

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

The following minutes cover both the Business Meeting (8:30 a.m.)
preceding the Board Meeting
and the Board Meeting
July 23, 2022
at the Pavilion

FINAL

Attending:

Dr. Rich Brodman
Bill Chernelich
Jack Byrnes
Betsy Aras
Wendy Baker
Mary Ann Crutchlow
Phil Kahn
Kay McDonnell

Excused/Absent:

Patty Francfort (Committee Member)
Tony Dandola

BUSINESS MEEETING (8:30 a.m.)

Prior to the Trustee Board Meeting, a short business meeting of the trustees was called to order. The agenda included the following items:

- Approval of prior Board Meeting minutes
- An amendment to our bylaws allowing Bill Chernelich to serve another term as treasurer. This required a majority vote among the trustees. All voted affirmatively.
- Brief update of the JCTA meeting
- Brief update of the Borough Council Meeting
- Introduction to the trustees of a prospective new trustee, Scott Neff.

TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING (9:30 a.m.)

Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman

Dr. Brodman called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to introduce himself and each of the Board members to the audience.

Rich welcomed Matt Vereb, our community police officer, with his medication drop box.

He then reviewed our protocol for Q & A with our two speakers, Ed Aras and Mayor Larson.

Rich mentioned that we are continuing to expand our trustee base and, for those who might be interested, to contact him or any of the other trustees.

He then described the JCTA, an organized group of representatives of all of the LBI taxpayer associations. Dr. Brodman represents Barnegat Light. The JCTA has generated some goals to help all of the communities on the Island. The Island’s first responders are one of their highest priorities. They are all

volunteer organizations. There are five fire houses and three first aid squads serving all of LBI. For example, our firehouse serves High Bar Harbor and Loveladies through to the Foundation, in addition to Barnegat Light. Our first aid squad covers Barnegat Light as well as High Bar Harbor, Loveladies, Harvey Cedars and North Beach. As part of the JCTA, we are working to increase awareness not just for donations, but to encourage volunteerism and to educate island residents about where these emergency services come from. To this end, the JCTA is preparing a full page ad in *The Sandpaper* highlighting these eight organizations, their websites and the areas they cover.

A member of the BLTA attends all Borough Council Meetings. The most recent meeting focused on water meters and their usage with the goal of establishing rates by year end. The council also mentioned the August 6 auction benefiting our Fire Department, and that the LBI Foundation was sponsoring a house tour on August 3.

Rich then led everyone with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports

1. **Membership – Rich Brodman Reports**

We currently have 607 members, an all-time high. There are approximately 1195 households and 53 businesses in Barnegat Light.

2. **Treasurer’s Report – Bill Chnelich**

Bill indicated that the financial condition of the BLTA is healthy. He provided highlights of revenues, contributions and expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2022. A copy of the Treasury Report is attached hereto.

3. **Nominating Report – Bill Chnelich, Chair**

Nominations for three year terms as a Trustee are for Dr. Rich Brodman, Betsy Aras, Jack Byrnes, Kay McDonnell and Scott Neff, a new trustee. Bill asked for nominations from the floor of which there were none.

Nominations for two-year terms as Officers:

President – Dr. Rich Brodman
Vice President – Tony Dandola
Treasurer – Bill Chnelich
Secretary – Jack Byrnes

4. **Speakers – Rich Brodman**

Our first speaker was Ed Aras, Equipment Engineer for the Barnegat Light Fire Department. Ed has over 40 years of experience as a volunteer for fire companies. His opening comments discussed the terrible fire at a resident’s home at the northern end of Barnegat Light. The house was demolished, fed by winds off the ocean. The cause is unknown. In addition to the Barnegat Light Fire Department, all fire companies on the island sent at least one truck.

As to preventative measures, Ed described the locations within a home that are most vulnerable to fire. He described the “fire triangle” – you need all three; heat, oxygen and fuel. All homes should have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors on every floor and, specifically, in the kitchen.

In addition, all homes should have a fireproof box in which important documents are stored and a video of all of the home's rooms. Each family should also have practiced a fire drill so residents know the best route to escape.

Rich then introduced our second speaker, Mayor Kirk Larson, and a member of his staff, Jim Gutowski. The Mayor's principal topic was the effect of the proposed wind farms on our fishing industry, our views, and our property values. He indicated that there doesn't appear to be a fully coordinated response to these wind farms. All appear to be driven by personal interest. The Mayor fielded numerous questions on this topic from the audience.

Our next meeting of the Board is on Friday, August 19 at 4 p.m. by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Byrnes
Secretary