

HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2019

ATTENDEES: Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Bill Hutson, Yanni Kaloudis, Dan Macone, Rand Pearsall, Bob White

CALL IN: Bill Cannon, Ted Stiles

ABSENT: Eileen Bowker, Marianne Hurley, Frank Lowry

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Rand Pearsall. A quorum was established. Rand introduced guest speaker, Mike Senyk, Superintendent Ocean County Mosquito Commission (OCMC):

- Eastern Salt Marsh Mosquitos are the main problem on LBI.
- Mike stated last October mosquitos were the worst OCMC has seen in 40 years.
- OCMC checks several times per week both in-person and via a light trap on Nelson Ave.
- In compliance with the EPA and DEP, OCMC sprays from a truck and helicopter in various areas on LBI. In Holgate they concentrate in the areas of Grosser Ave., Rosemma Ave., Tebco Terrace and Newport Drive. They also cover portions of Forsythe Refuge. Virginia Rettig, Forsyth Refuge supervisor, has been very helpful in permitting spraying the Refuge.
- Marshes on LBI are the major source that attract mosquitos where low areas hold water; mosquitos can also fly over to LBI from the mainland.
- Hurricane Sandy actually helped control mosquitos as the storm filled in many open low areas with sand.
- Mosquito eggs may actually last 10-15 years in salt marsh areas
- Mosquito larvae hatch as early as April and as late as October
- The HTA can help support OCMC by educating and informing Holgate residents about the positive effect of efforts of spraying to control mosquitos. Some people incorrectly feel OCMC spraying efforts are harmful to them.
- Mike will provide 75 pamphlets to Dan Macone to hand out at the June 8 General Membership meeting. Mike will also provide a pdf to send as part of next newsletter.
- Ed Shackleton's property is a candidate for spraying. Bill Hutson will contact Ed to get his OK for spraying.
- Individual home owners can request OCMC spray their lot if mosquito larvae exist by contacting Mike at 609-698-8271 or msmosquito@comcast.net.

Yanni Kaloudis made a motion to approve the April 6, 2019, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Frank Benintendo and was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

- Bill Cannon presented the attached Treasurer's Report and 2019 Budget
- A record number of members have signed up and paid dues.
- We will now have a better sense of the cash receipts and can match cash outflow.
- Business expenses are running a bit higher, some of this is related to PayPal fees as more people are paying online.
- Referencing the proposed budget Bill is requesting all committee chairpersons review their budget and confirm accuracy prior to the June 8 meeting.
- Bill Hutson made a motion to approve the 2019 budget. The motion was seconded by Dan Macone and was unanimously approved.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 8, 10:00 AM

- Mayor Mancini and Commissioner Bayard will give a brief update and answer questions.
- Ocean County Mosquito Commission recap will be presented.
- Committee Chairs will give brief report, no longer than 5 minutes.

BY-LAWS

- Frank Benintendo reviewed changes to By-Laws as listed on the attachment: Voting, Membership, and Candidate for Trustee Guidelines.
- Motion was made by Bill Hutson that By-Laws should be amended to state officers will be elected by Board of Trustees after the September general membership meeting. The motion was approved by Dan Macone and was unanimously approved.
- Goal is to have updated By-Laws emailed and snail mail to the full membership by mid-June.
- Rand Pearsall to modify membership application to request email of a family member as proxy member.
- Members who have not used email will be sent a note to check website and have family member be proxy for receiving newsletters. Goal is to move all member correspondence to email.
- A full vote to ratify the amended By-Laws will be done at the September 14 HTA general membership meeting.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Rand Pearsall discussed the continued importance of bike and pedestrian safety.
- Frank Lowery to work with LBTPD to get flashing road sign displayed in Holgate to educate residents and visitors about correct way to walk and ride.
- Police Dept has road safety PDFs that should be shared with members (via Holgate pages on Facebook and on HTA website).

DUNE PLANTING

- Denise Brand advised that most homeowners on each side of beach entrances turned on water in their homes very late this year.
- Watering is key for using large plants. Denise has established a list of all homeowners on each side of beach entrances so they can be contacted about a watering source.
- Plans is to plant entrances and dunes September/October.
- Denise and Rand Pearsall pulled 20 plants from Pagnotta's lots, planted on 2 entrances, so far with a 50% survival rate.
- Country Corner has agreed to sell to HTA at landscape company cost with 3 weeks lead time and will deliver to each beach entrance. Estimate for plants will average about \$600 per entrance.
- Mike Pagnotta has stated he will help by providing labor and will replace plants that were inadvertently damaged on Jacqueline Ave.
- Denise mentioned several entrances look well done specifically Tebco Terrace.
- Where oceanfront volunteers can be identified to regularly water, additional dune access points will be added to the planting schedule.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Dan Macone and Yanni Kaloudis advised that residents are extremely concerned about the condition of beaches 2 & 3 (Janet, Joan Road and Jacqueline Ave). House and motel rentals down significantly at this point in the year.
- New steel sheet jetty is working well for beach 1.
- LBT has been grooming and adding new sand on dune entrances, but several recent storms have limited the effectiveness of these efforts.
- Since the next ACOE replenishment is not scheduled until 2021, the Township is considering an additional jetty between beaches 2 & 3.
- HTA will remain active and work closely with LBT on plans to develop the best solutions as this is probably the single biggest issue facing Holgate.
- Bill Hutson, Dennis & Dotty Mehan bought and are installing purple martin bird houses on locations in Holgate, cost \$200 each. Mike Pagnotta is installing purple martin houses at street ends. Define East and West or just 1 street end.
- Bill suggested HTA hold \$750 to buy more martin houses until we see outcome of those to be installed this spring.
- Dan to purchase 4 holiday lights- 2 boats, 1 lighthouse and 1 snow flake, which would give Holgate a total of 10 lights. Cost is \$2,500. Dan to confirm installation date with LBT, with preference for as close as possible following Thanksgiving.

GREEN HEAD TRAPS

- Bill Hutson advised 95% of traps were out by June 1.
- Current budget is for baiting and some minor repairs.
- Ted Stiles designed a green head trap retrofit and a new greenhead trap design which has improved performance.
- Bill stated to retrofit every trap all traps will have to be taken apart and rebuilt. He will work on budget request and timeline for this.
- Bill continues to work with Virginia Rettig, Forsythe Refuge supervisor, to have green head traps placed in the refuge.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

- Rand Pearsall advised current membership is 370 and at a record level.
- Rand commented there should be new programs run to increase membership, in addition to the mailings that have gone out.
- Upcoming newsletters and communication that will be sent to non-members will contain a link to the membership application.
- Rand Pearsall has offered to host a June 15 Q&A meeting with non-members at his house. Meeting to target either oceanfront or north Holgate homeowners.

NOMINATING

- Bob White advised all officers and non-office holder Trustees have confirmed their intention to run for election for a 2-year term in 2020 and 2021 at the September 14 HTA general membership meeting.
- Slate of candidates: Trustees, Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Marianne Hurley, Bill Hutson, Frank Lowry, Ted Stiles. Officers, Eileen Bowker 1st Vice President, Bill Cannon Treasurer, Yanni Kaloudis Corresponding Secretary.
- Plan is to have a June/July committee meeting to confirm slate and then vote at the September 14 general membership meeting.
- Petitions to run for Trustee must be received by the president by July 14 which is 60 days prior to the September 14 election.

HOLGATE ISSUES

- Janet Road pump station: Rand Pearsall and Bob White have met with several homeowners and Commissioner Ralph Bayard, Andy Baran and Kyle Ominiski about a lengthy list of concerns sent to Commissioner Bayard. Commissioner Bayard has assured the homeowners LBT will work with them to improve the grounds surrounding the pump house when construction is completed. LBT has committed to landscape around the pump station enclosure and construction of a pathway to West Ave, which will also be landscaped. Pump station completion date planned for mid-July with the gasoline tank for the gators to be finished in August/September.
- Rosemma dune bench: Some oceanfront homeowners complained about bench and LBT moved bench below the top of the dune, however this makes it more difficult for the elderly to reach the bench. Rand to work with Rosemma residents to create a petition or online survey about returning the bench to the top of dune, consistent with all other dune benches.
- Beach conditions and access points: Concern is beach condition and beach access. LBT continues to groom the beach and level the beach access to eliminate steep cliffs on beaches 1, 2 & 3. Project is a top priority for both the HTA and Mayor Mancini, which is to be emphasized in all HTA member communications.
- Shore rental tax: NJ Senate and Assembly continue to work towards eliminating these taxes, however the final Senate vote is still to come. Also, it is uncertain if Gov. Murphy will sign the repeal of this tax.
- Tebco Terrace Land Use Board update: Denise advised LUB meeting was just moved to June 12. Denise will recap current status and meeting plan in a letter.

GIANT CLAM

- Denise Brand indicated location of Giant Clam will be to north of the bath house in south parking lot. Dan Macone will check with Andy Baran and Kyle Ominski to confirm location.
- Denise also presented 3 base options designed by Ted Stiles. Ted discussed design and pricing during presentation. The Wave design was the unanimous choice of the trustees, drawing is attached. Cost estimate \$1,500 to \$2,500.
- Additional comments: Frame should be very sturdy and should be securely anchored to the ground (concrete slab?).
- The base should be large enough to allow future inclusion of memorial pavers to the design.

Newsletters and Membership Communication

- Rand to continue monthly emails as it is believed to support our membership growth.

New Business

- No new business was discussed.

Next Meeting

HTA General Membership meeting June 8, 10 AM, at Long Beach Township building.

The HTA is very appreciative of Kathy Macone's continued volunteering to check people in at the membership meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting Yanni Kaloudis, second Frank Benintendo at 3:34 PM.