

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2017

Attending:

John Tennyson
Ed Ebenbach
Bill Chernelich
Kimberly Patterson

Barbara Truncellito
MaryAnn Crutchlow
Tom Zesk
Rich Brodman (phone)
Jim Slyfield (phone)

Excused:

Andy Moutenot
Dottie Reynolds

- I. John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
 - o John announced that Jim Slyfield and Rich Brodman were attending by phone
 - II. Approval of minutes from December 2016 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved.
 - III. Reports
 - o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich
Bill presented the 2016 BLTA financials with comparison to 2015. The report will be available on the website after review. The fund balance decreased from \$25,041 to \$19,062, primarily due to expenditures for the beach street bike racks sponsored by the BLTA, and the Little Free Library at the Post Office, which was also sponsored by the BLTA. The Board discussed the report and approved the financials, subject to a review to be conducted by Ed on behalf of the Board.
 - o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach
There has been a significant increase in membership over prior years, and our current enrollment is at 526. We have emails for 80% of our members. The Board discussed ways to maintain the high enrollment by continuing to reach out and provide information to our members through the BLTA website, our Winter newsletter, our annual survey, and the 3 summer general meetings. We also are developing new ways to contact new homeowners and current owners who are not familiar with the BLTA.
 - o Open Space Report – Barbara Truncellito
The Town Open Space Committee did not meet in 2016, and there is no current plan for the use of the newly acquired Coast Guard property. Barbara will work with the Borough Council to get a meeting on the calendar in 2017.
 - o LBI School Board Report – Barbara Truncellito
The situation regarding the potential consolidation of the Surf City and Ship Bottom schools remains fluid, and the referendum originally planned for this Spring will be deferred,
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possibly until September, as the School Board is reconsidering the issue. Barbara will provide another update after a scheduled School Board meeting next week.

o Borough Council Report - John Tennyson

A number of items were discussed at the Borough Council meeting, including the possibility of electronic water meters for each house, repairs to the Skate Board Park and the Kiddie Park fence on 10th Street, and the successful cleaning up of the Kayak area. There will be a 2017 town budget workshop on February 8 at 3:30 in Borough Hall.

Our proposed second Little Free Library at the Post Office was approved by the Council and we will now expedite its development. The current box will be for children's books and the new box (which will be larger) will be for adults and teens.

o Communications – John Tennyson

- Website – Kimberly has made some key changes to the functionality and ease of navigation of the website over the past few months, and the latest Google Analytics show that we have had a significant increase over last year in the use and amount of time spent on the site by our members.
- Newsletter - Mary Ann noted that we currently have 4 articles for the Winter newsletter, plus the President's letter, membership report and an 'around town' article on the Borough. Timing is for finalization in early February and mailing following that. Final deadline for submission of articles is next Wednesday. The newsletter will include a cover page with a mailing label to make it easy for members to register for 2017.

IV. New Business – Items for Discussion

o 2017 Annual Membership Survey – Kimberly Patterson

The Board discussed the BLTA Annual Survey questions and finalized the layout and content of the questions. We will use Survey Monkey, which will be online. A paper survey will be sent to those who are not online

o Dues – Bill Chnelich

The Board discussed the current dues structure and the potential for future technology upgrades which may be needed. It was decided to maintain the current \$20 annual dues for 2017, as we review our future technology needs.

o Online Database Management System

The Board discussed the potential need to upgrade our database from an excel-based system to an online database. We agreed to investigate online systems and develop a plan for moving forward.

o BLTA By-Laws – John Tennyson and Jim Slyfield

The Board discussed our current by-laws and the need for certain changes to reflect the June general meeting date and other BLTA updates. Jim is reviewing the current by-laws



and John requested the Trustees to send any comments and proposed changes to him and Jim for consideration.

- o Bike Racks

The bike racks that we sponsored for certain beach streets will be going up in May, with a BLTA plaque. Rich will work on getting the plaques developed.

- o Voters in the BLTA Database

A review of our membership database against voter rolls showed that 42% of our members are registered voters. John relayed this information to the Borough Council.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
January 21, 2017

DRAFT