

# HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2019

**ATTENDEES:** Frank Benintendo, Eileen Bowker, Denise Brand, Bill Cannon, Bill Hutson, Yanni Kaloudis, Rand Pearsall, Ted Stiles, Bob White

**CALL IN:** Dan Macone

**ABSENT:** Marianne Hurley, Frank Lowry,

Meeting called to order at 2:40 PM by Rand Pearsall. Quorum was established. Eileen Bowker made motion to approve the September 7 and September 14, 2019, meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Bill Cannon and unanimously approved.

## FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Dan Macone reported attendance of 75, seven tables for food needed, appetizer table requested, don't serve cooked food immediately, give people time to stand in groups and mingle. Food cost \$190.
- Discussion on offering something tangible (possibly including HTA logo and date) for those who attend. Suggestions - T Shirts, reusable water bottle, "Dune Great in Holgate" theme. Rand Pearsall to assign to Marketing Committee.
- Activities suggested, such as games for children and adults, e.g., cornhole. DJ or loudspeaker with microphone would allow for music and for more people to hear the speakers.

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

- Bill Cannon presented the attached Treasurer's report for 2019 YTD. Summary: revenues \$18,091 vs expenses \$11,656.
- Over-budgeted expenses for dune plantings, Fall BBQ, membership drives and community events.
- Missing receipts or have yet to incur costs for greenhead traps, purple martin houses, reClam the Bay and JCTA dues. Deadline for receipts to Bill C is November 30, any expenses after this date will not be approved (except for expenses in December which should be submitted immediately when incurred).
- Bill commented there was a slight reduction in discretionary money from members this year which may be due to more first-time members.
- 2019 budget report was approved.
- Yanni Kaloudis will write two letters to be sent in January, one to members that have paid their dues for 2019 and one to members that did not pay their dues in 2019. The letters will include a description of activities and some pictures.

## MEMBERSHIP CREDIT FOR DONATIONS

- Rand Pearsall reviewed a proposal that Carol Jelic be awarded a lifetime membership to HTA for her work and expenses of \$400 - \$500 for decorating the Giant Clam.
- Carol has stated the cost was her contribution/donation to HTA for all the years she did not pay her dues since she's lived in Holgate.
- Rand Pearsall said this can definitely be considered although the Board should be careful to understand any precedent and defined criteria required for such an award.
- Bill Hutson made a motion to award Carol Jelic a lifetime membership, Ted Stiles seconded the motion. Vote was taken by show of hands and motion was defeated.

- Further discussion resulted in a motion by Bill Hutson that Carol Jelich be given a \$200 gift card to demonstrate HTA appreciation for her efforts. Yanni Kaloudis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- Denise Brand will purchase the gift card, write a thank you letter and send to Carol.

#### **BY-LAWS ISSUES**

- Frank Benintendo advised some members have brought to his attention it is too easy for a member to nominate oneself as a Trustee candidate.
- Frank presented a document, which is attached, outlining this question and asked for our comments on his notes.
- After a discussion Frank asked Trustees to submit comments so the By-Law committee can further discuss and make a recommendation at the next HTAT meeting February 8, 2020.
- During the discussion the subject of volunteers to serve on committees surfaced. Does HTAT request members to serve on committees. Rand Pearsall stated he has included requests for committee members in various newsletters.
- Ted Stiles mentioned the point that residents that live in trailers have no mailing address and if HTA doesn't have their email they are unaware of this request.
- Ted Stiles said he would post membership request information on the office billboard in the two existing trailer parks, Lindys and Fereneys.
- Bill Cannon has applied to the State of NJ for a Sales Tax Exemption. The state advised our dissolution provisions in the By-Laws are not adequate. The By-Laws currently state upon a dissolution vote the remaining assets (cash in bank) will be distributed as agreed by the members vote.
- NJ advises for the sale tax exemption, the assets must be distributed to another entity with a 501(c)3 designation.
- Bill has proposed this change be made the next time the By-Laws are officially changed.

#### **BEACH CONDITIONS**

- LBT and Mayor Mancini are very committed to continue to work on improving Beaches 1 thru 4.
- The current plan, which involves the Army Corp of Engineers, is to have the existing groin extended 200 feet and a second steel groin built, location to be determined.
- Frank Benintendo advised Beach 1 has really developed to a nice stable beach and Beach 2 is getting larger.
- LBT is still grooming the beaches and will do additional work in the spring after reviewing the results of the 2019 grooming.

#### **ARMY CORPS (ACOE)**

- Members are asking to lobby the ACOE for more support of Holgate beaches. The HTA has initiated contact with the ACOE about replenishment but has not received a reply. HTA considering a formal letter-writing campaign to show community support for the ACOE to return in advance of their planned 2022 date for further replenishment. Note: Federal funds must also be available for this project and it may be necessary to also lobby our Congressional representatives.

### **JANET ROAD PUMP STATION**

- Bob White reported (as read by Rand Pearsall) in October Dan Macone and I met with Commissioner Ralph Bayard and confirmed the following has been completed or would be done by LBT.
- A path will be constructed and covered with crushed shells from Janet Road going west several feet along the fence line then an angle to West Avenue, this will be completed before Memorial Day.
- Cypress trees have been planted along the Pump House south fence line.
- The two unused utility poles will be removed.
- The new pump station has been operating but the 250-gallon tank intended to fuel the gators is pending a permit from the NJ DEP. Residents are concerned there is a risk to the neighborhood to have a gator refueling station here. If the NJDEP approves the LBT permit, it will certify the current tank design meets acceptable safety standards. If the NJDEP does not approve LBT may need to make modifications or eliminate the tank. This may create delays in the gator service and less efficient use of fuel.
- The NJDEP established a public comment period that ends November 14 for residents wishing to provide their input. HTA provided the comment period information to Holgate residents in October.

### **FALL DUNE PLANTING REPORT**

- Denise Brand reported 40 volunteers planted 160 plants at 10 entrances on October 19.
- Denise with support from Rand did an amazing job organizing volunteers, working with Reynolds Garden Center, delivering materials and plants, and marking by plant type where each plant would be planted.
- A demonstration on the proper planting technique was given to all the volunteers and the plantings were finished in a timely manner.
- Bill Hutson hosted a BBQ lunch with support from HTA for all planters and the Boy Scout's (planted dune grass) at Lorry's Motel.
- Plans are now under consideration for a Spring and Fall planting in 2020.

### **HOLGATE REPUTATION**

- Holgate's reputation has suffered due to Sandy-related damage, perceptions of biting insects, and small and/or inaccessible beaches. This appears to be impacting real estate values and rentals.
- Negative perceptions are reinforced by various posts on social media, and as we have heard, by some realtors on other parts of LBI.
- LBT has also commented that Holgate people complain a lot on social media without first contacting the Township to address their issues.
- The reality is that most beaches are accessible, new construction has revitalized the community, and many realtors are really pleasantly surprised when they visit Holgate.
- The HTA has on several occasions pointed out the many efforts of LBT on behalf of Holgate and reinforced the benefits of working with the Township instead of simply complaining. This should continue.
- HTA trustees must also be vigilant to counter negative perceptions as they occur and should consider a program promoting Holgate's strengths ("Dune Great in Holgate").

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

- Dan Macone reported a total of 9 Holiday lights, owned by HTA, will be installed by LBT at no charge starting before Thanksgiving.
- Plan is to buy two more Holiday lights 2020, bringing total to 11, at that time we will consider buying more.
- Rand Pearsall asked Dan to contact LBT to start installing lights earlier in November to maximize their use, which Dan will do and advise.

## **PERSHING AND WEST AVENUES SAND BLOWING PROBLEM**

- Dan Macone reported in October he worked with LBT to erect a dune fence bayside to stop sand from blowing from a bayside entrance on homes and property.
- Suggest HTA consider plantings in that area to help stabilize the open area.

## **HTA BRANDING: TAXPAYERS OR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

- The Board continues to be in agreement that full-time renters contribute directly to the tax base. Dan Zino raised this issue at the Fall Meeting and was told the Board would review it. Rand to formally reply to Dan with our current position on this matter.

## **WASHOVER AREA**

- There is continuing concern about the 22 acres that is the last open space in Holgate.
- Mayor Mancini has stated he is completely in favor of keeping this property as wetlands and has initiated eminent domain filing to do so.
- Two builders have said they are contract purchasers for this land and their intent is to see the land preserved.
- The LUB previously approved Davies' lot plans but Pagnotta has emerged as a new contract purchaser. This may need to be resolved in the courts.
- Pagnotta states he intends to sell the land to LBT but must get approval from the LUB on a development plan in order to get a valuation for the property. This raises the possibility that the valuation may be higher than the funds budgeted for preservation and this may lead to possible development of at least some of the land.
- This is on the agenda for the Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> LUB meeting. HTA has publicized this meeting to all members, urging them to attend to voice community support for preservation.

## **GIANT CLAM**

- Ted Stiles confirmed the base is finished and was displayed at the meeting.
- Base will be stored on a trailer at Lorry's Motel.
- Location of the pad to install base in South Parking lot area had been determined, but questions arose about the suitability of the location.
- Prime location, west side of parking lot, may be a problem if handicap walkway and barrier cannot be addressed.
- Ted Stiles will meet with Andy Baran and Kyle Omniski to review site options.
- Goal is to install the Giant Clam in the spring 2020.

## **SHELLABRATION**

- Dan Macone reported HTA funded a \$200 Sponsorship this fall, which included an HTA logo on a T-shirt.
- Dan requested a \$500 sponsorship for 2020, which puts an HTA logo on T-shirt sleeves.
- Overall, Shellabration was well attended.

## **2020 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND PLANS**

- Rand Pearsall will send assignments and request plans for 2020.

## **DISCUSS CREATION OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

- Rand Pearsall will assign a Committee to this activity. Committee to oversee the Fall Meeting/BBQ and propose additional events and activities.

## **2020 ELECTION PLANNING: RE-ELECTION OF 3 OFFICERS/TRUSTEES**

- Bob White, Chairman of Nominating Committee will contact the 3 Officers to confirm they want to run for another two-year term.
- Officers are: Rand Pearsall (President), Dan Macone (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President) and Bob White (Recording Secretary).
- Announcement on reply will be made at February 8, 2020 HTAT meeting.

## **WEBSITE HOSTING AND UPDATES**

- Marc Slovak has moved off Long Beach Island and has requested an annual fee of \$500 to host and run HTA website.
- Rand Pearsall made a motion to accept Marc's proposal, Ted Stiles seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Rand to advise Marc.

## **JCTA UPDATE: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION AND REGIONAL DISTRICT FUNDING**

- Continued operation of both schools LBI Grade School and EJ School is projected to incur higher costs with the school district operating at a deficit. Consolidation is believed to be both more cost efficient and a deterrent to having these students being consolidated into the regional school district in Stafford (NJ looking to accomplish this in many communities).
- LBI's cost per student is among the highest in New Jersey.
- The JCTA has created a report that covers all available information involved in the situation. This report is being presented to the Sandpaper on November 11 for publication on November 13 and can be distributed to HTA members after that date.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES**

- Rand Pearsall has sent 2020 dates meeting and project dates.

**Motion to adjourn meeting made by Bill Hutson, seconded by Eileen Bowker and unanimously passed at 5:01 PM.**