

## **Trustees Meeting Notes – Saturday, March 30, 2013**

A meeting of the Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees was called to order at 9:40 AM on Saturday, March 30, 2013. In attendance were Ted Stiles, Bill Cannon, Eileen Bowker, Al Vallese, Lucille Benedetti, Tony Rocca, Bill Hutson, Marianne Hurley, two guests, Barbara Levy and Tom Beaty and the writer, Dan Macone. A quorum was established. The following items were discussed:

The meeting began by confirming the slate of the current Officers and Trustees of the Association. It was agreed that one officer position, First Vice President, was open and needed to be filled. Following this discussion, the Association's By-laws were reviewed. Further discussion ensued regarding the eligibility requirements of the President and the First Vice President. It was agreed that the current By-laws properly stated the requirements of these two positions in that the positions would be filled by resident property owners. It was further agreed that the Association's goal was to have at least one Trustee attend every Long Beach Township Public Meeting. Notes of the meeting would be taken and the notes would be e-mailed to the Association membership.

There was discussion regarding increasing the membership dues to \$25 effective January, 2014. Eileen Bowker was asked to develop the proposal further and present to the membership a motion at the June 1<sup>st</sup> membership meeting. Included in the motion will be a proposal for the application of the additional funds. The money could be used to purchase dune plantings and more green head traps. The Trustees of the Association are encouraging every homeowner in Holgate to join the Taxpayers Association this year. The more members we have, the more influence we will have to get things done. The more members we have the more financial resources we will have to get things done.

There was a discussion regarding the creation of a Holgate Taxpayers Association Page on Facebook. Unlike the Holgate Update Page, which is currently administered by Art Levy, the Taxpayers Association page would present updates regarding Holgate issues. Tom Beaty agreed to set up the Facebook page. In addition, Art Levy will be asked to post the Holgate Newsletter on his Facebook Page. Further, the Association's web site (<http://www.holgatetaxpayers.org>) is constantly being updated by Marc Slovak.

There was discussion regarding keeping the membership contact information updated in order to maintain its accuracy. The job of the Corresponding Secretary should be modified to include maintaining the web page and the e-mail addresses of the membership. It was suggested that Marc Slovak should be considered for this position due to his knowledge of the Association's web page. Tom Beaty agreed to research information on an application called "Constant Contact" and report back to the Board of his findings at the June Membership meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, Marc Slovak recommended a better alternative and has agreed to set it up. MailChimp is free (<http://mailchimp.com>).

The annual membership meeting with the Mayor and the Commissioners at the Town Hall at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> was confirmed. The following assignments related to this meeting were made:

1. Bill Cannon will renew the liability insurance for the meeting and obtain the Certificate of Liability Insurance
2. Dan Macone will confirm the reservation of the Hall and the availability of the coffee pot. In addition, Dan will get the Holgate residents tax labels from Ocean County
3. Lucille Benedetti will make the coffee and provide the refreshments for the meeting

4. Marianne Hurley will place an announcement in the Sandpaper and the Mailbag a couple of weeks prior to the meeting
5. Ted Stiles will prepare the Newsletter which will include the membership application form
6. In regards to notifying the residents of the trailer parks, the appropriate number of newsletters will be given to trailer parks for distribution to the residents
7. Tom Beaty and Bill Cannon will make the necessary arrangements to ensure each member's contact information, especially their e-mail address, is up to date at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

The HTA 2013 BBQ will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the annual BBQ, this year's event will be a celebration of the upcoming dune replenishment project. At the June meeting, the Association is looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate the activities for this day. Bill Hutson confirmed with the Maritime Museum fundraiser's chairperson that September 7<sup>th</sup> was not a conflict with their annual event. Their event is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Beaty will coordinate a dune grass planting event on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Many residents have expressed over the last three months a desire to help the community. This Saturday's event is an opportunity to help protect the fragile dunes and to also bring the community together and show some community spirit. The dune grass will be planted on the back side of the dunes at the south end of the island. Anyone interested in participating can meet Tom at the entrance to the south parking lot at the end of S. Long Beach Blvd. If you have any questions, please contact Tom at 609-276-2360.

On Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be convened at the Township Hall. A list of questions is being assembled and will be given to the Mayor prior to the meeting. Dan Macone will be the spokesperson for the Group at the meeting. This is a very important meeting for us and everyone is being asked to attend. For the future of Holgate, it is critical that we show our resolve.

In addition, the Association will give to Commissioner Joseph Lattanzi our suggestions for the reconstruction of the south parking lot, the access to the beaches and the reconstruction of the playground. Further, we will make it known that the Association would like to be involved with the decisions of the future land use of the LBI Trailer Park property.

Bill Cannon presented his fiscal year 2012 financial report. Twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) will be paid to Bill Hutson for maintaining the greenhead traps last year. It was agreed by the Trustees to allocate \$3,000 to Bill Hutson and Ted Stiles to make the necessary arrangements to purchase, deploy, and bait new greenhead traps by Memorial Day. Each new trap will be numbered and affixed with a plaque or label briefly describing the trap's purpose. It was also agreed to allocate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to purchase additional dune protection plants. The year ending December 31, 2012 balance was \$4,709 before the changes mentioned above were made. A modified report will be presented at the June Membership meeting. The proposed 2013 budget was discussed. It was agreed that the Association would not make any donations in 2013. This year's funds will be needed to replenish the greenhead trap inventory and to purchase dune plantings. HTA will pay the Joint Council of Taxpayers' Associations of Long Beach Island, Inc. dues. Bill Hutson and Dan Macone will attend the JCTA meeting on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Surf City Library. There was a recommendation made by Marc Slovak that the Association investigate the possibility of using the PayPal system for payment of membership dues. Bill Cannon will investigate this idea and report back to the Trustees his findings at the June 1<sup>st</sup> membership meeting.

A motion was made to elect Tom Beaty as interim first Vice-President for the remainder of 2013. The motion was passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the design and purchase of some sort of apparel with a unique Holgate logo. Ted Stiles will investigate this idea. The goal is to have the gear ready for sale at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

A HTA member had an excellent idea to help the Association replenish the greenhead trap inventory which was totally destroyed by "Super storm" Sandy. Her idea was to implement "an adopt a greenhead trap" program. Residents or groups of residents who would like to sponsor the purchase of a new greenhead trap (the cost is approximately \$150) would be acknowledged as having sponsored the purchase of the trap by having a plaque with their names attached to the new trap and the trap would be located in a prominent location.

Marianne Hurley coordinates the Neighborhood Watch for Holgate. This is a very critical program for the community at this time of vulnerability. In fact, a friend of mine, who has a home on Susan, told me this afternoon that he was called by the Police Department and was informed that his plumbing had been stolen. Marianne has sent out e-mails to residents searching for volunteers to cover certain areas of the community. If you can help, please call her at 609-492-2266. In addition, everybody that has electricity is being asked to leave a light on to help discourage criminal activity in Holgate. In order to minimize the added cost of leaving a light on, you might want to consider using a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) on a timer. Good street lighting also deters criminals as they would prefer dark areas to perform their mischief. Atlantic City Electric has an excellent street lighting maintenance program which I have used several times personally. If there is a street light in your neighborhood that is not working, simply go out to the utility pole and write down the pole number and call 1-800-642-3780 and report it. They respond very quickly. There is no good reason to have a street light out.

The trustees thank Marianne Hurley and Kathy Macone for providing the refreshments for this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.