

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
General Meeting – All Membership Invited

September 23, 2023

Rich called the meeting to order at 9:35AM and welcomed everyone for coming in this very inclement weather. He also welcomed our speakers, Karter Larson, Tom Altman and Mayor Larson.

Opening Remarks

This is our last General Meeting this year; however, we will be showing the movie, *Drift*, here at sundown on Saturday, September 30th. This is about Barnegat Bay with an emphasis on its history as well as some of the ecological challenges it faces. This documentary which is professionally done is an hour and twenty minutes. This presentation is in conjunction with HCTA and HBTA. I would suggest bringing chairs just in case we exceed seating capacity. If it is a cool evening, a sweatshirt and even a stadium blanket is a good idea. Also, we will introduce Brita Forsberg, the Executive Director of Save Barnegat Bay, who will take questions after the movie. Due to the weather, the meeting was moved indoors to the EMS building.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rich led the audience with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Membership Nominations and Elections

Rich offered a warm thank you to Mary Ann Crutchlow who has completed her tenure as Trustee. She has been an invaluable member. She was responsible for creating the Little Free Library, our newsletters, and our meeting and special event flyers.

He then turned the floor over to our nominating committee chairman, Bill Chernelich, who presented our slate of nominees for election. Nominees for a 3-year term on the Board include:

- Bruce Allen, a former Trustee
- Maddy Pantzer, a new Trustee
- Phil Kahn, for his last 3-year term
- Madeline Weinrebe, for her first term as a Trustee and Board Member and a 2-year term as our Treasurer.

All 4 candidates received a unanimous vote. A summary chart showing present and past members and their tenures is attached to these minutes.

Donations

The BLTA was pleased to make our annual contributions to our volunteer Fire Company and First Aid Squad.

Speakers

- Karter Larson. Karter was born in Barnegat Light and spent 12 years in the U.S Air Force prior to entering the fishing business. He provided an overview of the business in Barnegat Light. We have boats that do long-line fishing (up to 40 miles long) for tuna, sword and blue fish. We also are a significant producer of scallops on the east coast with a dozen boats doing scallop fishing. To fish for scallops, one needs a license that today costs \$3.5 million dollars. The government is no longer issuing new licenses. He indicated that with tuna fishing, sharks and whales eat as much as half the catch. We ship our catch throughout the east coast and as far west as Chicago. We produce approximately 3.5 million pounds of scallops annually, despite being limited to 24 days of fishing each year. The short season is to preserve the scallop beds.
- Tom Altman. Tom is our Postmaster and has worked for the Post Office for 31 years. The U.S. Post Office employs 600,000 employees and produces between 75 and 80 billion dollars annually.

The Barnegat Light Post Office provides a full range of services, including overnight local delivery, money orders, and free insurance of \$100 for ground shipments. Additional insurance of up to \$5,000 is available. Tom recommended that residents register their drivers license with the Post Office to avoid fraud with change of address requests. He added an interesting aside. We have our own zip code, 08006, because in the 1950s the U.S. Assistant Postmaster General lived in Barnegat Light and wanted his own zip code.

- Mayor Kirk Larson. The mayor made the following points before opening up to questions from the audience. He indicated the town picnic was scheduled for tomorrow (9/24) at 5:30PM at the Fire House and that all are welcome. The borough is now registering all kayaks left on our bayfront. Local residents pay \$10; out- of-townners, \$100; and Cat Boats \$200. He also mentioned that we have sold 90 dog fobs (for the dog park) to Barnegat Light residents and 300 to out-of-townners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Byrnes
Secretary