

Holgate Taxpayers Association Spring Membership Meeting Minutes - June 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Rand Pearsall at 10:01 a.m. Rand thanked the membership for their support and remarked that membership in 2019 is at all time high of 371 members. He acknowledged Dan Macone's presidency's endeavors that laid much of the groundwork for the current involved membership. Rand then introduced Mayor Joseph Mancini, Commissioner Joseph Lattanzi and Commissioner Ralph Bayard, noting that HTA's good working relationship with the Township and our appreciation for all of the Township's efforts on behalf of Holgate.

Mayor Mancini gave the following updates:

- The new steel groin at Beach 1 is working quite well and has rebuilt that beach. LBT is applying for the groin to be extended additional 100 feet.
- LBT is considering a new groin to be installed along the rock jetty between Beaches 2 & 3.
- A total of forty truckloads of sand will be delivered to beach entrances that have incurred winter storm damage in an effort to decrease the sand inclines beyond the walkways. This work will be done prior to July 4 in an effort to avoid possible Spring storms.
- The new permanent Marine Education Field Station on Osborn Avenue is being designed and should be built in 2020.
- LBT has recently announced their intent to acquire the Holgate wetlands tract between Rosemma and Beck avenues preserving this 22 acre bayside wetlands area as a natural habitat within the community.
- Mayor Mancini is very concerned that people walking on dunes continues to be a major issue in spite of numerous signs and notices. If you see people walking on the dunes notify the police.

Commissioner Lattanzi gave the following updates:

- The shuttle bus system is running smoothly due to the quick start on Memorial Day weekend showing more than \$600. income even with a limited schedule. That same weekend forty persons utilized the new route from Manahawkin to LBI. It is hoped this expansion to the mainland endeavor will provide additional workers for local LBT businesses during the summer season.
- The LBT budget is balanced every year now.

Commissioner Ralph Bayard answered questions from audience HTA members with the following updates:

- Water meters are available for purchase at LBT Public Works Department. Contact your local plumber to estimate how your property will need to install the meter to meet NJ State guidelines.
- If an LBT citizen identifies a concern happening at a public works project, please call the Township to report the problem to Dept. of Public Works as this is the most expedient way to have an issue dealt with quickly.
- Beach Access Walkways are being cleared of sand with this sand being repurposed on to the beach accesses with steep inclines.
- The Blvd. condition was recognized as being a very bumpy mess in progress due to the Water Company completing their project alongside sewer pipe renewal plus the Gas Company recently deciding to replace pipelines in some areas. Ocean County is in charge of the Blvd. and it is the county's intent to forgo any improvements or re-pavement of the Blvd until all LBT Blvd. repair work is complete. Firm date for renewal of the Blvd. is not available.
- It is very unlikely to imagine the date for opening the Forsythe Wild Life Preserve earlier in the season even as the Plover population on LBI has been reestablished. Holgate is the major success story Plovers and the Preserve has not indicated any changes will be made.
- The Pump Station on Janet Rd. has temporary fencing around the pump house in the exact position and dimensions as the permanent fence that will be in place by mid-July. This fence will provide access to West Ave., the tennis courts and the bay beach. Pump house work will be completed by September.
- The Janet Rd. tennis court surface will be examined by public works to define any issues.

HTA BOARD AND TRUSTEES. Rand Pearsall introduced all the HTA Trustees attending the meeting.

TREASURERS BUDGET REPORT. Rand Pearsall presented the 2019 Budget with a brief explanation on income and expenditures. Bill Hutson made a motion that the 2019 Budget be approved, motion seconded by Frank Lowry. Call for a vote to approve by a show of hands. Budget was approved.

BUDGET AUDIT. Rand Pearsall requested a volunteer to audit the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BY-LAWS

- Frank Benintendo reviewed that work has been completed to update the voting process, membership definitions and guidelines for Trustee candidates and election of officers
- Goal is to have updated By-Laws emailed to full membership by mid-June and vote to accept at September General Membership meeting.
- Rand Pearsall mentioned that in the future all voting by HTA members will be done by email or a proxy for members that don't have email.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Frank Lowry discussed the emphasis is on bike and pedestrian safety on LB Blvd.
- LBTPD will again be requested to use the flashing road sign display to state the correct way to walk and ride on LB Blvd.
- Road safety PDF from LBTPD will be posted on HTA website and Holgate Facebook.

DUNE PLANTINGS

- Denise Brand advised goal is to restore foliage and plants at all beach entrances in Holgate.
- HTA has the finances available to do plantings.
- Key to success of new plantings is water source from home owners and volunteers to plant.
- Tebco Terrace, which was planted in the spring of 2018 is an example of using larger plants with constant watering. Mike Pagnotta will help repair entrance at Jacqueline.
- Washington Ave. plants doing well.
- Denise announced she has a sign-up sheet at meeting for help watering.
- There was a request from members at meeting to work on bay entrances too.

GREEN HEAD TRAPS

- Bill Hutson brought an actual Green Head trap to the meeting .to demonstrate details on how the trap is built, works, and is bated 3 times per season.
- Currently 160 traps have already been positioned in Holgate with more to come.
- Several members expressed interest in buying their own trap. They are available for \$125 each. Contact Bill Hutson.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

- Dan Macone advised the monthly Commissioners meetings are a public meeting and that ½ hour prior to this meeting there is a caucus meeting that is easier to bring up concerns to Commissioners. Then set up private meetings if necessary, to further discuss issues.
- HTA will purchase 4 more holiday lights which will bring the total to 10 lights.
- Mike Pagnotta will be installing Purple Martin bird houses on street ends in his Holgate housing development.
- Purple Martin bird houses are available for \$200 each for HTA members. Contact Dan Macone.

MEMBERSHIP

- Eileen Bowker reported current membership is at an all time high of 371 members.
- All current members are encouraged to ask their neighbors to become members.
- Membership application is on HTA website.

NOMINATING

- Bob White reported based on the By-Laws there are 3 Officers and 6 Trustees whose terms expire this year.
- All have been contacted by the Nominating Committee and all have requested to run for election at the September General membership meeting.
- The Officers are: Eileen Bowker- 1st Vice President, Bill Cannon-Treasurer, Yanni Kaloudis-Corresponding Secretary.
- The Trustees are: Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Marianne Hurley, Bill Hutson, Frank Lowry and Ted Stiles.
- Plan is to have a June committee meeting to confirm slate for voting at the September 14 General membership meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATION FREQUENCY

- Rand Pearsall asked if HTA activity updates are being sent at an acceptable frequency and all replied they were. Many commented on the great job with communications.
- There were very positive comments about the content of information being sent.

MOSQUITOS

- Bill Hutson distributed an Ocean County Mosquito Commission pamphlet which described the Eastern Salt Marsh Mosquitos as the main problem on LBI.
- Bill stated last October's mosquitos were the worst OCMC has seen in 40 years.
- 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.
- Bill explained about the positive effects of efforts of spraying to control mosquitos. Some people incorrectly feel OCMC spraying efforts are harmful to them.
- Individual home owners can request OCMC spray their lot if mosquito larvae exist, by contacting OCMC at 609-698-82712 or msmosquito@comcast.net .

RECLAM THE BAY SPONSORSHIP STATUS

- Denise Brand advised HTA Giant Clam is being painted and will be installed and located at the South end parking lot, north of the bath house.
- The design of Giant Clam display has been accepted by HTAT and is being built.
- Base of display will be concrete slab which will allow memorial pavers to be installed around the base.
- Denise will advise estimated date for when display and Giant Clam will be completed and installed.

RECYCLING

- Rand Pearsall discussed LBT recycling rules.
- Denise Brand presented a simplified 1-page sheet which will be posted on HTA website, copy attached.

SHORE RENTAL TAX

- Rand Pearsall advised repeal of Tax making progress with NJ Senate committee and full Senate votes still to come, followed hopefully by signature of Governor Murphy.

WATER METERS

- Rand Pearsall referenced the detailed information published in the HTA's June 6 LBT Commissioners meeting report titled "Information About Water Meters as Provided by The Joint Council of Taxpayers Association".
- New water meters and sensors must be installed by July 1, 2020.
- Rand further advised you can go to the LBI website for information about the water meter and sensor installation. For contact information for the Sewer & Water Department <http://www.longbeachtownship.com> look at the home page, locate the Long Beach Township News section and then click on Water Meter notice.

OPEN DISCUSSION/Q&A

- Discussion about people walking on dunes. Dune crossover permits are required by LBT to crossover the dune from your house. Police should be contacted if you see people violating this procedure.
- Street signs on beaches were requested. The HTA has been working on this and progress has been affected by the condition of some of the beaches. This topic will be reviewed and discussed at the next HTAT meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting was requested by Yanni Kaloudis at 12:04 PM. Meeting was adjourned.