

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
 Trustees Meeting Minutes
 April 7, 2018

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

I. President's Opening Comments

- John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. The Trustees approved the minutes from the January 13, 2018 Trustees meeting.

II. Reports

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

Bill reviewed the first quarter financials through March 31, 2018. Our fund balance increased from \$20,601 at December 31, 2017 to \$25,406 at March 31, 2018, primarily as a result of dues payments received, less expenses.

Dues revenue was \$7,570 for the first 3 months of the year, showing a strong increase over last year. Expenses were primarily for the printing of the Winter newsletter and increased technology costs, as we hired a website consultant and monitor, and bought a scanner for check deposits. It was noted that the newsletter costs were significantly down from last year, thanks to excellent cost management by Mary Ann, even though the newsletter was extremely well received and was commended by Borough Council.

The financials will be posted on the website along with these minutes of the April 7, 2018 meeting.

o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach

Ed presented the first quarter 2018 membership report. We have 470 members so far in 2018, which is 57 ahead of last year at this time. 38 of our members are new members. We still have 142 prior year members who have not yet renewed, and we will be reaching out to them.

We currently have 845 email addresses, which allows us to provide updates and information to our members and interested parties. In our annual survey, this was one of the primary ways our members like to get information updates.

- Open Space Committee – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara reported on the meeting held by the Open Space Committee, which she and John attended. The Pavilion on the 6th street former Coast Guard housing property is moving along well and is scheduled to be open in May. The bond for the purchase of that property has been paid down from \$3.1 million to \$2 million. There is still \$500,000 left in the Open Space Fund, which can be used for additional enhancements.

The Committee and Borough Council approved commemorative pavers for the Pavillion site, to be sold to the public at \$50 per paver. More details will be provided on the process for ordering pavers, and we will send out an email blast when that is released.

It was noted that the mini golf course, which is currently under construction, will bring in approximately \$35,000 in tax revenue to the town.

- JCTA (Joint Committee of Taxpayers Associations) – Tom Zesk

Tom reported that the JCTA did not meet in the first quarter, and the next meeting will be May 7. For 2018, Andy Moutenot will act as the BLTA representative to the JCTA.

- BLTA Website – Tom Zesk

Tom has been working with our new website consultant and discussed a series of proposed changes to the website. The changes are designed to feature our BLTA logo (which is not currently on the existing site) and to make it easier to see the content on each web page. The current lighthouse vista at the top of each page would be replaced with our logo, which allows more of the page content to be seen on a single screen without scrolling down. The vista would remain on the home page in a different location, as the background for a special events section, which would function as a 'bulletin board' to highlight upcoming local events. We also would highlight the homeowner's resources section of our site, which provides links to the primary local and governmental information sources.

The Board approved the changes and the proposed cost, which was considered to be very reasonable.

- BLTA Newsletters for 2018 – Mary Ann Crutchlow

John commended Mary Ann on an excellent winter newsletter, and noted that the Mayor complimented us on it at the Borough Council meeting. Mary Ann and John thanked the Trustees who contributed articles and back page inserts, including John, Ed, Bill, Dottie Reynolds, Philip, Rich and Barbara.

The Trustees discussed the spring newsletter, which typically is issued in May before Memorial Day. We decided to do an electronic newsletter, highlighting our summer speakers and the new additions to our town, including the Pavilion and mini golf course.

III. New Business – Items for Discussion

- BLTA Annual Survey – Bill Chnelich

The Trustees discussed the results of the BLTA annual survey so far. There has been a high level of participation. The final results will be presented to the Borough Council at their May meeting, and will also be presented at our June 9 general meeting and in the spring newsletter. We also will see if the Sandpaper will publish a summary article.

The Board also discussed the process for next year, and will consider going back to an electronic survey on Survey Monkey as the default, possibly with an option for a hard copy if requested.

- Speakers for summer 2018 BLTA General Meetings - Rich Brodman

Rich updated the Board on the current speakers for this summer's general meetings. At the June 9 meeting we have lined up Freeholder Ginny Haines, Rob Zarko, brew master at Ship Bottom Brewery, LBT policewoman Megan Kellor, and Mayor Kirk Larson. At the July 14 meeting, we have Teresa Hagen of the Garden Club, Mark Lippmann to speak on the Lighthouse and shipwrecks, and Mayor Kirk Larson. We have reached out to Congressman Frank LoBiondo, and are waiting to hear back. The September 15 meeting will feature John Kelly to speak on pine beetles, and Karter Larson to give an update on the fishing industry and the fishery, along with Mayor Larson.

The trustees discussed whether we could do one of the meetings at the new Pavilion. This will depend on the progress on the Pavilion, and whether Congressman LoBiondo is able to speak in July, resulting in potentially greater space needs. Rich also recommended that we obtain a projector for those speakers who intend to use PowerPoint or photos. The Board will consider this at the May meeting.

- Wine and Cheese Reception – Rich Brodman

Rich gave an update on plans for the BLTA wine and cheese reception at the Fire Station Hall on June 16. The reception will be from 5-7 pm, and we will provide the food and drinks, and will have soft drinks available. Trustees have volunteered to help with getting food and drinks, setting up the Hall and manning the doors. We plan to invite Megan Keller of the LBT Police Dept.

- Letter from former President on beach cleanup – John Tennyson

John noted that we had received a letter from former BLTA President Sarah Lambert on having the BLTA resurrect the beach cleanup day that we have done in prior years, and use it to provide information on plastic bags to Borough Council. The Board discussed that and expressed strong interest. However, after reviewing our schedule, we determined that we have a very full set of tasks for the next six months, making it difficult to appropriately plan this event.

- Additional Discussion Topics for May meeting – John Tennyson

John asked if there were any additional discussion topics to be added to the agenda for the May Trustee meeting. The Board agreed to consider obtaining a projector. The Board also agreed to add a topic on reaching out to new property owners in Barnegat Light, and see if any are interested in volunteering to help with BLTA projects. Jeff will do an analysis of membership and new property owners and lead the discussion.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. The next Trustee meeting is May 5 at 9:00 am at Borough Hall.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
April 16, 2018