

**BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023

By Zoom

**FINAL**

**Trustees**

**Attending:**

Rich Brodman  
Tony Dandola  
Bill Chnelich  
Jack Byrnes  
Betsy Aras  
Wendy Baker  
Kay McDonnell  
Scott Neff

**Non-Trustee Board Members**

**Attending:**

Bruce Allen  
Maddy Pantzer

**Excused/Absent:**

Tom Zest (Committee Member)  
Phil Kahn  
Mary Ann Crutchlow  
Trish Faidiga

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

The minutes of the December 15th meeting were unanimously approved.

**Opening Remarks – Rich Brodman**

Rich mentioned the focus of today's meeting would be twofold: 1) speakers for our summer meetings and 2) preparation for our newsletter.

**Reports**

**1. Membership – Kay McDonnell**

The drive for membership begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Reminders will be mailed March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup> with a follow-up at the end of April and a lapsed message 45 days after April 1<sup>st</sup>. The last step is a postcard to those with no email address and those who haven't paid yet. This will likely go out the end of May.

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

A copy of the year-end Treasury Report is attached. Highlights are as follows:

- Funds on hand are up \$3.7K from last year in spite of spending \$3.7K on Wild Apricot set-up.
- Income is up \$2K mainly due to a \$1.6K increase in contributions from members.
- IT costs include a full year of WA fees. Looking forward, the 2023 WA fees will be similar and were paid in January.
- The WA set-up costs were \$3,750 bringing the total over two years to \$5,000 which is what was authorized.
- Printing and postage dropped by \$1.2K due to more reliance on electronic communications.
- Meeting refreshments of \$1K were incurred for the Wine & Cheese social, our first since 2019.

- Other costs are up due to the payment processing charges we incur when members pay through Wild Apricot.
- We are in good shape financially as we head into 2023.
- Bill confirmed that we have closed our Savings and CD accounts and have a zero balance in our PayPal account although it is still active. That leaves us with two accounts at Bank of America, one to receive checks by electronic scanner and one for receiving WA electronic deposits and paying bills.

Bill is also working on assembling our financial records for review by the Finance Committee in accordance with our By-Law timing.

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

There is nothing to report.

**4. Little Free Library – Rich Brodman for Mary Ann Crutchlow**

Nothing to report. The maintenance of the library continues to run smoothly.

**5. American Flag Disposals – Betsy Aras**

We are still targeting April for the placement of a flag depository.

**6. Donation for a Town Project – Rich Brodman**

The Bay Beach Project – Equipment for Children – has proved to be too complicated and has been rejected. We continue to investigate the following:

- Equipment for the Beach Patrol
- Defibrillator to be placed by the pickle ball courts
- Replenish with cedar trees for the cuttings in the “maritime forest” (dunes) in the areas behind the first dunes

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

Our goal is to store in a central location all of the important documents of the BLTA. We are drafting a white paper to list those documents to be preserved and the responsibility for their upkeep.

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

The possible speakers/topics under consideration are:

- Audubon Society representative
- Senior representative for the Barnegat Light fishing industry
- A representative of the County, hopefully Ginny Haines
- The Superintendent of Schools or our local representative
- The Borough Council Chief Financial Officer
- A senior Coast Guard officer
- The new Postmaster in Barnegat Light
- A police department representative

After a lengthy review and discussion, during which each board member proposed his/her preferred choices, the Board concluded that the following choices for the open Board Meetings this summer will be as follows:

- A representative of the Audubon Society to identify birds and, hopefully, other creatures living in Barnegat Light and their migratory patterns.

- A history of the fishing industry in Barnegat Light
- A representative of the County, hopefully Ginny Haines, to update our members on current events and to address the needs of senior citizens of our community and the resources that are available to them.

**9. Newsletter – Wendy Baker**

We are looking for a featured article for the Newsletter. The Board considered the following:

- Accomplishments of the BLTA in 2022. A description of what we did last year.
- The whales that are washing up on our shores, including two most recently in Barnegat Light.
- An introduction to our website, the information it includes and how to access it
- A description of the Borough Council including a list of its members, their contact information and their responsibilities
- A description of the flag depository box and its function

After a thorough discussion with each member offering their opinion, the Board agreed that the feature article will be the issues surrounding the whales washing up on our shores.

A number of the other suggested topics will be covered elsewhere in the Newsletter.

**10. Borough Council Meeting – Bruce Allen**

The topics that were briefly discussed and of interest to the Council were as follows:

- The noise and disruption related to the early morning duck hunters
- The provision of lessons for kayaking and sailing at the Bay Beach
- That the dog park provided \$8,550 in revenues last year
- That the sale of beach badges provided \$253,000 of revenue last year
- The desire for kayak registration, particularly for out of towners, at the Bay Beach area
- That the state will determine the cost of replacing trees that have been clear cut by residents in the dunes

**11. Planning Board Update – Wendy Baker and Rich Brodman**

The planning board will create a subcommittee to formulate a recommendation to the Council regarding our long-term plan with attention to the handling of multifamily dwellings. The subcommittee will report to the full planning board and its report will be placed online, likely in March,

**12. JCTA – Rich Brodman**

The windfarm survey from the JCTA and BLTA has been finalized and will be placed online in February. Our concerns and recommendations have been incorporated. BLTA members can complete the survey online.

The JCTA also reported the release of \$32M for LBI beach replenishment by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The next meeting of the BLTA, by Zoom, will be on Thursday, February 23 at 4 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5: 48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jack Byrnes  
 Secretary