

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2016

- I. John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:34AM and led the pledge of allegiance.
- o Opening remarks: John thanked everyone for coming and stated that we have 2 people with roving microphones in the room. If you could please wait for the microphone to come to you, everyone will be able to hear you.

John thanked Dick Malacrea, a long time BLTA officer and recording secretary for his terms of service and initiated a round of applause to thank Dick (and his lovely wife, Joan). John also recognized Bruce Allen, who served the BLTA as past President, Vice President, trustee and treasurer. Although Bruce was absent, he is retiring after this meeting and John initiated a round of applause to thank Bruce for his years of service.

- II. Approval of minutes (posted on the website) from the August 13, 2016 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Reports

- o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chnelich

Bill reported the current numbers: \$25,041 starting cash in the bank; \$9,311 collected in both dues and contributions. Expenses were \$13,478, mostly in printing and postage, leaving an ending balance of \$20,874. Income breakdown is \$8,700 in dues, \$610 in contributions. Notable expenses currently are the Little Library expense and the purchasing of bike racks for the end of streets. The bike racks are an \$8,500 investment and expected to be in place for next season. The racks are made out of recycled plastic.

- o Nominating Report – Election of Officers and Trustees - Jim Slyfield

John Tennyson introduced Jim. Jim reported the following open positions:

- President, John Tennyson
- Vice President, Ed Ebenbach
- Recording Secretary, Open
- Trustees, Jim Slyfield, Andy Moutenot, Tom Zesk and Richard Brodman

Jim reported that John Tennyson and Ed Ebenbach are running for officer reelection while the 4 trustee positions are new. John asked if there were nominations from the floor, hearing none he motioned to nominate all who were mentioned – it was a unanimous vote, by a show of hands, to elect everyone for the respective positions.

- o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach

Ed shared that the BLTA has 526 members, at least 10% up from 2 years ago. It's been a very good year, thank you for your support, I'll be in the back and am accepting checks, cash and can also check the status of your membership.



o Communications – John Tennyson

• Web Site

John thanked Kimberly Patterson for her work on the website and encouraged everyone to visit it daily. John noted that we have about 1,000 visits a month to our site and that the site has come a long way from how it started.

IV. Presentations with Q&A

o John Tennyson pointed out that he also invited Republican candidates Jack Kelly and Ginny Haines but they were unable to attend. John introduced Ed Wolff and Michael Cook.

• Ed Wolff, Democratic Candidate for Freeholder – presented with Michael Cook.
Discussion: Your County Tax Dollars at Work – Features and Benefits

• Kimberly Belfor, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Save Barnegat Bay Organization.
Discussion: New program: Barnegat Bay Stewards

• The Honorable Kirk Larson, Mayor of Barnegat Light: Barnegat Light Borough Topics of Interest.

John Tennyson introduced Kirk Larson and thanked him for always being available and coming to our general meetings to answer questions and discuss current issues in Barnegat Light.

- Central Avenue parking ban – worked out well
- Coast Guard Property – nothing done yet
- LBI Regional School District consolidation plans – 2 people running for council
- Other timely topics
 - Is the tennis fee of \$12 too much? Please give your feedback to Dottie Reynolds
 - A pickleball court has been built near the tennis courts
 - Community picnic today on 9th Street at 11am
 - Having dead pine trees removed on the Beach within Borough property with a State Grant of \$24,000.
 - Obama designated a marine monument preserving sea canyons and underwater mountains off the New England coast; commercial fishing banned in this area.

V. Other New Business

John Tennyson wanted to remind everyone to vote on 11/8/16. There are 3 people running for council and 2 for school board positions. The BLTA has asked the candidates to provide us with a 1-page position paper so that we could post it on our website. So far, the 2 people running for school board have given us information to post. Please check the website, under the Homeowners Tab to review the position papers.

This is a very important topic because you'll be asked in March to vote for an expenditure of upwards to \$16 million (less the sale of the ship bottom school, which could yield up to \$9million) it still puts residents on the hook for \$7m. Two areas of concern: the first is the new plan for the



school includes 100 more spaces available for students – the student population on the island is declining so why would there need to be a need to create more spaces? The second area of concern is that 43 of the 232 students currently enrolled are from the mainland, almost 20%. Those parents/guardians do not pay taxes on the island and you'll be asked to supplement that. We will keep you posted on this topic over the winter via email and we will encourage you to vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

Recorded and submitted by:

Kimberly Patterson
Recording Secretary
9/17/16

DRAFT