

HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

VIA ZOOM JANUARY 26, 2021

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

ABSENT: Eileen Bowker (school board meeting), Frank Lowry

Meeting called to order at 7:18 PM by Rand Pearsall who thanked all that joined ZOOM link. Quorum was established. Dan Macone made a motion to approve the December 8 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously approved.

BEACH CONDITIONS

- Rand reported as a result of the last Nor'easter storm beach 3 and 4 lost a lot of sand from dune which created a very steep cliff on the ocean side.
- LBT immediately started bulldozing sand and working on the cliff to shaping it to have a moderate incline.

COVID-19

- Rand advised it appeared watching the state wide information, Covid-9 has crested and is coming down.
- Hospitals have varying degrees of patient beds being occupied, some are 60% to 80% and some are 100%.
- Hopefully as the vaccine gets distributed and people receive shots all will stabilize.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Frank Benintendo presented the attached motion for holding a Special Election and By-Laws with suggested changes in blue print.
- The first project discussed was holding a Special Election to balance the election of Trustees from three and nine every other year to six each year.
- There was a lengthy discussion on the proposal and all Trustees expressed they were in agreement.
- Frank stated he would send the Special Election recommendation exactly as written to Legal Counsel for a review.
- The decision was made if Legal Counsel approves the content of the Special Election Frank will make a motion at the March 23 HTAT meeting to vote on accepting the motion so it can be presented and approved at the June 5 General Membership meeting.
- All Trustees agreed this is an acceptable process to hold the Special Election this Fall at the General Membership meeting.

- The first area in By-Laws discussed was ARTICLE II – Trustees, Section I: Number of Trustees and Elections, C. The non-office holder trustees of the Corporation shall be elected as follows: 1. and 2. To be considered a candidate for Trustee the, residence requirements have been updated with additional specifications.
- There was a very long discussion on the number of years and number of local events a member has been actively involved in to be a Trustee candidate. Key issue is to ensure we have dedicated Trustees. This is going to change and in place there would be a requirement that a letter be written by the nominee stating why he or she feels that they have the qualification to be a Trustee.
- Working on a committee needs to be promoted by Trustees. Currently only have one committee with members involved.
- There are currently no members, we are aware of, trying to be a Trustee. The current Trustees responsibility is to attract members who want to be Trustees.
- Discussed requiring a letter listing why they want to be a Trustee, past projects involved in and what are their interests. The outline for what this letter needs to contain is in the process of being written by the By-Laws committee.
- The nomination petition will require ten member signatures.
- The next area discussed was ARTICLE III – Officers Section III: Duties of Officers needs to updated. Many of the Officers duties currently listed are outdated and inaccurate.
- Rand stated he will make the first attempt at drafting duties of all Officers and then the Officers can respond. We will discuss duties at the HTAT March 23 meeting.
- Next area reviewed was ARTICLE III-Officers-Section V: Succession of the President
- There was a discussion and all agreed these changes were acceptable.
- Rand asked about ARTICLE IX-Removal of Officers and Trustees, Section II -Procedure to Remove a Trustee, D. If a Trustee has been removed that Trustee can no longer run for a Trustee.
- During the discussion of this addition, it was agreed that after two years the member could be considered to run for Trustee during the scheduled election.
- Frank mentioned ARTICLE X- Dissolution wording was added so HTA has proper wording to receive consideration for Tax code application and Bill Cannon can apply again for Sales Tax exemption.
- Dan Macone asked that we consider adding a specific date that dues must be paid to remain a member of HTA. During discussion all agreed that January 31 is a proper date for payment of dues
- Frank stated there are some single word changes being made to be considered house cleaning.
- Frank made a motion that a budget of \$2,000 be set for an outside Lawyer to review the changes being made to the By-Laws and the Special Election motion. Motion was seconded by Bill Hutson and unanimously approved.

- Frank mentioned he wanted to work with Bob White to check dates and time periods in By-Laws to continue when a new Trustee becomes active.

OPPORTUNITY FOR TRUSTEES TO ASK QUESTIONS OF 2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS RE BUDGET REQUESTS

- Rand reviewed all 2021 HTA Planning Committee forms with their 2021 budget request vs 2020 actual expense. The 2021 Prototype Budget is attached.
- Each Committee Chairperson reviewed their Specific Goals and their Budget request for 2021.
- Rand discussed the budget requests with each Chairperson and they adjusted their budget to be in line with the overall budget.
- Frank Benintendo brought up the Christmas Tree lighting and display in the South Parking lot.
- Dan Macone Government Relations Chairperson requested \$1,500 to purchase two additional Holiday Ornament lights in 2021 bringing the total number to 13.
- Bill Hutson made a motion to purchase the two lights for \$1,500. Motion was seconded by Ted Stiles and unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

- The HTA Prototype 2021 Budget is attached.
- Bill Cannon will present an updated budget at the March 23 meeting which will reflect the discussions with Committee Chairperson.

JCTA UPDATES

- Rand reported coyotes have been heard in Clam Cove according to a Facebook video; it is uncertain if it was a pack or a single coyote but it appeared to be more than one.
- LBT has not publicly indicated it will take action against Coyotes at this time based on County guidelines.
- The HTA is concerned that coyotes will not be considered a problem until someone is hurt or a pet is killed.

WIND TURBINES

- Information is just being made public about the location of the leased fields and the status of the construction approval process.
- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind has scheduled a Zoom meeting February 3, 6:45 PM.
- Concerns are height of the structures; information currently is over 800 feet tall.
- How far off LBI, information currently 10-15 miles.
- When are installations scheduled and how many?
- Type of on shore buildings required to maintain structures and where will they be built?
- Cable running thru what part of the ocean, will it be thru Barnegat inlet?

- What will be impact on LBI fishing, tourism and NJ shipping?

FOOD PANTRY AND HOSPITAL DONATIONS

- No update until after next Commissioners meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dan Macone questioned home revised assessments received by all home owners. Dan stated his was 15% to 20% higher.
- The tax rate is typically adjusted down as assessments increase however the school tax is reported to be significantly increased. A question was also raised about the possible effect of the assessments on the regional school taxes.
- Rand stated the JCTA is reviewing the regional school district tax formula to determine if there is any feasible way it could be adjusted to be more equitable based on the number of students sent from LBI to Stafford.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously passed at 9:01 PM.