

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
 Trustees Meeting Minutes
 May 5, 2018

<u>Attending:</u>		<u>Excused:</u>	<u>Guest Speaker:</u>
John Tennyson	Rich Brodman	Jim Slyfield	Marie Roeling, Web
Ed Ebenbach	Andy Moutenot	MaryAnn Crutchlow	Consultant, via Skype
Bill Chernelich	Jeff Jorda	Philip Kahn	
Tom Zesk		Dottie Reynolds	
Barbara Truncellito			

I. President's Opening Comments

- John Tennyson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. The Trustees approved the minutes from the April 7, 2018 Trustees meeting.

II. Reports

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich

Bill reviewed the activity since our April Trustee meeting. Our current fund balance is \$24,560.

Ed Ebenbach performed his annual review of the financials for 2017 in accordance with the procedures put in place last year by the Board. Ed's report does not rise to the level of an independent audit. He opined that our financial reporting accurately records and presents the financial picture of the BLTA during 2017. Ed's letter is posted on our website with the December 2017 financials.

o Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach

Ed presented the latest 2018 membership report. We have 491 members so far in 2018, which is 36 ahead of last year at this time. 44 of our members are new members. We still have 131 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. We also discussed obtaining cell phones for those interested so that information could be texted in addition to being sent by email.

At a subsequent point in the meeting, Bill Chernelich and Jeff Jorda presented a number of ideas to attract future members to the BLTA. These will continue to be discussed by the Board.



- Open Space Committee – Barbara Truncellito and John Tennyson
There was no meeting of the Open Space Committee this month. The Pavilion on the 6th street former Coast Guard housing property is moving along well. John spoke with Councilman Ed Wellington about the Pavilion. They are working to finish the carpentry before some of the carpenters who are fishermen will need to leave the project. The memorial brick pavers are being sold and will be located close to the building. A landscaper was hired and trees will be planted to bloom in mid-May and June. They also will hydroseed to avoid puddling on the property.

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.

- JCTA (Joint Committee of Taxpayers Associations) – Andy Moutenot
Andy will attend the next meeting on May 7 as the BLTA representative to the JCTA.
- BLTA Newsletters for 2018 – Mary Ann Crutchlow
The spring newsletter is in process, and is typically issued in May before Memorial Day. We will be doing 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 Chernelich

The Trustees discussed the results of the BLTA annual survey so far. There has been a high level of participation, with 389 of 491 members responding. 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 discussed the responses received to date, particularly the preferred sources of information. We will continue to use email blasts and our website and Facebook Group as BLTA information sources.

- 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 police officer Megan Keller, 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. 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. Congressman Frank LoBiondo's office responded that he would not be able to speak.



o 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. Keepers Liquor will be providing the wine at cost. Rich was able to keep the total cost of the event below our budget of \$1,500. We also have renewed our liability insurance to be sure the coverage is in effect for the event. 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.

o BLTA Website – Tom Zesk

Tom has been working with Marie Roeling, our new website consultant, and presented the recent changes to the website. The primary goal of the changes is to provide relevant information to attract members to the site. We added back our logo in the upper right section, added a special events section highlighting upcoming events, and featured our Homeowners Resources page, which provides links to the primary local and governmental information sources. We also will continue to change the header picture on each of the pages on a periodic basis. The Board suggested adding a section on Barnegat Light history, and Tom and Rich will discuss this with Mark Lippmann, one of our speakers this summer (July meeting).

Marie Roeling then joined the Board meeting via Skype and presented her background, and answered questions from the Trustees.

o Projector and Screen – Ed Ebenbach

Ed presented the cost for acquiring a projector and screen for speakers to use at our general meetings. The total cost would be \$875. The Board unanimously approved the purchase and Ed will order them.

o Sound Equipment Purchase– Ed Ebenbach

Ed also requested that the BLTA purchase two additional wireless microphones for our general meetings, so that we can have one for the speaker, one at the Board table, and two for audience questions. The total cost was expected to be less than \$700. The Board approved the purchases.

o Benches for Pavilion – John Tennyson

John reported that he and Ed Wellington discussed the benches, which would be located inside the Pavilion. The Town has requested that the BLTA buy 9 of the benches (which would be one half of the total) for a total cost of approximately \$5,000. Our BLTA plaque could be displayed on the benches that we purchase. The Trustees discussed this and were favorably inclined, and will make a final decision by email vote after more details are available.

o Storage of Sound Equipment – John Tennyson and Ed Ebenbach

John reminded the Board that as part of the transition of the President and Vice President after this season, the BLTA would need to find another space for the storage of our sound equipment, which is currently in Ed's garage. John agreed to discuss this with the Town to see if any space could be available

in Town storage areas. Subsequent to the meeting, Tom Zesk offered to make his garage available for the storage if no Town space is available.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. The next meeting is the BLTA general meeting on June 9 at the First Aid Building on 10th Street.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
May 16, 2018