

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2023

Trustees

Attending:

Rich Brodman
Tony Dandola
Bill Chnelich
Jack Byrnes
Bruce Allen
Betsy Aras
Wendy Baker
Phil Kahn
Kay McDonnell
Maddy Pantzer

Excused/Absent:

Scott Neff
Madeline Weinrebe

Rich Brodman called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

The minutes of September 23rd were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman

Rich indicated that we had a lengthy agenda and a lot of ground to cover.

Reports

1. Membership – Kay McDonnell

As of October 26th, we have 617 members. Otherwise, there is nothing new to report.

2. Treasurer's Report – Bill Chnelich

Bill indicated that the BLTA is in excellent financial condition. At September 30th, our fund balance was slightly in excess of \$30,000. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached.

3. Social Media – Betsy Aras and Wendy Baker

Betsy indicated that there was nothing new to report.

4. Little Free Library – Wendy Baker and Maddy Pantzer

We are having difficulty maintaining sufficient children's books. The committee has decided to include a statement such as "Little Free Library of the BLTA" within good quality books to encourage them to be returned.

5. Donations to Barnegat Light – Rich Brodman

The AED has arrived and is installed at the Pavilion. The location is sufficient to add a plaque next to it. We will make the dedication at our first meeting in June. We have sent a check to the Borough for the full cost of \$2,338.

We have made a donation of \$1,000 to the St. Francis Food Pantry and also solicited donations in our most recent newsletter. A site for direct monetary contributions to the Food Pantry has been set up on our website.

We will also be making a \$500 donation for the victims of Maui wildfires and hurricane.

6. Tasks for the Upcoming Year – Rich Brodman

A task list for 2024 has been developed. The Board has reviewed it and approved it.

7. Speakers Series – Bruce Allen and Jack Byrnes

Bruce has contacted Riley Sharp to speak on the history of Barnegat Light, likely at our September meeting. Other topics under consideration include 1) our native plantings and eco-friendly landscaping and 2) an update on the Offshore Wind Turbines.

8. Officer Term Limits – Bill Chernelich

Presently our trustees serve 3-year terms and our officers are elected for 2-year terms. The Board unanimously approved extending officer terms to 3 years also. Our bylaws will be updated.

9. Reduction of Scheduled Meetings – Jack Byrnes

After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to reduce the number of meetings annually from 12 to 10, eliminating our November and December meetings.

10. Borough Council Meeting – Bruce Allen and Rich Brodman

Council indicated that for 2023, receipts from the sale of beach badges totaled \$224,000 and from dog park badges \$8,230. The Council decided not to increase the dog park fees for 2024. The Council did indicate that it is planning to add soccer/lacrosse nets and a batting cage behind and around the dog park. The Council did remove 20 kayaks from our bay beach area. Only 3 have been claimed.

11. JCTA – Rich Brodman

The JCTA discussed the desire for a new president and after a brief discussion, re-elected the existing one.

A thorough discussion took place about providing support to the food pantry at St. Francis. Members discussed ways to help, including soliciting donations for food and money. Rich Brodman indicated that the BLTA would provide a \$1,000 contribution.

12. New Business

None.

The next meeting of the BLTA Board will be on January 18, 2024 at 4PM by zoom. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Byrnes