

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2022

By Zoom

Trustees

Attending:

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

Non-Trustee Board Members

Attending:

Bruce Allen
Maddy Pantzer

Excused/Absent:

Tom Zest (Committee Member)
Trish Faidiga

Rich Brodman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

The minutes of the Octobers 21st meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman

Rich indicated that we have a full agenda to cover at this meeting.

Reports

1. Membership – Kay McDonnell

We currently have 619 paid members.

2. Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

Bill indicated there has not been much activity since our October meeting. A copy of the report is attached.

A review of the 2021 financials is not yet complete but is expected to be done soon. To date no issues have materialized.

3. Social Media – Betsy Aras, Wendy Baker, Scott Neff

Betsy indicated that she and Kay are updating all trustee bio's on our website and adding Scott Neff.

She further indicated that Patty Frankfort is no longer participating as a committee member and that Tom Zest will join as a committee member.

4. Little Free Library – Mary Ann Crutchlow

We continue to recruit community members to participate in managing the library facility. We also are encouraging the community to donate books.

5. American Flag Disposals – Betsy Aras

Betsy indicated a repository box will be built and available for flag disposals by April.

6. Borough Council Meeting – Rich Brodman, Bruce Allen

At the last Borough Council meeting, two issues of interest were discussed:

- Water and sewer bills have been set. The water fee structure is a \$300 flat annual fee plus rates based on usage. Rates will be measured, reviewed quarterly and charged accordingly. The sewer rate will be set at \$475 per year or \$118.75, billed quarterly. The water rate for 25-50,000 gallons is .00268. From 50-150,000 gallons the rate is .0055.
- Concept of multi-family housing. The Council began a discussion of permitting additional multi-family housing in the Borough, defined as three or more units. No conclusions were reached. This discussion will continue at future meetings.

7. JCTA – Rich Brodman

The principal discussion was the need for an island-wide survey regarding offshore windmills to assess island residents' sentiments and their knowledge about the windmills. There was a long discussion as to the need for a survey by the Trustees and resident attendees who participated. Particular issues included the structure of the survey, paper or digital, the gathering of responses and who will review them. Each TA is being asked to go further within their constituency to determine the desirability of a survey.

8. Donation to Hurricane Victims – Scott Neff

Scott found a social services organization called "Friends in Service Here" or FISH. The organization covers Sanibel and Captiva Islands. It provides food, cleaning products, charging stations and meals-on-wheels. They currently have a \$100,000 matching gift program. The Board voted unanimously to make a \$500 donation to FISH.

9. Donation to the Borough – Rich Brodman

Town Project. The Trustees considered funding the replacement of the jungle gym set that was once at the Bay Beach. Rich mentioned that Council members were very much in favor of this idea, particularly Ed Wellington. Rich indicated that Ed was going to go forward for a price. There was considerable discussion among the Trustees and, although favorable, no conclusion was reached.

10. Bay Beach Issues – Rich Brodman

Rich pointed out that there were many complaints about the Bayside beaches, specifically that they are dirty and not properly maintained, particularly with excess seaweed. Rich met with Dottie Reynolds to explain our concerns about the seaweed. Dottie suggested that the lifeguard on duty would become responsible for assessing the "seaweed issue" and when necessary, would call Borough Hall to dispatch a clean-up crew.

11. Cloud Solution – Bill Chernelich, Trish Faidiga

Both Bill and Trish think a cloud solution to the storage of BLTA documents is an excellent idea and have begun to go ahead with its development and are continuing research into its regular maintenance. The Board was in full agreement.

The next meeting of the BLTA, by Zoom, is on Thursday, December 15th at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Byrnes
Secretary