

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

FINAL

Trustees

Attending:

Rich Brodman
Bill Chernelich
Madeline Weinrebe
Jack Byrnes
Bruce Allen
Betsy Aras
Wendy Baker
Phil Kahn
Kay McDonnell
Scott Neff
Maddy Pantzer

Excused/Absent:

Tony Dandola

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

The minutes of October 26, 2023 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman

Rich indicated that our most important task today is to discuss the production of our spring newsletter

Reports

1. Membership – Kay McDonnell

Kay indicated we need to extend an effort focusing on the 92 lapsed members. A letter and a handout would be appropriate. In addition, an effort must be made to contact new homeowners.

2. Treasurer's Report – Madeline Weinrebe

Madeline indicated that 2023 was a good year. We had \$25,500 in the bank on December 31st. A copy of the finance 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

Wendy indicated that the library continues to function smoothly over the winter months. We continue gathering children's books.

5. Donations – Rich Brodman

Rich indicated that all donations have been received and, in addition to our \$1,000 earlier donation, we have raised an additional \$1,750 for the food bank. We received a nice thank you letter from the food bank.

A discussion was held with regard to the wording to be placed on the plaque. The question considered was whether to honor Bobby Selfridge or language that would include the larger group (fire department, auxiliary first aid department, and ocean rescue unit). A decision was not reached pending additional research and interviews.

Maui has received our donation.

6. Spring Newsletter – Wendy Baker, Scott Neff and Maddy Pantzer

The goal is to publish the newsletter during the first week of April in an on-line format only. Subjects to be included are a main article, an item on donations, a president's letter, a treasurer's report, a membership report, an update on the little free library and a list of the accomplishments of the BLTA in 2023. All are due by March 1st.

In addition, a request for support for the first aid squad and the fire company auxiliary should be added. Bill's daughter wrote a beautiful letter about her fond memories when visiting Barnegat Light. We intend to include the letter.

7. Speakers Series – Bruce Allen and Jack Byrnes

Bruce has secured Riley Sharp to present a history of Barnegat Light. We also decided that a second meeting should be devoted to an update on the Atlantic Shores project as well as information about other windmill projects, as there has been some defaulting (Orsted). We will need to find an appropriate speaker for this. A third major topic is up for discussion.

For each of the three public meetings we will add a short segment on a topic of interest. Examples include fire prevention, risks of lithium batteries, bike safety, etc.

8. By-Laws Update – Tony Dandola

Tony is preparing an update so that officers' terms match trustee terms.

9. LBI Foundation Requests –Rich Brodman

The Foundation has asked to use our membership list to alert residents to the Foundation and the services it provides, including such things as Science Saturdays. The BLTA trustees are all supporters of the Foundation and intend to support such requests.

10. Borough Council Meeting – Bruce Allen and Rich Brodman

The following were announced and/or discussed at the meeting:

- The playground at the Bay Beach has been installed.
- An ordinance to eliminate the storage of boat trailers on the street from 8PM to 8AM
- Although kayak registration is required, it is unlikely to be actively enforced.
- The BC will renew the police contract (3 years) with Long Beach Township
- A 25-year contract with T-Mobil for the antenna on the water tower was put in place 27 years ago. We intend to renew it at the current rate.
- The cutting of the dune trails was very controversial. All present at the meeting were against it. In addition, a local developer has clear-cut to the ocean at 29th Street for a home being developed there. They have been fined \$10,000 and required to replace the lost trees with 6-foot trees and a 2-year maintenance agreement. The general consensus among those attending was that the penalty was much too small

11. **JCTA – Rich Brodman**

The JCTA is in the process of reorganizing their priorities to address island-wide issues. They are soliciting suggestions from all of the TA's. One topic that seemed to be favorably viewed was open space preservation.

12. **New Business**

None.

The next meeting of the BLTA Board will be on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 4PM by zoom. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Byrnes