-50 property owner changes in the last year in Barnegat Light.

- o September 25 General Meeting and Wine and Cheese Event – Barbara Truncellito and Rich Brodman



Barbara and Rich discussed the speakers for the September 25 General Meeting. It was agreed that a representative of the Fire Department should speak, especially as a way to showcase the Department for the excellent response to the High Bar Harbor tornado. The Mayor will also speak, and Megan Keller of the LBT Police Department will attend the meeting and be available for questions and expired prescription drop-offs.

As an additional speaker, the Trustees decided to ask Dorothy, Barnegat Light Postmaster, to give a brief overview of issues to be aware of during the off-season, similar to her presentation a few years ago. It was noted that Dorothy was retiring at year end so this would be a way to allow her to speak to the town one last time.

The group then discussed the Wine and Cheese Event and decided that given the current environment with the COVID variant, the Wine and Cheese Event would not be appropriate since it encourages people to speak close together in groups and attendees would be unable to be socially distant.

- Treasurer's Report – Bill Chnelich

Bill noted that there was no financial update since there was very little activity since the June 30 end of quarter report.

The Trustees then discussed donations to be made during the remainder of the year. A motion was made to contribute \$1,000 to the Fire Department to assist with costs of the new fire truck and the tornado. The motion was approved.

The Trustees also discussed making a contribution to the First Aid Squad similar to the amounts made in prior years. After discussion, the Trustees approved a \$500 donation to the First Aid Squad.

Checks for both the Fire Department and the First Aid Squad will be given at the September 25 general meeting. The Trustees also agreed to consider a contribution to a High Bar Harbor Tornado Relief Fund if one is established.

- Website and Social Media – Betsy Aras

Betsy gave an update on the BLTA website and noted that there was no significant new activity and the next monthly update would go out soon.

Betsy continues to actively post on the Facebook Group, and the Group has 312 members.



- Borough Council – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara spoke with the Mayor regarding Borough Council meetings and other issues. The September Borough Council meeting is likely to be back at the Firehouse since very few people have attended the meetings at Borough Hall. The Mayor also noted that he had set up a Zoom call with the new head of the BOEM.

The discussion at the Planning Board meeting of new properties going up for sale on 16th St led to the proposed ordinance for higher elevations for new construction and significant renovations in order to alleviate flooding issues on the west side of the Borough.

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

Barbara noted that she was being nominated for president of the JCTA along with Bill Hutson, the current President.

At the recent meeting, a subcommittee was formed to obtain data and catalog the calls and activities of the Fire Departments and First Aid Squads throughout LBI. The purpose is to increase awareness of the great work that is being done by these organizations, who are critical to LBI.

The JCTA will purchase a subscription to Survey Monkey for use by each of the Associations. However, any information related to email or addresses of members will not be shared by the respective Associations.

- School Board – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara did not attend the latest meeting of The School Board but did discuss the meeting with Marilyn Wasilewski. There currently are no offers to buy the former LBI Grade School, although some negotiations are taking place. The issues related to the lawsuit filed by Ship Bottom may have had an impact on potential buyers. The next meeting of the School Board is Tuesday August 24.

- Newsletter – Barbara Truncellito and Mary Ann Crutchlow

Barbara and Mary Ann led a discussion of the format for next year's newsletter. In addition, the Trustees agreed that Mary Ann should have an assistant or backup to assist in collecting articles and editing the newsletter.

The current format of the newsletter is a hard copy produced using Adobe Design. Going forward Adobe Design will be a subscription service and Mary Ann recommended that we look at alternative formats, including Wild Apricot, Microsoft Publisher, or Constant Contact. The Trustees also considered whether we could do a digital-only newsletter in



lieu of printing and mailing hard copies. A digital newsletter would be sent to the emails of all members and nonmembers where we have email addresses. We would also post the newsletter on our website for those for whom we do not have email addresses. We currently are missing 36 email addresses for members and are missing approximately 400 email addresses for nonmembers. Note that we intend to continue to send a hard copy dues request and we could include a note with each dues request with information on how to access the newsletter, if we did a digital-only newsletter.

The Board wanted to consider the issue of the format of the newsletter in more detail before making a decision and agreed to continue to discuss the format and timing of the newsletter at the October Trustee meeting.

- Little Free Library (LFL)

The Little Free Library Committee of volunteers established by Betsy and MaryAnn has been very active. They alternate weeks in monitoring and organizing the Post Office LFL boxes, and currently have all weeks covered through the end of summer. Their great work has made a significant difference in the organization and appearance of the Post Office LFL boxes. The Trustees recommended that we put up signs on the LFL boxes requesting that people not place textbooks or books in bad shape in the LFL boxes. We also agreed to put back the sign requesting users to wear masks, in recognition of the Delta variant surge.

III. New Business

- Board Secretary – Barbara Truncellito and Tom Zesk

Barbara and Tom reminded the group that Tom will be leaving the Board at the end of the current year in September. Therefore, the Board will need a new Secretary to record the meeting minutes and maintain Board records and documents. The Board also agreed to present a formal schedule of Board members and terms to the full membership.

In closing, Barbara and the other Trustees thanked Tom for his five years of service on the BLTA Board.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is the September 25 General Meeting, which will take place at 9:30 AM at the 6th St. Pavilion.

Recorded and submitted by:



Tom Zesk
Secretary
August 24, 2021