

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2018

I. John Tennyson, President of the BLTA

- John called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, and discussed the agenda and the process for asking questions, with two Board members having roving mikes.
- John then took questions from the audience. In response to questions about the mini-golf course and Pavilion, he had Ed Wellington of the Borough Council give an update on each item.
- John also responded to a question from a new resident on the role of the BLTA. He noted that our role is to help make Barnegat Light a better place by providing information to members, an annual survey which is provided to the Borough Council, and by acquiring items to enhance the town, such as the beach street bike racks, Little Free Library, and benches for the Pavilion.

II. BLTA Reports

- Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich
Bill presented the financial activity for the year as of June 30, and noted that we had a decrease in the fund balance primarily due to the acquisition of benches for the new Pavilion. Bill also noted that we received a large contribution, which increased revenues, and had significantly reduced our printing costs. However, these were offset by additional costs for our website consultant, an investment in a projector and screen, and additional insurance for the wine and cheese party.
- Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach
Ed presented the membership report through the end of June. Membership is ahead of last year at this time, and the membership drive is still ongoing. We have 547 current members, and have 850 emails to send out important information to members and property owners. We also have a BLTA Facebook group with 135 members currently, up 28 from last year at this time.
- Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws Changes – John Tennyson
John discussed the change in our tax-exempt status, which requires a change to the Constitution and By-Laws, and presented a handout which outlined each change that was required. As discussed at the June general meeting, we recently discovered that in September 2014 our tax-exempt status was changed by the IRS when we submitted



a new application as part of a process to correct prior year missed filings. From 1985 to 2014 we were exempt as a community organization under Tax Code section 501(c)(4). Since September 2014, we have been tax exempt under Tax Code section 501(c)(3) as a charitable organization. As a result, contributions to the BLTA are now tax deductible for those who itemize deductions on their returns.

o Nominating Committee – New officers - John Tennyson

John informed the group that elections for officers would be held at the September 15 General Meeting. John also informed the group that he and Ed Ebenbach would be stepping down from their roles as President and Vice-President due to other commitments and term limits. The nominations for officers at the September meeting are:

Barbara Truncellito, the nominee for President;

Rich Brodman, the nominee for Vice President; and

Bill Chnelich, nominated to continue in his role as Treasurer.

III. Theresa Hagen, President of the Garden Club of LBI

Theresa Hagen gave a presentation on the many activities of the Garden Club of LBI, including the following items:

- The House Tour, which is the primary fundraiser for the Garden Club;
- Funding and maintaining the gardens at the Barnegat Light Museum and the Beach Haven Library;
- Sponsoring the screenings of the Plastic Ocean movie at various sites on LBI;
- Working with students at the LBI elementary schools (Ethel Jacobsen and Beach Haven) on flower arrangements;
- Funding \$14,000 in scholarships;
- Specific wildlife projects on monarch butterflies, the espyre cam, and puppies trained by prisoners for military service;
- Food pantry and Salvation Army support.

Theresa also noted that the Garden Club annual Flower Show is being held on May 18, 2019 at the LBI Foundation.

Dues for the Garden Club are \$40 for active membership and \$50 for Associate Membership. The website link is thegardencluboflbi.com



IV. Mark Lipman, Trustee and Docent of the Barnegat Light Historical Society

Mark Lipman gave a presentation on various aspects of the history of Barnegat Light. He covered the following topics:

- Shipwrecks and ship sinkings (by German U-boats). Mark discussed 4 major ship sinkings around Barnegat Light, as well as the now grounded Lightship Barnegat Light in Camden.
- Hotels and houses. Mark showed pictures of 3 former Barnegat Light hotels, the Oceanic on 4th St, the Sunset near Andys, and the Social, near the Museum. None of the hotels are currently standing. He also mentioned the former Lightkeepers house; and the Haddock House, which is currently a residence at 6th St and Central Ave.
- Historic buildings. Mark discussed the one-room schoolhouse, which is now the Museum, and the General Store and Post Office, which is now the Inlet Deli.

Mark noted that the Barnegat Light Museum has a historical timeline which outlines major events and buildings in the Town. He also noted two upcoming events at the Museum in August, the Historical House Tour on August 23, and the Wine and Cheese Party on August 26.

V. Lt. Megan Keller, Community Police Officer, Long Beach Township (mkeller@LBTPD.org)

Megan Keller of the Long Beach Township Police Dept. discussed a number of topics of interest to the LBI community, including:

- Rules for bicycles (ride on right with traffic) and pedestrians (walk on left against traffic if there are no sidewalks);
- Bicycles are equivalent to motor vehicles and must follow all motor vehicle rules (stop at red lights and stop signs, signal, etc.); A cyclist only becomes a pedestrian if he/she gets off the bike;
- Medicine drop box at the police station;
- Street Smart Safety Campaign in August;
- Signing up for Nixle.com and checking the public Police Facebook page to get updates on traffic, power outages, flooding, and for links to the Borough and LBT PD sites. Also, WBNJ (FM 91.9) will broadcast any public messages;
- The pedestrian crossing rules. Cars must come to a complete stop if a pedestrian is in the roadway, but pedestrians still must use caution and yield to traffic. They should only proceed if there is a break in traffic;
- Dispatchers cover all LBI towns except Surf City, so could be some delays in summer for non emergency calls.

VI. Kirk Larson, Mayor of Barnegat Light

Barnegat Light Mayor Kirk Larson discussed a number of topics being considered by the Borough Council and fielded questions from the audience.

He noted that the Pavilion was nearing completion and the pavers were being put down, but that grass seeding was going to take place in the Fall. He also noted that the mini-golf course was anticipated to be open in August as there would be a lot of work done in the next few weeks. In the Q&A, he discussed beach maintenance and said that water meter installation for residences would not be going in place until next year. There are still four large commercial establishes who will be installing meters after the summer season.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

VIII. September BLTA General Meeting

The next BLTA General Meeting is on September 15, 2018 at the First Aid building, and will feature presentations on pine beetles, the fishing industry, and Wind Farms. The Mayor will also speak and field questions.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
July 20, 2018