

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Trustees Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2017

<u>Attending:</u>		<u>Excused:</u>	<u>Guest:</u>
John Tennyson	MaryAnn Crutchlow	Dottie Reynolds	Jeff Jorda
Ed Ebenbach	Kimberly Patterson		
Bill Chernelich	Rich Brodman (by phone)		
Tom Zesk	Jim Slyfield		
Barbara Truncellito	Andy Moutenot		
	Philip Kahn		

I. President's Opening Comments

- John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The Trustees approved the minutes from the October 14, 2017 Trustees meeting.
- Kimberly Patterson announced to the Trustees that she was resigning from the Board for personal reasons. John and the Board expressed our gratitude for her devoted service to the BLTA and her extensive work in upgrading and maintaining our website. Kimberly noted that the website was currently down and she was working with Go-Daddy to restore it. John noted that we would need a Trustee to monitor the website, and Kimberly said she would work with that person on transition and would assist in finding a website consultant.

II. Reports

o Wine and Cheese Reception – Rich Brodman

Rich gave an update on his discussions with potential vendors for a venue for a wine and cheese reception next spring for members and potential members. Kubel's and Daymark were expensive and would not be amenable to a late afternoon Saturday time slot since that would interfere with their busiest time of the week. The Fire Station Hall was available and interested, for a proposed fee of \$100, plus a \$25 cleanup fee. They have hosted weddings and other events, and said their liquor license would cover us for this event. Rich will confirm that. We would provide the food and drinks. We would target a Saturday in late June, during the hours of 5-7pm.

The Board approved a wine and cheese reception if the cost can be kept below \$1,500, and authorized Rich to formally approach the Fire Station to lock in specific dates in June.

o Treasurer's Report and Review of Expenditures for 2018 – Bill Chernelich



Bill reviewed the financials for 2017, including a forecast of the full year income and fund balance, as well as the 12 months ended September 30, 2017, which were posted on the website under the September general meeting.

The current forecast for our year-end fund balance is \$21,852. However, there will be a few additional expense items before year-end, including our \$1,000 contribution to a fishing town damaged by the recent hurricanes (see discussion below), so the likely ending balance will be approximately \$20,700.

Bill then lead a discussion of the proposed major expenditures for the remainder of the year and for 2018. These include consultation and maintenance of our website (est \$4,000-\$5,000); wine and cheese reception discussed above (\$1,500); 2 additional wireless microphones and a receiver for our general meetings (\$750); 10-12 benches for the new Pavillion on 6th St. (\$7,000); and a projector and screen for use by presenters at our meetings ((\$1,100).

The Board approved the wine and cheese reception as noted previously, and the 2 wireless microphones and receiver. In addition, we decided to direct our \$1,000 contribution for hurricane relief to Puerto Rico, since the need is greatest there, and it has many similarities to LBI as it is an island of communities, heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries. Barbara agreed to research religious organizations who are fundraising for specific needs in Puerto Rico, and Jim agreed to write an article for our newsletter and send it to the sandpaper.

The remaining proposed expenditures would be considered as part of a budgeting process for 2018, and after additional investigation of costs and vendors. Bill will prepare a budget and send it to the Trustees, and the Board will discuss it at the January 13 Board meeting.

o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach

Ed presented the 2017 membership report as of December 2. We currently have 547 members, including 54 new members. This is the highest membership total in recent years, and represents a significant increase over last year's 517 members. We currently have over 800 email addresses, which allows us to provide updates and information to our members and interested parties.

We agreed to keep BLTA dues at \$20, and will provide a summary of the accomplishments and contributions we have made to the Barnegat Light community on behalf of our members. This will be in the newsletter.



Ed received data in November to do another property tax roll update to identify new property owners in the Borough, and will present that at the January meeting.

- Joint Committee of Taxpayers' Associations (JCTA) – Tom Zesk and John Tennyson
The Board approved the payment of \$100 as dues for membership in the JCTA for the 2018 year. All Long Beach Island taxpayer associations are dues paying members of the JCTA. Tom will provide Bill the appropriate address and payee for the payment.

- BLTA Website – Kimberly Patterson

Kimberly noted that the website has been down for a few days. Go Daddy is working to restore it on a complementary basis, since they made some changes that triggered the site crash. It is expected to be back up within the next few days.

Kimberly is also researching potential vendors who can provide ongoing consultation and maintenance services after her resignation takes effect. The potential vendors can be interviewed after the website is back up.

- BLTA Newsletter for 2018 – Mary Ann Crutchlow

The Trustees discussed potential topics for the annual newsletter, which we intend to send out in January/February of 2018. Mary Ann will manage the production of the newsletter, and has requested articles by January 10. We will also include updates on Barnegat Light developments from the Borough Council, and a discussion of BLTA Trustee officer succession planning.

III. New Business – Items for Discussion

- BLTA Annual Survey – John Tennyson

The Trustees discussed the annual BLTA survey, and agreed to do a survey for 2018 focused on issues of importance to our members. The survey has high participation by our members and allows the BLTA to provide valuable input to the Borough Council. A subcommittee was formed to review the surveys for the past few years and develop the important issues which can be the topics for the 2018 survey.

- Speakers for summer 2018 BLTA General Meeting-Tom Zesk and Rich Brodman

Tom and Rich presented a recommended list of topics for our June, July and September general meetings next summer. The Trustees agreed that we should pursue the following potential topics: presentations from elected officials, including Mayor Larson, Freeholder Ginny Haines, and possibly Congressman LoBiondo; a presentation from our fishing industry, a local craft brewery, a history of the Lighthouse and local



shipwrecks, the LBI Garden Club, an expert on pine beetles, a presentation on the ocean and beaches (eg, dredging and beach restoration by the Army Corps of Engineers, or alternative energy from the ocean), and an update on the bridge and causeway construction project.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next Trustee meeting is January 13 at 9:00 am at Borough Hall.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
December 11, 2017

DRAFT