

Holgate Taxpayers Association Spring 2017 Members Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2017 1:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 PM by Dan Macone. Dan thanked the membership for their support of HTA activities and reminded everyone about the September 9th Fall BBQ and Membership Meeting starting at 4:30 PM. Dan recognized the Holgate Taxpayers Association (HTA) Board and Trustee members present plus web page Coordinator, Marc Slovak. Long Beach Township (LBT) officials, Mayor Joe Mancini and Commissioners, Ralph Bayard and Joe Lattanzi, were introduced as guest speakers.

Mayor Mancini gave the following updates:

- The Little Egg Inlet dredging project will begin in September. Some of that sand will be used for Holgate beaches. Due to severe beach erosion, the Timber Jetty will have to be redesigned and will be replaced by a timber and stone jetty to restrict sand from being eroded off Southern Holgate beaches. The dredging of the inlet is a Federal Project and is being delayed due to the presence of sand sharks. Mayor Mancini asked us to contact our Congressional Representatives and Senators to keep pressure on them to complete this important project.
- The OK was finally given to start designing the new Timber Stone Jetty. The project is expected to be ready for bid in October.
- Beach 1, the wooden jetty north to Washington Ave., will be closed for the summer due to safety concerns regarding the possibility of sand cave-ins resulting from the cliffs created by the beach erosion. The life guards normally stationed on beach 1 will be reassigned to either beach 2 or 3. The beach south of the wooden jetty is not safe for swimming due to underwater hidden obstacles that remain because of the grounding of the destroyer in the 1962 storm.
- Public dune walkovers in Holgate all have hand railings now.
- One additional Green Gator has been purchased to take handicapped and elderly to the beaches between 10AM-5PM; just call 609-342-2111.
- Two Class 1 police officers have been hired to keep people off the dunes as well as to address other menacing issues. Life guards and beach badge checkers all have mobile radios to report offenders. Mayor Mancini asked that anyone seeing violators, of any type, please call the police immediately to register the situation.

Commissioner Bayard reported:

- The Janet Road Pump House rebuild would start this fall. The design and surrounding area fencing/landscaping will be the same as agreed upon previously. The delay of pump house construction is due to final decision on locating the required basin.

- Long Beach Boulevard will be repaved by the County in the spring of 2018 after the last water main on the Boulevard has been completed.
- Request was made to install fencing along dune walkovers to keep people off the dunes. Mention was also made about the handicapped access to the dune walkover by the public bathhouse at southern parking lot that is covered with sand. The sand makes it unusable for the handicapped.
- There is a need to paint curb stripes on some local roads near stop signs to deter parking near to corners that obstructs vision.
- Commissioner Bayard encourages Holgate citizens to report concerns as noticed so elected officials can be prompt in solving situations.

Commissioner Lattanzi reviewed:

- The success of the free LBT shuttle buses was mentioned. The free service will operate starting May 27 and continuing until October 3rd. The daily schedule is available on the LBT website as well as an app for daily availability of buses.
- The funding issue of the Southern Regional School District was raised. At the recent meeting organized by the LBI Joint Council of Taxpayer Associations (JCTA) facts were presented about the disparity between what Stafford Township pays per student (\$4,122 per year) and what LBI towns pay per student (varies between \$51,304 in Ship Bottom and up to \$254,614 in Harvey Cedars per year). This disparity exists because of the original agreement was based strictly on each Town's assessed value instead of its student population or a combination of both. Four Townships of the seven involved need to sign up to move the project forward.

TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT- Bill Cannon presented the 2017 budget. A copy is attached. Tom Beaty made a motion to approve the budget, with a second by Bill Hutson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Long Beach Island Trailer Park (LBITP) SURVEY RESULTS, TEBCO TERRACE HOLGATE MARINA - Rand Pearsall presented a brief overview of the Survey. The Survey was sent to 795 households with 211 responses of which 171 (81%) voted to publicly oppose development efforts because of the specific variances requested. In addition, a clear majority of 54% of the responses opposed any and all variances based on the desire to conform to current LBT ordinances and the Master Plan. Rand also read the statement regarding the HTA Tebco Terrace Holgate Marina proposal. The HTA proposes that multiple unit developers work closely with neighborhood residents in advance of making any proposals requiring variances to the Land Use Board. This remains true for the LBITP and also for the proposed Holgate Marina development on Tebco Terrace. Without this developer/neighborhood collaboration, the HTA will voice support for any Holgate neighborhood group where the overwhelming majority of their residents seek to deny variances for a multi-unit development project.

LBI CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LBICSD) REFERENDUM - Tom Beaty stated that there have been ongoing discussions about the school district's facilities and educational needs since voters rejected the budget in 2010. With enrollment declining, the LBICSD Board voted to consolidate into one building. The consensus is that moving all students, pre-K through 6th grade, to the Ethel A. Jacobsen Elementary School balances fiscal responsibility to taxpayers and the mission to provide an exceptional educational experience for the students (as a side comment, the Mayor disagreed with the referendum during his presentation). The enrollment had been declining but has now stabilized at about 230 students. The stable student enrollment helped the Board of Education and administration determine moving into one school building will meet current and future needs of the district. The LBICSD will ask the five communities served by the district to vote on a two-question bond referendum on Tuesday 9/26, 2017. If the referendum is approved, a transition plan to close the LBI Grade School will be implemented. Tom distributed an information hand out (frequently asked questions) that covers all the funding to implement the consolidation. Below is a link to the referendum tab on the website containing the FAQ's. When and if any updates are made to the FAQ's, you'll be able to find them using this link.

http://www.lbischools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=715411&type=d&pREC_ID=1143461

BY-LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE - Rand Pearsall presented updated by-laws and summarized the key changes. The proposed by-laws were mailed to all members with a 30-day notice and they were posted on the HTA website. Mathew Newman made a motion to approve the by-laws, with a second from Pam Lowry. The motion was unanimously approved.

DUNE VEGETATION COMMITTEE - Dan Macone reported that plans were to plant the dune accesses at Washington, Pershing and Susan this Spring. However, Bryce Bennett, Landscape Architect, had a family problem and was unable to give us the plans for planting. Lorrie Jellich-Kane worked up a plan for McKinley Ave. across from the bathhouse. Dan placed an order with Clemenson's Farm for 10 roses, 10 beach plums, 26 bayberry and 20 panic grass plants to be delivered Friday 6/16. He has asked for volunteers to help plant (12 volunteers planted 72 shrubs and grass plants on Saturday morning June 17th). The original plan will be re-scheduled in the fall. The specific information will be sent in July/August for planning.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE- Tom Beaty reported that the HTA is at an all-time high of 303 members out of 795 households. Tom asked everyone to talk to their neighbors on each street. Art Levy suggested that more can be done to better communicate the HTA's accomplishments. You can request a members and non-members list by street from Bill Cannon billcannon23@gmail.com. Street Captains need to be listed for each street.

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE Rand Pearsall reported the name will be changed to COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE and advised there will be an open

house June 23rd at 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Long Beach Township Police Department (LBTPD) Headquarters at the Township Building. The LPTPD will define key projects for this year and is looking for participation. Further, there is a form that can be completed for LBTPD to have your house checked in the off season on a scheduled basis. Several HTA members reported that the LBTPD had been very responsive and helpful when incidents occurred and they were notified. The number to call for non-emergencies is 609-494-3222.

JOINT COUNCIL OF TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF LBI MEETING UPDATE - Bill Hutson reported at the recent meeting organized by the LBI JCTA that facts were presented about the Southern Regional School District. The disparity between what Stafford Township pays per student (\$4,122 per year) and what LBI towns pay per student (varies between \$51,304 in Ship Bottom and up to \$254,614 in Harvey Cedars per year). This disparity exists because of the original agreement was based strictly on each Town's assessed value instead of its student population or a combination of both. Four Townships of the seven involved need to sign up to move the project forward.

HOLGATE CLEAN-UP - Tom Beaty reported that at the May 27th project, 40 people helped with clean-up of sites. Tom had identified the areas in Holgate that needed work. LBT provided a dumpster.

GREEN HEAD TRAPS - Bill Hutson advised that LBT helped distribute the traps this spring but some were damaged during delivery. Bill will be checking these out and making repairs. Traps will be baited in early June, mid-July and the 3rd baiting 30 days later. Based on the July 30, 2016 Trustee meeting, there was an approval for signs to be created to identify the purpose of the traps and they are sponsored by HTA. The signs will be attached to each trap. There are 173 numbered traps. Traps can be purchased for \$150 each and placed on a homeowner's property. Contact Bill at lorrys@lorrysmotel.com.

Yanni Kaloudis made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Kathy Macone. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Concert July 19th Bayview Park

Concert July 21st Holgate Parking Lot, sponsored by HTA (Eileen Bowker)

Fall BBQ & Membership Meeting September 9th 4:30 PM

Chili Cook-off October 15th