

BARNEGAT LIGHT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
 Trustees Meeting Minutes
 December 8, 2018

<u>Attending:</u>		<u>Excused:</u>	
Barbara Truncellito	Kay McDonnell	Jack Byrnes	
Rich Brodman	Patty Robinson	Virginia Simmons	
Bill Chnelich	Betsy Aras	Patty Francfort (Committee member)	
Tom Zesk			
Mary Ann Crutchlow			
Philip Kahn			

I. President's Opening Comments

Barbara Truncellito called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. The Trustees approved the minutes from the November 3, 2018 Trustees Meeting with two minor changes.

II. Reports

o Treasurer's Report – Bill Chnelich

Bill presented an interim update to the Treasury Fund balance to reflect additional expenses through December 8, and also projected expenses through February 28, 2019. The expenses were primarily related to our donation to the First Aid Squad (\$600), technology costs (\$410), our contribution for Hurricane Florence relief (\$1,000), and JCTA dues (\$100). Bill noted that our dues received for the year were \$10,600, and we had expenses this year for the Pavilion benches (\$5,200) and new sound equipment (\$1,388), which would not be recurring next year. However, we will have technology, insurance, meetings and events, and data storage costs going forward and will need to build up our Treasury Fund.

The Board confirmed our current policy that quarterly financials would be published on our website, but interim updates and projections presented at Trustee meetings would not be published.

There was a discussion as to whether it was time to increase our dues, which are currently \$20 per year per household. This is lower than most other Taxpayer Associations on LBI. The increase would help build up the fund after our major expenses this year, and would help alleviate the ongoing costs of technology and data storage, and our new digital communications. The Board decided to reconsider this issue at our January Trustee teleconference.

o Membership Report – Rich Brodman

Rich noted that there was no change in membership since the last meeting. We have 551 members in 2018, which is 14 ahead of last year's 537. We currently have 852 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.

Rich and Kay McDonnell updated the group on the use of an online membership database and registration, with interactive questions and a capability for online payment of dues. The goal is to provide a digital online registration and payment process for 2020, with an option for a hard copy registration and payment.

We have signed up with Constant Contact, which will be used for our digital newsletters and other communications going forward. Constant Contact also has the capability for online registration, and would likely be used for the 2020 registration process.

The review of the November tax roll changes to identify property changes and new property owners is being conducted by Ed Ebenbach and should be complete by the end of December. Former BLTA President John Tennyson has offered to review the tax roll property owner list and quantify the number of people who vote in town, vs. the number of residents and that of our membership. We are grateful to both of our former officers for their continuing efforts.

o JCTA (Joint Committee of Taxpayers Associations) – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara attended the JCTA meeting on Monday November 5. The primary issue discussed was a letter to the New Jersey EPA on flood control, with a strong request for more communication from the Army Corps of Engineers on public meetings and notices related to the issue and what is being done for LBI.

Phil Kahn will attend the JCTA meetings going forward as Barbara has accepted a teaching assignment for Monday nights.

o Borough Council Meeting – Barbara Truncellito

Barbara attended the Borough Council meeting. The Council discussed the following topics:

- The Treasurers Report clarified that Barnegat Light pays \$3.5 million to Ocean County in Property Taxes. Since Freeholder Haines will be a speaker at our June meeting, we will ask her to address how our tax money is being used for the town.
- The Skate Park was discussed. Some attendees believed that it would be expanded, but the Mayor noted that the Council had never agreed to spend money on an expansion. This may be a continuing issue at future meetings



- BLTA Website and Monthly Digital Newsletter– Tom Zesk and Betsy Aras

Tom and Betsy updated the group on our approach to the website and article updates going forward. Tom and Betsy will share the updating responsibilities regarding postings to the website and Facebook Group, primarily by alternating months. In order to broaden the Facebook Group and BLTA membership, it was agreed that we would accept as members of the Facebook Group anyone who has a Barnegat Light address. Joining the Facebook Group is a good introduction to the BLTA and our activities, and increases the likelihood of non-BLTA members becoming BLTA members. The Facebook Group currently has 138 members, an increase of 30 over last year.

The website will be consistent with the communication themes and design that we are using for the digital Constant Contact communications. We will likely include a few more articles each week to provide timely information for members who do not reside here in the off-season or who are weekenders. We also will include a calendar of BLTA events.

- Contribution for Hurricane Relief – Barbara Truncellito

The \$1,000 BLTA contribution to the James Taylor Million Meals Challenge for Hurricane Florence relief was sent and acknowledged. It will be matched by the James Taylor Foundation. Barbara will send a letter to the Sandpaper describing our contribution, and we will post it on the website and Facebook.

III. New Business – Items for Discussion

- Holiday Card

The Holiday Card was completed and will be sent as a postcard to all Barnegat Light property owners from the BLTA Trustees. We will also use it as our header photo on the website through January.

- Speakers for Summer 2019 General Meetings – Rich Brodman

Rich summarized the potential speakers and format for the upcoming general meetings next summer. The Board agreed to have less speakers at each meeting and allow more time for discussion and Q&A. The meetings would start at 10:00 AM. The first meeting would be on June 22 at the Pavilion and would be followed by a barbecue jointly sponsored by the BLTA and the Town Borough Council to celebrate the official opening of the Pavilion.

Rich, Patty Robinson and Patty Francfort will be planning the meetings and lining up speakers. Freeholder Ginny Haines has agreed to speak again at our June 22 meeting. In addition, the Mayor would speak at each of the meetings. The Board reviewed ideas for additional potential speakers, including the Garden Club, Megan Keller of the LBT Police Dept., wind turbines (potentially a NJ government speaker), a historical topic, lifeguards, and specific information on water meters when the timetable is set. This list will be fine-tuned over the next few months.

o Wine and Cheese and Pavilion Events – Rich Brodman

Rich discussed the BLTA Wine and Cheese Party, and the June 22 barbecue being jointly sponsored with the Town. The Wine and Cheese Party will be held on Sunday, May 26, from 4:30-6:30 PM. The event would end before the Memorial Day Parade so attendees could go from the Wine and Cheese event to the Parade. We will have name tags for all attendees and Memorial Day decorations. We are also considering allowing vendors to sponsor a booth. A Save the Date will go out in March or April.

The June 22 barbecue at the Pavilion will be a barbecue with a local band. We will get announcements out early for both events through our monthly newsletters.

o Spring Newsletter – Mary Ann Crutchlow

Mary Ann reiterated that articles for the Spring Newsletter should be completed and sent to her by the third week in January. Potential articles include the President's Letter, an article on monarch butterflies from Bonnie Brodman, cycling rules for LBI, website and social media update, Treasurer's Report, our digital process for 2020, a causeway bridge update, town update from Dottie Reynolds, and an article on the Mini-Golf course.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM. The next meeting is the BLTA Trustee conference call on January 12, 2019.

Recorded and submitted by:

Tom Zesk
Recording Secretary
January 8, 2019