

## Holgate Taxpayers' Association Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2020

### CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS:

The meeting was called to order by Rand Pearsall at 10:01 a.m. via ZOOM Video Meeting. Rand thanked HTA member Adrienne Arkontaky for generously furnishing her ZOOM connection for the meeting and member Amanda Ford for her virtual attendance at today's meeting to assist live. Attendees were advised to adjust their electronic devices to mute except when they are presenting for the duration of the meeting.

Recognizing the complicated combination of circumstances at all government levels this is a unique time for our local officials, Rand introduced Mayor Joseph Mancini and Commissioner Ralph Bayard thanking them for taking time to attend our meeting including a Virtual Q & A.

Mayor Mancini introduced his summary of most frequently ask concerns and answers to Chat questions with the prediction "Summer 2020 is totally unknown":

- RESTAURANTS are allowed ½ seating capacity to be utilized outside their establishments. Outside seating effective date is June 15. To facilitate the new procedures expected June 15, for the time being patrons purchasing food may eat and cleanup trash at provided tables.
- RETAIL STORES are open. Owners are allowed to establish their own parameters for their stores as long as general required safe guidelines are managed, i.e. masks, number of persons, social distancing.
- BEACH WALKOVERS 8' WIDE OR LESS require beachgoers to wear masks going to and from beach. Use a wider beach walkover to access the beach if you don't choose to mask up.
- BEACH ENTRANCE repairs for the most part are complete. The Township has pushed sand to the limit and will continue upkeep as the season continues. There is no additional sand available in the Township budget this year.
- SIGN ON BEACH 1 "Beach closed until June 20" This means it will be open 6/20/20.
- BENCHES REMOVED prior to beach improvements will be placed again starting at Carolina going south. Work in progress now.
- BEACH 3 & 4 FUTURE PLANS are eligible for beach replenishment in 2022 and 2023. Factors are being considered and redefined now. Availability of committed funds to do eligible replenishment may be at risk based on DC ability to fund.
- CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOMES is allowed year-round. There is not a distinction for building hours during summer season.
- RESIDENTS REQUESTING Township assistance in changes need to consider what the community wants vs what just one person wants when the request is made to LBT. Commissioners will discuss and review request. Best to contact Rand Pearsall or another Trustee and then work together with LBT to follow up.
- BONDS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT will be checked by Township as to status.

- DAILY BEACH BADGES can be purchased at the Township Shack only. Beach badge checkers will not sell badges. Local Holgate businesses will not sell beach badges. Beach badges can be purchased only at the Township Beach Badge Shack, Brant Beach.
- WEST & PERSHING Avenues excessive sand blowing result of bay sand harvesting and being trucked to beach replenishment sites. Chain link fence is not answer to blowing sand, more dune fencing and larger plantings at this location will be considered pending one homeowner's consent to have additional dune fence installed.

Mayor Mancini and Commissioner Bayard urged everyone coming to Long Beach Township this 2020 season should come with a cool, calm, and patient attitude.

**At this point Mayor Mancini and Commissioner Bayard left the meeting and Rand Pearsall opened the HTA business portion of the meeting.**

### **TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT**

- Bill Cannon reviewed 2019 expenses of \$14,774 plus \$2,998 of 2019 costs paid in 2020.
- The 2020 Budget was then presented, it will be \$26,234 (which includes the \$2,998 of 2019 costs paid in 2020).
- For 2020 50% of budget is for dune plantings and bait for Greenhead traps, 14% for holiday lights, 14% for Giant Clam and Re-claim the Bay support. Balance is for mailings to members, nonmembers and donations to local charities and community events.
- The 2020 budget detail as compared to 2019 is attached.
- The 2020 budget was unanimously approved by the members.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **BY-LAWS**

- Frank Benintendo recognized the many changes to By-Laws ratified at 2019 Fall Barbecue meeting. Specific by-laws being reviewed this year are officer succession procedure, trustee's nomination procedure, what is expected to qualify as a trustee.
- Frank also reviewed that new this year, because of By-Law changes in 2019, trustee slate will be elected at September 12, General Membership meeting and Officer slate will be elected at the November 7, HTAT meeting.

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS & SAFETY**

- Rand Pearsall commented HTA is always concerned with safety of residents and visitors especially as all of our homes are situated on either side of a busy boulevard owned and maintained by the county not the township.
- Community events being considered by committee headed by Eileen Bowker may be restricted and determined later this season due to potential coronavirus restrictions.
- Denise Brand reminded everyone there is a law on the books, 39:4-10, that requires lights on bikes for night riding. There must be a white light on the front and a red light on the back. She suggested it would be a good community service for HTA to remind all Holgate residents the police are going to enforce bike safety much stronger this year.

## **DUNE PLANTING**

- Denise Brand reported on the exceptional 2019 Fall Dune Planting Event with numerous members in support, larger plants, water sources and volunteers to water. The results of the work are positive as nearly all of the plants have taken root and are prospering.
- The scheduled 2020 Spring Planting Event for mid-May had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions.
- Jacqueline Avenue beach entrance has been planted by the HTA and volunteers from Mike Pagnotta. There is also a water source made available thru Mike Pagnotta enabling the daily watering of new plants this summer.
- Dune protection and beautification will continue dependent on identifying critical water sources. Hopefully coronavirus circumstances and water sources will accommodate planning for a 2020 Fall Planting Event.
- WEST & PERSHING Avenues will be addressed by this committee after additional dune fencing is installed. HTA will furnish a few larger plantings pending water source and a written consent for fencing from homeowner near site.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- Rand Pearsall reported for Bill Hutson that Greenhead Traps continue to prove to be a successful means for controlling greenheads when they are maintained and sitting upright. If you see a trap that is damaged, contact Bill Hutson or Rand Pearsall as traps can be repaired and adjusted. Cost of bait has increased as has cost to repair traps.
- Dragonflies are environment friendly insects whose diet includes greenheads. Trial installations are being set up on four fresh water Holgate sites this season to investigate the likelihood that dragonflies can be successfully incubated to maturity to promote and expand the dragonfly population. Be kind to dragonflies they do not bite humans.
- Purple Martin birdhouses are being placed at two locations with the intent they will produce another means to monitor greenheads. One at Island's End, one at the Marine Education Field Station building on Osborn Avenue, will be installed by HTA and township.

## **GOVERNMENT LIAISON**

- Dan Macone advised 2 additional holiday lights have been ordered, a light house and sailboat. Total holiday lights in Holgate 2020 season will be 11. The Township provides storage off season and installation in winter. Last winter season Atlantic City Electric neglected to activate electric service in a timely manner. They have been contacted recently to better prepare for 2020. Holiday lights in Holgate provide a major source of street light in mid-November and December
- The May spring clean-up had to be cancelled, committee is working with Township to schedule a date for later this year. Five specific Holgate areas have been outlined, Beach entrances, Bay entrances, Wetlands, Wildlife Preserve, Parking lots and Public spaces.
- Dan Macone works directly with Mike Senyk Superintendent Ocean County Mosquito Extermination Commission to keep the HTA advised of planned programs for Holgate. Mike is very responsive and is excited about introducing the new treatment methods in Holgate's unique topography and instances of standing water that create challenges. Dan Macone received the attached letter from Mike on plans in Holgate for 2020
- A new spraying technique this year will be using a new spray formula with a back pack sprayer in dense low growing vegetation. The aerial spray program will also be using a new granular product.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- Bill Cannon reported year to date membership prior to today's meeting approximately 350.
- Total membership 2019 was 404, best participation ever. There are approximately 800 homes in Holgate.
- Bill has requested street captains for all streets and is in the process of developing list.
- Mailings to members and non-members will continue to mention joining and contain link to HTA membership application.
- Southern Holgate has the highest percentage of members, need to concentrate on Northern area and beach front home owners.

## **NOMINATING**

- Rand Pearsall read Bob White's report. Based on HTA By-Laws there are 3 trustees who are also officers whose terms expire this year: President Rand Pearsall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dan Macone, Recording Secretary Bob White.
- Each of these trustees will be contacted for confirmation of their intention to run for another 2- year term in 2021 & 2022. The confirmation will be announced at the September 5, HTAT meeting.
- The trustee slate will then be elected at the September 12, General Membership meeting.
- The Officer slate will be elected by the Board of Trustees at the November 7, HTAT meeting and will assume office at the next scheduled HTAT meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Fall BBQ September 12, 4 p.m. Bonds Bay Park. This is a tentative date due to safe conditions for a group congregation guideline and the Coronavirus impact.
- ReClam the Bay Giant Clam is almost ready for installation at South End Parking Lot right of bath house. LBT will be needed to assist with positioning. Content for educational statement is being prepared. The giant clam shell was painted by member Carol Jelich.
- If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please volunteer for a committee.
- Water meter installation date for completion is October 1; contact local plumber as soon as possible.
- Fire Safety Inspection at all rental properties is required prior to rental season. This is an in-person required inspection. Call Ocean County Fire Inspector's office to set up an appointment. Check the dates on all the fire extinguishers among other items to be reviewed.
- Fall Clean Up may be possible based on outcome of C-19.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION Q & A**

Member John Coyle requested HTA membership list be made public, perhaps posted on HTA website. This is a privacy issue that would require to obtaining permission from each member.

Member John Coyle requested the Fall BBQ location be changed to a more northern end Holgate location. This has been considered dependent on public location and parking availability. The board has considered the Marine Education Field Station building on Osborn Ave. however the parking situation at this location is not conducive to the number of persons usually in attendance.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Brand, seconded by Bill Hutson and unanimously passed at 11:21AM**