

HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

May 30, 2020

CALL IN ATTENDEES: Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Bill Cannon, Marianne Hurley, Bill Hutson, Yanni Kalouldis, Frank Lowry, Dan Macone, Rand Pearsall, Ted Stiles, Bob White

ABSENT: Eileen Bowker

Meeting called to order at 3:10 PM by Rand Pearsall. Virginia Rettig, Manager Forsythe Preserve was introduced to present an update on the Forsythe Preserve.

- LBT plans for an extended jetty and the Preserves position on this: The jetty was built February/March 2019. LBT wants to extend the jetty and is working with DEP to measure the sand movement to the north and south. Currently there is a study by Stockton University and DEP on the effects of the jetty on conditions that were established as the base guidelines. So far, the effects are positive and targets are being met. It will take 2 years to complete all the studies. LBT is also considering building groins on at least two additional beaches and is working with DEP and Army Corps of Engineers to review this project.
- Ability to place green head fly traps in the Preserve: Since Sandy the wilderness areas in the Preserve have not expanded. The Preserve's Policy is not to let structures be put on wilderness areas and Virginia will not change her position on this. Bill Hutson requested the boundaries establishing the start of the Preserve be confirmed.
- Thoughts looking ahead to possible Army Corps replenishment in 2022: Virginia stated she was not aware of any problems with current plans for a major replenishment in 2022
- Why Plovers are protected, where do they winter: In 1990 -91 Plovers were established as an endangered species per the Federal Law established in 1973. On the east coast there is a 50-mile shoreline run north of the Preserve for bird habitat. Last year there was a lot of saltmarsh over wash and a very productive year for Plovers, 115 pairs were identified. 35% of the Plovers on east coast are in Forsythe Preserve. Plovers winter in Florida and other Islands in the south east coast.
- How the Holgate community can best partner with the Preserve: Virginia appreciates the open and honest communication with HTA. Bill Hutson mentioned help with the Refuge's clean up. New Jersey Beach Buggy Assoc. canceled their Clean Up. September, at low tide, would be a good time for HTA to schedule a clean-up.

After Virginias presentation a Quorum was established. Bill Hutson made a motion to approve the February 8, 2020, meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

- Bill Cannon presented the attached Treasurer's report showing the final numbers for 2019. Summary, revenues \$18,191 vs expenses \$14,774.
- 2020 budget was reviewed and Bill asked if anyone needed additional money to request it now.
- Bank balance is growing each year so we need to continue investigating and implementing projects that will be beneficial to Holgate residents, year-end balance will be \$30,000 to \$34,000 surplus.
- At the end of the meeting Bill advised with edits to 2020 budget to total is now \$26,234.
- Dan Macone made a motion to approve the 2020 budget, Bill Hutson seconded the motion and the 2020 budget was unanimously approved.
- Rand Pearsall said he would form a small committee to consider strategic options for the use of our budget surplus.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

- Bill Cannon reported the membership count for 2020 is 338 YTD vs 404 by the end of 2019 which was the highest in HTA's history.
- Bill is requesting three more mailings, Spring meeting announcement, June membership drive and Fall BBQ announcement.
- There was a discussion about the need for Street Captains and streets they would cover.
- Bill Cannon requested all Trustees let Bill know by Sunday if they will be Street Captains and the streets they will cover.

COVID -19 VIRUS IMPACT AND PROJECTIONS

- HTA has donated \$250 to Southern Regional Hospital and \$250 to St. Francis Food Bank. The Food Bank is in constant crisis and really needs support.
- JCTA has received \$12,400 from island taxpayer associations and individuals.
- Bill Hutson requested we reserve \$500 if needed in near future.
- JCTA donations made to St. Francis Food Pantry is through gift cards.

BEACH CONDITIONS ACCESS POINTS AND JETTY EXTENSION

- Mayor Mancini has discussed with Rand work will continue on beach access points until Memorial Day, fixes are temporary, but nothing will be done after Memorial Day except normal daily beach grooming.
- Beach three and four are still a major problem, particularly at high tide.
- LBT still interested in building more groins, also wants to make sure current design is correct.
- Rand advised an ocean front homeowner/attorney HTA member is considering a suit against LBT as he feels it is LBT's responsibility to maintain beach access conditions on beach three and four.

ENVIROMENTAL COMMITTEE

- Ted Stiles discussed the possibility of creating tests for dragon fly larva to be purchased and used on volunteer home owner's lots in Holgate to observe if dragon flies actually can destroy mosquito, greenhead and black flies.
- Ted asked for four Trustees to try a pod on their property, fresh water is needed to hatch the dragon flies and create an environment for the dragon flies. Volunteers are Denise Brand, Bill Hutson, Dan Macone and Marianne Hurley.
- Ted discussed there is a new design that he is developing using synthetic material, that won't have to be painted, and will have a trap in place by July to test.
- There is also an update being prepared to make the older traps more efficient.
- Ted also advised two Purple Martin houses have been purchased at \$250 each. Need to mount on poles and test.
- One will be put on Pagnotta property and another at the new Marine Education Field Station building on Osborn Ave, that will be done July 1.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Rand Pearsall reported for Eileen Bowker that we have money in the budget to do more social/community activities.
- Given the virus, summer events may not be advisable so it may be better to enhance the Fall BBQ General Membership meeting. We may also consider moving to a new location if this will help appeal to new members.

SPRING DUNE PLANTING POSTPONED: FALL DATE

- Denise Brand suggested we pick several dates and start to make plans for Fall.
- Priority for planting continues to be dunes at beach entrances.
- Jacqueline Ave. entrance plants were damaged when new house was built by Mike Pagnotta, Mike has stated he will help with replanting Jacqueline Ave. entrance.
- Bill Hutson will call Mike Pagnotta if he can supply some of his workers for September or October.

- The Dune Planting committee will check entrances to see how the variety of plants installed Fall 2019 have survived and are thriving. Based on the committee's observation decisions will be made on what will be planted this spring.
- Hiring a Landscape Company was discussed but availability of water and person to water new plants is still key. And we have proven we can do much more if we are using volunteer labor.
- Denise explained use of soaker hose could be an option. Dan Macone advised this is what is used in his community in Florida.

PERSHING AVENUE STATUS AND PLANTINGS

- Rand Pearsall described the problem at the intersection of West Ave. and Pershing.
- Several home owners redid landscaping and sand again was blown from bay entrance and covered all the new plantings.
- The homeowners want to get aggressive and go after LBT and write Sandpaper.
- Rand has identified one home owner that can put fencing on their property line to help stop sand.
- LBT erected dune fencing and put crushed stone in specific areas. LBT to consider additional fencing to help protect HTA plantings.
- HTA will buy plants for open areas to help block blowing sand and LBT will provide dune grass in the Fall.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/SPRING CLEAN-UP POSTPONED: FALL DATE

- Dan Macone stated the cleanup project should be part of Government Relations committee and he will determine several dates as options for the Fall.
- Event should offer refreshments and a social time when project is completed.
- Holiday lights have been purchased bringing the total to 11.
- Dan will work with Kyle Ominski to make sure the lights are installed and also follow up with AC Electric to make sure they are connected and turned on in November.

2020 ELECTION PLANNING: ELECTION OF 3 OFFICERS/TRUSTEES

- Rand Pearsall read the report prepared by Bob White Nominating Committee Chairman.
- As described in the By-Laws, the officers to be elected by the Board of Trustees after the Fall Membership meeting in even numbered years are President Rand Pearsall, Second VP Dan Macone and Recording Secretary Bob White.
- The remaining officer's election will be in odd number years.
- Bob will contact the three officers that are scheduled for election this year to confirm they want to run for another 2-year term.
- Confirmation of the slate will be announced at September 5, HTAT meeting.
- Election of Trustee slate will be scheduled for September 12, General Membership meeting.
- HTA Trustees will then elect the officers slate at the November 7, meeting.

GIANT CLAM

- Ted Stiles reported the location to install the Giant Clam is the right side of bathhouse in front of Handy caped parking space. There is some concern that this is the least visible of the 3 options but the consensus was to move forward to get the clam up for people to see.
- The stand is completed and Ted will get with Denise to confirm location and install Giant Clam.
- Ted will also check with Kyle Ominski prior to installation for OK.

MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

- Tebco Homeowners Association and bay path: HTA member John Coyle has been inquiring about a small/narrow path LBT made at his request at the end of Tebco to the bay. John Coyle is requesting financial support from HTA and installation of a bench by the bay's edge. Rand reported he has told John Coyle that he needs to be sure he is representing the views of all of the street residents and also follow all Township ordinances. Several Trustees reported the path is very narrow, somewhat overgrown and not stable for a large number of people to use. The end of the path, by the bay is eroded, very small and has no real place to install a bench unless there is a bulk head built. To the immediate left of the area is a sign that states "Privat Property Do Not Enter". (although this sign was removed after this meeting).
- Contact information member directory on website: John Coyle has requested the HTA membership directory be made available to any member that wants it. Rand has questioned the ability to protect member privacy and also the difficulty in simply managing this list.
- Meetings on Zoom: The General Membership Meeting June 6, will use Zoom Video Meeting for all members to participate. Mayor Mancini and Ralph Bayard will attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- Rand Pearsall will include information regarding differences between Beach Haven and LBT ordinances/practices in the next newsletter.
- Spring General Membership meeting will be June 6, 10-12 AM via Zoom Video Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Yanni Kaloudis and unanimously passed at 5:14 PM.