

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2022

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
Trish Faidiga

Excused/Absent:

Tom Zest (Committee Member)
Phil Kahn

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

The minutes of the November 17th meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman

Rich mentioned that at yesterday's Council Meeting, the Council was particularly interested in our opinion regarding the clear cutting in front of certain ocean-front homes. Clearly, this is a major issue.

Reports

1. Membership – Kay McDonnell

Nothing to report.

2. Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

Bill indicated that we have closed out our CD and Savings accounts and consolidated our bank accounts. We have two checking accounts, one for deposits and our general account. Bill indicated that our fund balance is \$22,300, after making a \$500 donation to "FISH." We received a very nice thank you note from them.

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

There is nothing to report.

4. Little Free Library – Mary Ann Crutchlow

Mary Ann indicated library maintenance has been moving along efficiently and otherwise has nothing to report. She did mention that she discovered a small library on 30th St. It is not ours but is likely maintained by 30th St. residents.

5. American Flag Disposals – Betsy Aras

There is nothing to report.

6. Donation for a Town Project – Rich Brodman

Rich met with Ed Wellington who expressed strong support for our desire to make a donation to the Borough. Rich suggested a jungle gym at the Bay Beach. Ed indicated that it would be a complicated process and very expensive, and further, that the state must install it.

Ed suggested that Dottie Reynolds had found a home in Bricktown housing approximately 200 cats and dogs, all in bad shape. The animals were moved to the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter. The Board felt that we would best serve this opportunity by assisting the shelter with a call for adoptions and financial support. We would include this in our upcoming newsletter. The Board did not think this would be a substitute for a donation to a town project.

7. Cloud Solution for BLTA Documents – Bill Chnelich and Trish Faidiga

Nothing to report.

8. Speaker Topics for 2023 – Jack Byrnes and Bruce Allen

- Mary Ann suggested someone from the Audubon Society to discuss Barnegat Light birds and their migratory patterns. She indicated that Dottie Reynolds is an avid Birder.
- The new Postmaster in Barnegat Light.
- A County representative, perhaps Ginny Haines, to discuss senior citizen's services. Our payments to Ocean County are the largest item on our tax bill.
- School taxes. We rank 19 out of 19 school systems in the County according to US News and World Report. Craig Henry, the Superintendent of Schools, or our local representative to the School Board might be appropriate speakers.
- The Borough's CFO to discuss the Borough budget including water rates.
- The senior officer of the Coast Guard to discuss what they do and what they don't do.
- The Chief of Police to discuss ordinances of interest such as bike safety, dogs and other pets, etc. BLTA spends approximately \$700,000 annually on police services.
- History of the fishing industry, the major commercial business in Barnegat Light. This discussion might include the effect of windmills, although with so much litigation pending, windmill construction may take many years to begin.

9. Borough Council Meeting – Rich Brodman, Bruce Allen

Bruce and Rich attended the most recent meeting. A lengthy discussion took place regarding multifamily housing development in Barnegat Light. Under the "Mt. Laurel Doctrine" low-income housing must be provided if we expand to allow multi-housing development. This conversation was prompted by the potential sale of the miniature golf course.

There was some conversation regarding the relocation of the sale of beach badges to the pickle ball courts. Moving the location from its current site to the pickle ball area and adding a bathroom were under strong consideration.

10. JCTA – Rich Brodman

The discussion regarding an island wide survey continued. A need to protect email addresses and remove biases in the questions was favorably received.

The next meeting of the BLTA, by Zoom, will be on Thursday, January 26 at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Byrnes
Secretary