



BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes

September 15, 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 reminded the group that he and Ed Ebenbach were stepping down as President and Vice-President and leaving the Board after this meeting, and he thanked Ed for his extensive efforts and support as Vice-President.
- John then previewed the agenda for the meeting, including the election of new officers, changes to the BLTA Constitution and By-laws, other BLTA business items, and the speakers.

II. BLTA Reports

- Treasurer's Report – Bill Chernelich
Bill presented the financial activity for the year as of September 15, and noted that we had a decrease in the fund balance primarily due to the acquisition of benches for the new Pavilion for \$5,199. Bill also noted that dues were up, and we received a \$1,000 contribution, which increased revenues, and we significantly reduced our printing costs. However, these were offset by additional costs for our website updates and maintenance, an investment in a projector and screen, prior year tax filing costs, and additional insurance for the wine and cheese party.
 - Membership Report – Ed Ebenbach
Ed presented the membership report through September 15. Membership increased over last year. We have 550 current members, and have 850 emails to send out important information to members and property owners. We also have a BLTA Facebook group with 138 members currently, up 31 from last year at this time.
 - Vote on Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws Changes – Jim Slyfield
Jim 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).
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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.

The attendees approved the two changes, one to the Constitution and one to the By-laws. The handout with the summary of the changes is posted on the BLTA website next to these minutes.

Jim also announced that he would also be leaving the Board after this meeting due to significant work commitments.

o Election of Officers – Jim Slyfield

Jim then discussed the election of officers. As noted earlier, John Tennyson and Ed Ebenbach are stepping down from their roles as President and Vice-President due to other commitments and term limits. The nominations for BLTA officers for the 2018/2019 year are:

Barbara Truncellito, the nominee for President;
Dr. Rich Brodman, the nominee for Vice President; and
Bill Chnelich, nominated to continue in his role as Treasurer.

Barbara, Rich and Bill were unanimously approved as the BLTA officers for the 2018/2019 year. In addition to voting in the new Officers, the Board authorized Dr. Richard Brodman, Vice President, as a signatory on its bank accounts at Bank of America, effective immediately. The Board also reaffirmed the signatory authority of William J Chnelich, Treasurer. Further the Board revoked the signatory authority of Edmund Ebenbach as he has completed his term on the Board.

o Website – Tom Zesk

Tom gave a brief update on the BLTA website, and noted that the site would continue to be updated each week during the off-season. Local events will be updated on the new Special Events section on the home page, and News and Event articles of local interest from the Sandpaper will be posted each Friday. We also will be looking to update the header photos for the off-season, and will be sending out a request for photos.



III. Steve Kennedy, Arborist, Owner, Natural Outdoor Environments LLC

Steve Kennedy, a Certified Arborist, gave a presentation on the Pine Beetle infestation on LBI, and distributed handouts with types of beetles and plant health care. His presentation covered the following points:

- Japanese pine trees came to LBI in the 1960's, and generally have a life of 60-70 years. The pine beetle is attracted to this type of pine tree.
- Younger trees have strong pine tar ('pitch') which kills pine beetles and keeps them away. As the trees age and begin to decline, their pitch loses its toxicity and the beetles are attracted to them and hasten the decline.
- Many of the trees which arrived in the 1960's are beginning to decline and are attracting beetles. Once a tree is infested, there is no cure and the tree should be removed to minimize the impact on other Japanese Pines.
- LBI has also experienced a warming of the climate, from Zone 6 to 7A, and this has put more stress on the Japanese Pine Trees.
- Recommended plant health includes proper irrigation, fertilization, and using mulch. Steve also recommended leaving needles on the ground.

For additional information, Steve can be reached at (609) 276-5664 or by email at noellc.office@gmail.com. His handouts will be posted on the website next to these minutes.

IV. Karter Larson, Viking Village Commercial Seafood Producers

Karter Larson, of the Viking Village Fishery, gave an entertaining presentation on life on a commercial fishing boat, using his own experience on a 56-day fishing trip when he was an 8-year old boy. The trip started as a 3-day trip off the coast of LBI on his father's (Captain John Larson) boat. However, Karter was transferred to another boat, which went to the coast of Africa. Karter described his learning experience and gave a real life view of life on a commercial fishing boat. He ultimately was sent back to LBI and was picked up by the Miss Barnegat Light, which was on a pleasure cruise at the time. As a final aside, he noted that his future wife was on the Miss Barnegat Light at the time he was picked up.

V. Jim Gutowski, Viking Village Commercial Seafood Producers, on Offshore Wind Farms.

Jim Gutowski, President and CEO of the Viking Village Fishery, gave a detailed slide presentation on the development of Wind Farms off the Atlantic coast. His presentation covered the following points:

- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for all offshore development and resources.
- 13 leases have been issued since 2009, granting the right of way to build transmission lines from wind turbines. Deepwater Wind off Block Island is the first of these to be



developed, and the other 12 will be developed in different locations along the Atlantic coast.

- Some wind turbines have in-ground buried wires, but others have above ground wires that will affect commercial fishing. Jim noted that in Maryland the wind farms to be developed have been moved from 12 miles out to 26 miles in order to alleviate sight issues. At 26 miles they will impact scallop fishing, and many areas with large turbines will be closed to scallop and other fishing.
- Governor Murphy has a stated goal of developing 3,500 wind turbines off the New Jersey coast.
- There is a large cost to build the infrastructure to develop and service the wind turbines. Most of the current development firms are foreign, and are receiving government subsidies. The energy produced from wind turbines is live and currently cannot be stored. However, technology is changing.
- The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) is an organization of commercial fisheries, which will work together in a united effort. RODA will work with NOAA and the Atlantic State governments to develop collaborative research and peer reviews of the impact of offshore development on commercial fishing.

Jim's handout and slide presentation will be posted on the BLTA website next to these minutes.

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 covered the following topics:

- On wind farms, he reiterated that scallops, calamari, and other fishing will be impacted. A key issue for Barnegat Light and the Borough Council will be with respect to the access to the sites, and the potential for the development firms (most or all of whom are foreign firms) to acquire property in Barnegat Light to use as service access points. The Borough Council will need to issue ordinances to monitor this.
- On the high school tax allocation issue (between LBI and Stafford Township), the Mayor made the following comments to clarify certain facts: The tax allocation proportion has not changed since its establishment in the 1970's. The cost of the Cape May court case was over \$1 million, and the holding in the case was ultimately defeated by referendum. Stafford property taxes are already high, and it would be difficult to find any support for raising them as part of a solution. The amount of LBI property taxes from the high school is relatively minor, approximately \$900 on a \$650,000 house. Many graduates of Southern Regional High School become residents or business owners in LBI.



- The gas station on Central Avenue has been leased and should be open soon per the owner of the property. A major issue in finding a tenant was the owner's requirement that the station be open at 7AM to serve fishing boat traffic.
- The Pavilion has been a big success and the audience expressed thanks to the Mayor and Borough Council for acquiring the property and developing the Pavilion.
- Water meters - The Mayor noted some of the issues the Town is facing in installing the smart water meters for residences. Many of the water meter pits have been paved over or covered by trees, and attempts to establish new pits could impact existing pipes. The installations would occur between September and June, and it generally would only be possible to do approximately 125 houses in that period. So the project will take many years to complete. However, the State will fine the Town if the meters are not installed, and the project will continue for residences after all commercial businesses are complete. He noted that Harvey Cedars' water consumption was down 30% after installation of the new meters.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
October 10, 2018