

HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

VIA ZOOM DECEMBER 8, 2020

ATTENDEES: Eileen Bowker, Denise Brand, Bill Cannon, Marianne Hurley, Bill Hutson
Frank Lowry, Dan Macone, Rand Pearsall, Ted Stiles, Bob White

ABSENT: Frank Benintendo, Yanni Kaloudis

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Rand Pearsall who thanked all that joined ZOOM link. Quorum was established. Dan Macone made a motion to approve the November 7 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Bill Hutson and unanimously approved.

BEACH CONDITIONS, ACCESS POINTS AND JETTY EXTENSION

- Rand reported that Mayor Mancini at the last commissioners meeting said there will not be any change (beyond normal LBT grooming) to work on beaches until the 2023 beach replenishment by the Army Corps.
- Beaches 3 and 4 were hit hard by last storms. Northern Holgate beaches continue to weather storms well because of amount of sand on those beaches.
- There are no steel groin extension plans for 2021 due to the Federal request for additional environmental study; LBT plans no work on smaller southern beach groins until the steel groin extension is completed.
- Rand Pearsall will check with Virginia Rettig, Forsythe Preserve to verify if her understanding of the situation is similar to the report from LBT, if there are any changes and if more environmental studies are required before new jetties can be installed.

COVID-19 VIRUS IMPACT AND PROJECTIONS

- Rand reported that Commissioner Lattanzi provided a Covid update for LBT at the last commissioners meeting. Although the trend has not been good, Southern Ocean Medical Center is not in crisis mode. Lessons learned in the spring have helped Ocean County and Southern Ocean Medical Center do some advance planning and is better prepared.
- Currently Southern Ocean Medical Center has 25 beds filled and 10 ICU beds with ventilators filled. Transmission rate is down to 1 on a statewide basis.

2021 COMMITTEE PLANNING AND BUDGET REQUESTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Rand Pearsall thanked Bill Cannon for the committee's work in 2020 and getting best ever membership number 432. Bill Hutson also mentioned the amazing job Membership has done this year citing membership numbers had stagnated at 280 -300 several years ago.
- Bill Cannon stated their goal this year was 400 and the goal for 2021 is 500.
- Bill Cannon reported his committee is requesting a budget of \$4,500.

- Mailings made in 2020 were very effective in recruiting new members. The committee plans 4 mailings and printing new Flyers in 2021.
- Plan is also to schedule some social informational events to attract new members, targeting May, June or July.
- Committee members continue to discuss best way to distribute letters and flyers. Should they be sent to everyone or mailings dropped off at houses that are not currently members.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- Bill Hutson presented an update on Greenhead traps. Bill also mentioned his thanks to Ted Stiles on the amount of research he has done to help control the biting insects.
- This year 20 new traps were built costing \$60 for materials and \$60 labor, total \$120 per trap, which Bill stated was a very good cost.
- At Mayor Mancini's suggestion 10 traps were put at the edge of the Wildlife Preserve. Goal is to set up more traps to replace the traps that had to be removed from the Preserve.
- Ted Stiles then gave an update on new Greenhead traps design. The current design is 30 years old. The older design is based on plywood sheets dimensions. A new material MDO which is very durable and priced competitive to plywood's being considered.
- The new design could be round, we should think out of the box creating the new design.
- Ted will have some new designs and a prototype to show us at the January 26 meeting. Much of the damage done to Greenhead traps is on the top area. When the traps are moved and placed on top of one another to transport damage is done that is very hard to repair. To make the top stronger we are currently using baluster/spindles.
- Ted also stated a new variety of Greenhead flies has been identified in the New England area this summer, these flies had never gone farther north than North Carolina.
- Biting Black flies (BBF's) were then discussed by Ted Stiles. He and Bill set up some traps this summer and consulted with authorities for identification and was told these were not BBF's. BBF's live on eel grass and lay their eggs there. Eel grass in the past was not really prevalent in Holgate, but its presence has been increasing.
- Plan for 2021 is to purchase about 20 BBF traps install them and decide on the correct bait. Marianne Hurley commented she contacted some people that set up traps but they didn't catch BBF because they didn't have the correct bait. Lots of bait is available on Amazon, but you have to know the correct specific bait needed.
- Dragon Flies were then discussed. Ted Stiles has found the correct way to feed them so there will an increase. The procedure involves a small amount of a standing water and the correct bait. The 2021 plan is to have volunteers install the correct products and help the numbers of dragon flies increase.
- Mosquitos were discussed. Bill Hutson and Dan Macone reported they were in contact with Mike Senyk Superintendent Ocean County Mosquito Extermination Commission this

past summer. They were checking out area by the Shackleton compound. This has been a major area for mosquitos, they walked into the area and came out with bleeding arms because of the density there. They contacted LBT and were promised a path would be cut into this area and Ocean County Mosquito Extermination Commission stated they would spray that area on a regular basis in 2021.

- Rand Pearsall then stated the priorities for this Committee should be: 1- Greenhead flies, 2- Biting Black Flies, 3- Mosquitos, 4- No-see-ums. HTA needs to focus on biting insects that would ruin someone's vacation or time spent in Holgate.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/ SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Eileen Bowker will submit budget and work on an as needed basis.
- Best timing for events is to schedule on shoulders of season spring and fall, avoid summer and holidays.
- Consider doing an event in conjunction with Clean Up or Dune Planting.
- Ideas about events included miniature golf tournament, Thundering Surf is available, pickle ball tournament, flea market in southern parking lot during the week.
- Reach out to have an active younger people's group event. Eileen Bowker has contacted a young man that would play guitar and do a sing-along,
- Goal this year is to try two events as pilot programs to see if they work.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Rand Pearsall read Frank Benintendo's report.
- Primary issue that needs work is the uneven election of trustees. It is currently three trustees in one year and nine the following year. Goal is to elect six each year. There are various options being discussed to reach this goal. Some are By-Laws friendly and some involve changes to By-Laws. The By-Laws committee will formally propose options that can be discussed at January HTAT meeting. Trustees can also express opinions on email so a vote by trustee on the changes can be made at the March 2021 HTAT meeting.
- Another issue that needs review is the succession plan for President. If there is ever a need to make a permanent change, a procedure to do so needs to be thought through and presented to change current By-Laws.
- Committee is also considering the procedure for being nominated for a trustee. Some trustees feel it should be easy to be nominated and others feel a nominee should have a track record of working HTA projects and involvement in committee work.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Dan Macone reported committee is considering various dates for Spring Clean-up.
- Holiday lights are all working and there have been many positive comments made to trustees. Recommendation will be made as part of budget to purchase 2 more lights, anchor and snowflake for \$1,800, that will total 13 lights all spaced a tenth of a mile apart.
- Rand Pearsall advised Dan to make this part of his budget request for 2021, submit to Bill Cannon and entire budget will be voted on.
- Bike safety options were discussed. Dan feels stenciling on walkway on Blvd. is not as effective as the mobile LBT electric light at Holgate entrance that was furnished summer 2020. Trustees expressed this light resulted in bikers being about 70-80% compliant after light was installed. Because this was noticeably effective suggestion was made to contact LBT to state HTA will make payments to them to be applied to electrification to put the sign at the same location in 2021. Bill Hutson advised he had spoken with LBT administrator Kyle Ominski and HTA could probably work out a plan. Rand Pearsall will be talking to Chief Deeley about signage options and will mention electric sign as well.
- Dan Macone updated project to make lights brighter on Welcome to Holgate signage. Lou's Electric has been contacted about a quote for installing an electrical box with 2 plugs for low wattage spot lights. AC Electric will then connect box to electric lines. Request LBT to work without electric meter. Dan has experience installing low voltage lights and will use one plug to install them in planter. The second plug will be used for holiday lights on sign in 2021. This will be put in 2021 budget as a line item.
- Ted Stiles advised Dan Macone there are larger solar panels that could be used in this set up, he will do some research. These larger solar panels may be all that are needed.
- Dan Macone proposed purchasing an ad in Surfflight Theater Playbill publication distributed at each performance. Cost for Playbill for the entire 2021 season's productions is ½ page, black and white print, \$650. to be paid by May 1. Suggests ad be developed by several trustees and include an email address referencing Surfflight ad when new member joins by using HTA/Surflight. Dan will prepare budget information for 2021 Surfflight Playbill ad.

DUNE PLANTING COMMITTEE

- Denise Brand reported the 2020 planting has been very successful at 6 dune entrances and dune grass planted on many more locations. Pershing Avenue plantings on bay entrance were completed.
- Members volunteered to do watering to planted areas and Rand Pearsall's meeting with ocean front home owners should help with watering sources in 2021.
- Inventory of plants from growers in 2021 should improve and help our efforts.
- Many people volunteered to help plant and with the system this committee developed the planting process can be completed in only several hours' time.

- Rand Pearsall mentioned he was informed the bales of hay used at Pershing could attract biting insects so they should be removed before next spring season.
- Denise will submit her budget and has been encouraged to be aggressive in requesting funds for 2021.
- Rand Pearsall requested Denise Brand's planning for Spring and Fall dune planting be very aggressive with ordering plant materials
- Bill Cannon requested photos of planting events on dune entrances for his mailings to prospective new members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Rand Pearsall read Bob White's report.
- Implement a realignment of Trustees election to six each year starting with 2021 voting at the Fall General Membership meeting. The Officers election process will continue as it is described in the By-Laws.
- There have been several options presented at HTAT meetings. We should be able to confirm the process hopefully without requiring any changes to the By-Laws.
- Our goal is to have the election process approved by HTAT at the May 8, 2021 meeting and present to members at the June 5, 2021 General Membership meeting.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

- Bill Cannon reviewed the attached Treasurer's report. There have been no changes since the November 7 meeting and all donations discussed then have been made.
- Need receipts for the Greenhead traps from Bill Hutson.
- Bill Cannon advised money in budget for Dune planting has been spent this year.
- Rand Pearsall stated this year the total income of \$19,000 has been spent on planned projects instead of accruing in an unused balance.

COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND JCTA MEETING UPDATES

COYOTES

- Rand Pearsall reviewed the latest information about the increasing population of Coyotes on LBI.
- LBT and Strafford Animal Control Association are monitoring the situation. Both have stated don't put cat food outside and close garbage cans, to avoid attracting coyotes.
- This has become a key issue for the JCTA who don't want this situation to continue to grow. The major concern is about pets being killed or children hurt. There is a report that a dog has been killed by coyotes.
- Rand Pearsall is going to check with Forsythe Preserve Manager Virginia Rettig to get her comments about potential damage to Piping Plovers.

FOOD PANTRY, HOSPITAL DONATIONS

- Rand Pearsall reported the Food Pantry at St. Francis has received many donations thru the Thanksgiving season and has some food still in inventory. This will be closely monitored as the need is believed to be great on LBI.
- The Ocean County Hospital is in a good situation as well, they currently do not need any more food donations.
- There is a concern about local people who work at Ocean County Hospital and Southern Ocean Medical Center being able to provide their own needs because of the COVID-19 regulations. This includes rent stoppages, as part of a temporary regulation, which now have to be paid back. Many employees may not make enough money for food and the rent pay back and conditions will probably get worse.
- All donations will go thru Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation which makes sure donations will be used for local people and the Hospital. Donations must be made by check, designate on the check for SOMC.

NEW BUSINESS

- Rand Pearsall commented 2020 was an excellent year for the HTA as the organization really helped in the community and our work was visible in Holgate.
- The involvement of volunteers was very good but needs improvement. We do need to continue to reach out to more volunteers to help on Committees and work on specific projects.

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 7 PM, VIA ZOOM

- Rand Pearsall commented the midweek meeting times appear to be a good choice. He also explained the red letters on the 2021 Meeting Schedule, September 11, is because his son is getting married in Rhode Island that day.
- HTA will move forward with the scheduled meeting plans for that day. Rand Pearsall and Bob White will work thru the election process for that date.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eileen Bowker, seconded by Marianne Hurley and unanimously passed at 8:30 PM.