

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2022

Attending:

Barbara Truncellito
Rich Brodman
Bill Chernelich
Betsy Aras
Kay McDonnell
Jack Byrnes
Tony Dandola
Wendy Baker
Mary Ann Crutchlow
Phil Kahn

Excused/Absent:

Patty Francfort (Committee Member)

Barbara Truncellito called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM. Barbara asked the Board whether all had received a copy of the minutes from the Board Meeting on November 19th. All had and such minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports

1. **Membership-** Rich Brodman

Rich updated the Board as to our membership number which is very good. We have 534 member households up 46 year-over-year. Rich commented that we are in good shape as of the present.

Rich indicated that the cost of snail mail for both dues and the newsletters would approximate \$3,500. Emailing both, except for those without email, would cost approximately \$1,350. If the dues request went by email and the newsletter by snail mail, the cost would rise to \$2,100, except those without email would be contacted by snail mail. He then presented two options: 1. Send the dues request to all digitally, and then wait a month to send the newsletter and a second payment request. 2. Do a snail mail for both. Based on results, do a Wild Apricot digital mail. Again, wait a month to determine further action. Further discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Bill Chernelich

Bill presented an estimate for financial results for 2021 and a draft projection for 2022. The forecast for 2022 shows a projected fund balance of approximately \$18,500. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached. The Treasurer's report was moved by Rich to accept as presented and seconded by Jack.

3. **Social Media Report** – Betsy Aras and Kay McDonnell

Betsy indicated that she had spoken with Marie about the need for her services in the future. The new website will reduce her contributions dramatically.

Kay indicated the BLTA Advisory Committee for Wild Apricot Membership Platform & Website (“Committee”) has met. Kay presented three immediate areas for explanation and comment and discussion followed:

1. Website
2. Membership Log-in/Payment
3. Member Profile/Directory.

The Committee will continue to meet on these issues. Kay further indicated that there are a number of potential added features to study and consider.

1. A members-only page which might highlight local businesses
2. Directory
3. Photo galleries, like Wine and Cheese
4. An automated system for messages
5. A reminder feature
6. A blog on the members-only site
7. A polling feature

4. **JCTA Board** – Barbara

There are 10 taxpayers associations on the island. Surf City has been invited to join.

The Board is working on a strategic plan and has identified 6 subjects around which committees will be formed to investigate: wind farms, flooding, taxes, safety measures, first responders and beach replenishment. A suggestion to do a BLTA fundraiser to support the wind farms issues was discussed and tabled to the next meeting.

5. **Borough Council** – Barbara

Wendy attended and indicated the meeting was brief. Meter rates were discussed and put off to the February meeting. The BC borrowed \$950,000 to buy the water meters, securing the loan by a similar amount of cash. There was a first movement for block grants. Finally, the balance of debt on the Coast Guard property as of December 2020 was \$1,425,000.

6. **School Board – Sale of LBI School** – Barbara

The school board remains in litigation with Ship Bottom. Little progress is being made.

7. **Little Library** – Mary Ann and Betsy

The Little Library Committee continues to run smoothly. The idea of sanitizing individual books was discussed and dropped.

8. **Newsletter** – Mary Ann

Mary Ann suggested that the feature article be about first responders in the borough – the Fire Department and the First Aid Squad. All agreed, perhaps beginning with the Fire Department. Both are staffed entirely by volunteers.

The next meeting of the BLTA is scheduled for Thursday, February 17th at 3:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.