

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2023

By Zoom

Trustees

Attending:

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

Non-Trustee Board Members

Attending:

Bruce Allen
Maddy Pantzer

Excused/Absent:

Tom Zest (Committee Member)
Phil Kahn
Jack Byrnes

Rich Brodman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

A motion was made by MaryAnn Crutchlow to approve the minutes (pending correctioins) and seconded by Wendy Baker. The minutes of the March 23, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved, pending the corrections.

Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman

Rich opened the meeting saying thank you to Wendy and Mary Ann for a great newsletter. He had received many comments on the entire newsletter and on individual articles. Job well done!

Reports

1. Membership – Kay McDonnell

Kay reported that our membership campaign is proceeding well. We have 386 Individual/Household members (10 new and 376 renewed); 86 Lifetime members; 2 Business memberships (1 new); for a total of 474 Active 2023-24 Individual/Lifetime/Business Memberships. 68 memberships have been lapsed for over a year (2021-22) – we may send those folks a personalized email to see if they will rejoin. There are 159 members who are overdue to renew their membership. The final (your membership has lapsed) email goes out on April 16, 2023. After that, members who have not responded, plus those members who do not have email addresses, will receive a card via snail mail about renewing their membership.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Bill Chernelich

- A. The Treasury Report as of March 31, 2023 was presented for review. This report, once approved, will be posted on our website. He presented the following information:
 - o Dues of \$6,725 are \$825 ahead of last year at this time. An additional \$3,600 has been received thus far in April, meaning we have \$3,150 (approximately 125 memberships) to go in order to reach last year's annual dues total.

- Contributions of \$2,785 are \$500 ahead of last year at this time.
 - IT Expenditures of \$2,629 are up \$340 compared to last year at this time. But we did not incur any WA start-up costs this year, which reduces our expenditures by \$2,500 for this quarter.
 - The Donation of \$729 is the Flag Disposal Box
 - Our Fund Balance of \$27,869 is up approximately \$5,600 from Year-end and is \$6,300 ahead of last year at this time.
 - Upcoming costs include the Wine and Cheese Event (~\$1000) and the purchase of a Defibrillator (~1800-2000)
- B. Motion made by Scott Neff and seconded by Tony Dandola to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

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

The website is up-to-date with the latest JCTA Wind Farm report. An email was sent to BLTA members advising them of the Flag Disposal Box which is in place and linking them to the Windfarm information on the website.

4. Little Free Library –Mary Ann Crutchlow

The Little Free Library continues to thrive. A new schedule was sent out with dates through September and just about every spot is now filled.

5. Donation to Barnegat Light – Betsy Aras

The flag repository box for retired flags is complete and in place – flags have already been added to the box. Thank you to Ed Aras for his work in building and completing this addition to Barnegat Light. An article was in this week's Sandpaper detailing the placement of the box, identifying Boy Scout Troop 26 out of Waretown who will be responsible for the proper disposal of the flags.

The BLTA will also be donating a defibrillator to the Borough (estimated cost \$1500-\$1800). It will be placed at the pickleball court or the pavilion. First Aid Squad Capt. Scott Pojednic is researching the proper defibrillator for us to purchase.

6. Speaker Topics for our three General Meetings in 2023 – Jack Byrnes and Bruce Allen

Bruce Allen reported confirmation on our principal speakers for our summer meetings:

- **June General Meeting:**
 - Primary speaker is Ginny Haines, Ocean County Freeholder;
 - Secondary speaker is Police Officer Matt Verub or Lt. Hartmann of the LBTPD – they will speak briefly on bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- **July General Meeting:**
 - Primary speaker is a NJ State representative speaking on endangered species of birds;
 - Secondary speaker is First Aid Captain Mark Pojednic who will speak about the defibrillator and CPR. After the meeting he will hold demonstration on CPR to whomever wishes to stay around and participate.
- **September General Meeting:**
 - Primary speaker is Karter Larson who will present information on the fishing industry in Barnegat Light
 - Secondary speaker is Tom Altman, Postmaster of the Barnegat Light Post Office. He will introduce himself to the town and review postal services.

7. Newsletter – Wendy, Mary Ann and Maddy

Again, credit to both Wendy and Mary Ann for this year's informative and interesting newsletter. We've received many good comments from the membership. It was suggested that we have a one-page summary of some of the articles available in this year's newsletter with links to our online website for them to read it more thoroughly. This should be available at the June general meeting. Maddy Pantzer will work on this with Wendy and Mary Ann before sending the final copy to Rich Brodman for review.

8. Wine and Cheese Event – Sunday, May 28th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Pavilion

- a. Rich Brodman had sent out a list of shopping needs for this event.
 - i. Scott will handle the order through ShopRite.
 - ii. Mary Ann will handle the necessary items from Costco.
 - iii. Bill donated 2 cases of small water bottles (48/case).
 - iv. Rich will add to the paper products as needed but stated that we have lots of paper products leftover from last year.
 - v. Mary Ann will make up a flyer advertising the Wine and Cheese event and Bruce and Tony will handle the distribution of these flyers to area stores and businesses. The flyers should go up at least 2 weeks ahead of time.
 - vi. Wendy and Betsy will provide their personal coolers and Betsy will also provide a folding 8-ft table.
 - vii. Rich will procure the wine from the Barnegat Light Bottle Shop.
 - viii. Betsy will be sure our new trustees and board members have name tags
 - ix. Nametags will also be provided to the attendees listing their name and street on which they live
 - x. Kay will provide availability for people to join the BLTA at this event.
 - xi. Assignment of duties for the day of the event will happen at our May Board Meeting.

9. Borough Council Meeting – Rich Brodman and Bruce Allen

Four topics of interest were discussed at the Borough Council Meeting.

1. Any discussion of the proposed change to Section 215-90 of the Building Code describing setbacks for buildings in Barnegat Light was not discussed as some council members are still reviewing the recommendation by the Planning Board and may meet with the Planning Board again for more information. Currently 25 feet, the Council is considering increasing the setback to 35 feet.
2. The borough has registered over 100 kayaks and the beach is filled up once again. Most of the kayaks/small boats are BL residents with a few from out of town. Seasonal decals will be required for kayaks and small boats left on the beach just south of 24th street. For Barnegat Light residents, the cost will be either \$10 or \$20 depending on the width (5 feet) of the boat. For non-residents, the fee will be \$100 or \$200 depending upon the width.
3. During the public session several residents were concerned that people who own two-family homes are getting charged double rates for sewer and water – the council stands behind this billing system.
4. The borough is ahead on Beach Badge sales and Dog Park badges. They continue to be short on help for Beach Badge Checkers and help monitoring the Pickleball Courts during the summer season.
5. The new 10 x10 foot building near the pickleball courts is well underway which will house equipment, sell beach badges, tennis passes, Kayak/small boat stickers, and passes for pickleball. This replaces the booth that is located behind the post office. A bathroom will not be included.

10. JCTA – Rich Brodman

Rich reported that the Executive Summary from the Wind Survey is ready for distribution. Each town will speak with their mayor and go over the information collected from this survey. Then, on Monday, May 8th, this summary will be sent out by all the TAs to their respective members. It will include the summary, tables, and link to a YouTube video.

11. New Business

- a. Rich Brodman and Bill Chrnlich brought up discussion about us sharing information with our members about a political march/rally against the wind farms to be held on LBI. It was decided that we will not share this; although we do share information on the potential wind farms, we do not wish to take sides on the matter. The group organizing this rally has plenty of options to get it advertised to all LBI residents. Our website calendar is used for happenings in Barnegat Light.

The next meeting of the BLTA, by Zoom, will be on Thursday, May 18th at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Aras
Acting Secretary