

HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

VIA ZOOM NOVEMBER 7, 2020

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

ABSENT: Eileen Bowker, Ted Stiles

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM by Rand Pearsall who thanked all that joined ZOOM link. Quorum was established. Dan Macone made a motion to approve the September 12 and September 26 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Frank Lowry and unanimously approved.

2020 ELECTION: RESULTS FOR ELECTION OF 3 TRUSTEES

- Rand Pearsall advised 187 votes were cast. After subtracting duplicate votes from the same households, 174 of 174 votes cast voted in favor to re-elect Rand Pearsall, Dan Macone and Bob White as Trustees.
- Frank Benintendo checked voting data and verified results.

2020 ELECTION OF OFFICERS: PRESIDENT, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, RECORDING SECRETARY

- Frank Benintendo advised a simple majority of 6 votes was needed to approve the election of officers based on today's quorum.
- All 3 Trustees confirmed they would serve as officers for 2 years, Rand Pearsall President, Dan Macone 2nd Vice President, Bob White Recording Secretary.
- Bill Hutson made a motion to elect the Trustees as officers. Motion seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously approved.

BEACH CONDITIONS, ACCESS POINTS AND JETTY EXTENSION

- Rand Pearsall advised in checking with LBT Mayor Mancini there will be no jetty extension this winter. Our understanding is the Department of Fish and Wildlife have requested additional environmental impact studies.
- Any smaller jetties built on beaches north of existing terminal groin may still need DEP approval and are pending approval to extend the terminal groin as LBT's first priority.

COVID-19 VIRUS IMPACT AND PROJECTIONS

- Rand Pearsall advised conditions are trending up, the winter could be very bad, most experts anticipate that conditions will get worse.

JCTA UPDATE

- Rand Pearsall reported the JCTA has given more than \$16,000 to the Food Pantry and SOMC. Another \$2,000+ is to be donated to the Food Pantry.
- JCTA is concerned with flooding on the island, primary issue is getting on/off the island and traveling up and down the Boulevard.
- Mayor Mancini advised there are 2 pumps working to help control the flooding problem and 2 additional pumps are planned. JCTA associations to speak with their respective townships to better understand flood mitigation plans and determine opportunities for towns to work together.
- Rand explained nonprofits like HTA which has a C3 status which allows donations to be tax deductible. The HTA is largely restricted from lobbying and conducting political activity without possibly affecting its tax-deductible status.
- Donations to associations without a C3 status are not tax deductible. Past contributions by individuals to JCTA/Harvey Cedars TA are not tax deductible. Implication is future contributions by HTA members to food pantry/hospital either be directed through the HTA or made directly to the charity.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

- Bill Cannon reported this was a record year with 432 members vs 404 last year.
- Plan is to continue mailings to solicit new members and to keep track of members that have not renewed their membership with mailings to remind them.
- Street Captains program will be continued next year.
- Bill is pleased there are two members on his committee that are not Trustees.
- Other taxpayer associations offer new members who sign up in November/December that dues will be covered for the next year.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- Bill Hutson reported the existing Greenhead traps were baited 3 times this year.
- Dan Macone commented he felt late June and early July were not bad months for Greenhead flies causing problems for the Holgate area.
- Bill advised Mayor Mancini wants us to ring the wildlife Preserve by the beach area.
- Having LBT pick up 100 Greenhead traps for storage, this sometimes resulted in damaged traps.
- In the future, 50 Greenhead traps can be stored on Bill's open land, 50 traps can stay out year around.
- Bill plans to build 8 new traps which will cost bring him up to his committee's annual budget of \$3,000. Frank Lowry advised he has pre-cut wood for 8 traps that can be picked up.
- Rand Pearsall stated HTA can invest more money to build more traps. Bill Hutson to advise the number of traps he can build and he will be given supplemental money.

- Bill and Dan Macone reported biting black flies have become a major problem this year.
- The use of Fly traps to catch Black Flies was then discussed by Bill and Marianne Hurley, who both have purchased traps which were very effective, cost around \$8.00 each. Dan suggested hanging fly traps from bottom of greenhead boxes. It is unclear if these traps are catching the biting flies.
- Making these fly traps available to HTA members was also discussed, if they are proven effective at trapping biting flies.
- Marianne suggested the traps she used caught hundreds of flies and possibly many types.
- Bill said he would check with Angela Andersen on who HTA could contact to identify the type flies that are being caught causing an increasing problem and ideas on controlling.
- Rand reinforced that our priority is greenheads, mosquitos, biting flies (Yanni identified these as “deer flies”) and no-seeums. It is not a priority for the HTA to be concerned with non-biting insects although we can certainly share information about traps for these insects with our members.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Rand Pearsall reported HTA helped with food and drink during the Forsythe Refuge clean up October 10th.
- Denise Brand brought the new HTA safety vests for HTA members to wear when working while Bob and Judy White checked people in and greeted members.
- Several HTA members worked cleaning up a portion of the Refuge.
- The clean-up was very successful. Angelia Andersen, LBT visited the registration area and shared positive comments on the project.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Frank Benintendo reviewed status of changes to the By-Laws that are being considered.
- Succession process for the President if that person is no longer able to perform the duties of the office.
- Reviewing nomination and petition process.
- Do a realignment of Trustees election to six each year, with two-year term starting with the 2021 election.
- One proposal presented by Frank is to do realignment when nine Trustees are elected as follows.
- The six who receive the most votes would be elected for a two-year term. The three that receive the next number of votes would be elected for a one-year term.
- The By-Law committee will continue to discuss the best way to accomplish the realignment process for the 2021 election.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE RERPORT

- Dan Macone reported the 11 Holiday lights will be turned on prior to Thanksgiving.
- LBT has suggested lights for the Welcome to Holgate sign be installed by a local electrician. Dan will review possible costs with his electrician.
- Dan requested that Frank Benintendo be officially recognized for working with him in developing the Certificate of Community Service given to the children that helped with the spring clean-up.
- Rand noted the re-election of Commissioners Mancini, Lattanzi and Bayard for 4 more years and sent notes of congratulations.

DUNE PLANTING COMMITTEE

- Denise Brand reported the plantings done in October are doing very well.
- The bay access at Pershing Ave. was planted October 8, by 7 volunteers using 45 plants and several bundles of dune grass.
- The plantings were in conjunction with resident-provided snow fencing and hay bales to help alleviate sand blowing from bay beach onto Pershing properties.
- Beach dune planting was done October 17, by 25 volunteers and 5 watering volunteers, using 65 plants and 30 bundles of dune grass on 10 beach entrances and dunes.
- Denise advised this group also replanted plants Mike Pagnotta donated when his workers were clearing his land to build more houses.
- Denise contacted Reynolds about plants for a Spring planting.
- Next year the goal is to get more HTA members to plant in Spring of 2021.
- Key for areas to plant in the Spring is a watering source.
- Rand Pearsall reported he noticed a vacant lot in Beach Haven where all plants were bulldozed over and destroyed despite his request to the realtor. We need to be sure LBT notifies HTA if they are going to destroy plants on a vacant lot.

TREASURERS UPDATE

- Bill Cannon presented the attached two-page report, one page is the Treasurers report and the second page is HTA bank balances.
- The amount of money spent depicts some increases since the last Board meeting and reflects changes based on decisions at that meeting and collection of receipts.
- Bill is missing reimbursements for the greenhead traps and recent dune plantings.

RESERVE FUNDS

- Rand Pearsall stated we should increase donations in 2021, and invest significantly more money in plants for dune crossovers.
- Budgeted and reserved donation of \$500 was donated to JCTA to go the food pantry prior to Thanksgiving. This was unanimously agreed to.

- Bill C suggested we let individuals donate themselves as they do not need the HTA donate on their behalf. They need the HTA to do greenhead traps and dune planting as things they cannot do themselves. However, he noted we could do more for the Fire Department and 1st Aid squad, as the HTA used to donate \$500 each and dropped to \$100 around the time of Superstorm Sandy.
- Rand made a motion to increase the donations to Fire Department, First Aid Squad to \$200 and add a \$100 donation to Alliance for a Living Ocean which was our partner in the recent Refuge cleanup. The motion was seconded by Dan Macone and unanimously approved.
- Dan suggested consideration of a donation to The Surfflight and will investigate the cost of an ad in their program.
- Rand to donate sealed Nutrigrain bars leftover from the Refuge cleanup to the food pantry.

OCEANFRONT OWNERS GROUP

- Rand Pearsall to organize a ZOOM call with the oceanfront home owners urging them to become more active in HTA.
- Frank Benintendo advised 20-25% of the votes in the recent trustee election came from oceanfront homeowners.

2021 PLANNING

- Rand Pearsall requested that Committee Chairman have their Committee plans for 2021 and budget requirements completed and sent to him prior to the December 8 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Based on a question from Marianne Hurley about the status of the Purple Martin houses, Rand reinforced the top priority is to support scientifically proven methods of eliminating biting insects. It is unclear if Purple Martins significantly reduce the biting insect population without also reducing the numbers of other insect-eating creatures like dragonflies. Until this is confirmed, the HTA can philosophically support the Township's efforts at biodiversity but we should not invest funds in this effort at this time.

NEXT MEETING

- Given the uncertainty relating to Covid, the next meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-8:30pm via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Marianne Hurley and unanimously passed at 4:32 PM.