

HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

VIA ZOOM MARCH 23, 2021

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

ABSENT: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Rand Pearsall who thanked all that joined ZOOM link. Quorum was established. Frank Benintendo made a motion to approve the January 26 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Yanni Kaloudis and unanimously approved.

PROPOSED OPERATING POLICIES DISCUSSION

- Rand stated the document he sent Trustees, a copy is attached, contains changes to the HTAT operating procedure based on his observations and discussions with Trustees. There are 6 specific subjects that address these situations. Trustees were encouraged if they had questions or comments to state them as they work thru all 6 points.
- The plan is to turn approved proposals into policy that can be reflected in the By-Laws.

1 -OVERALL: IS THERE A NET BENEFIT TO CHANGE THE WAY WE OPERATE

- By having a cleaner definition of Officer responsibilities and how Officers will be held accountable on how the operation is run.
- Dan Macone stated he thinks changes are necessary as the current description of Officer duties aren't clear on their responsibilities.
- Bill Cannon suggested that HTAT needs someone to lead the charge on the communication side, there is a glaring hole in what we are doing.

2 -NUMBER OF OFFICERS: MOVE TO 5 VERSUS CURRENT 6

- Rand commented with Eileen Bowker's resignation as 2nd VP this presents an opportunity to consider running the Board with 5 Officers.
- Frank Benintendo stated we don't need a 2nd VP; 5 Officers are certainly adequate. Dan Macone commented we should consider the VP position to be a prerequisite to move into the Presidents role.

3-CREATIOIN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM OFFICERS

- Rand explained occasionally he wants to reach out to other Officers for their opinions, feedback and historical perspective.
- Creating the Executive Committee gives the President the ability to call the Executive Committee together to review specific topics and strategic planning for where we want to be in one year or five years. HTAT can have discussions in a smaller group to help make topics be more productive.

- Easier to discuss with small existing group than just one or two Officers. The President can ask for opinions on various proposals before they go to the entire Board.
- This is not a By-Law change just operational issue. Bill Cannon commented it would be good to try this approach for several years and see how it works out. Frank Benintendo also expressed support.

4- REDEFINED OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Rand went thru the specific responsibilities of the 5 Officers, including the President. Each Officer's responsibility is very well defined. All agreed with these changes and defined roles are well summarized resulting in a much broader responsibility to the Officers. All comments were very positive.

5- REQUIRED COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Rand proposed each Trustee must actively serve on one committee as Chairperson or serve on two committees.
- The VP nominates the committee Chairpersons and they are approved by the Board. The Chairperson must also complete a formal written Annual Plan.

6-CRITERIA FOR REMOVING A TRUSTEE

- Rand explained his thoughts on failure to fulfill Officer or Trustee duties as specified in By-Laws or specified by the Board.
- Key element is sharing the workload of running the HTA as best they can. - Several current Trustees and Officers mentioned the black and white nature of Rands proposal is that we all need to do the work required. The Recording Secretary will issue a quarterly report noting each Trustee and Officers participation status.

7-STATUS OF TRUSTEES WHO DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

- If the Board of HTAT decides to accept this proposal any Trustee who doesn't feel they can agree to meet the criteria as requested should consider resignation from the Board.
- Rand is also prepared to discuss the proposal as it might relate to any Trustee/Officer who questions their ability to meet the standards proposed here.
- Rand to update the proposal based on comments in the meeting and resubmit to the Board for further consideration.

JCTA UPDATES

WINDMILLS STATUS

- Rand gave a brief review of the situation involving Atlantic Offshore Wind and the wind mills to be constructed 10-15 miles out in the ocean from the Atlantic City area.
- JCTA April 5 and Beach Haven Taxpayers has scheduled a public forum for April 9. Registration information to be shared with HTA members.

- There was a lengthy discussion about HTA’s objectives to get involved and what the best procedure should be for HTA.
- Bill Cannon commented this could be used to drive new members to join HTA because this project is just now getting a lot of public press and there are a lot of questions.
- Most of the Trustees on the call expressed that HTA should sponsor some type of Zoom call to make sure all Holgate residents are made aware of the project and status of HTA.
- One idea was to use some of JCTA questions, ask HTA members for questions, and combine these to send to AOW ahead of time.
- There really appears to be a visibility question here as already several Zoom meetings are scheduled.
- Rand suggested we table the issue for now and see what the outcome of JCTA meeting and the Beach Haven Zoom calls are. Rand will communicate updates after the Beach Haven April 9th Zoom call.

NON-RESIDENT VOTING

- Rand commented he is unsure of any traction to the opinion if it is worth the effort to consider the possibility of non-resident voting on School Taxes or Regional School District subjects.
- In a recent article Rand reviewed it is a state law a person can’t vote in two places and must vote where their primary residence is located.
- New Jersey has only allowed full time residents to vote on local matters. However, there are currently 11 states that permit voting by non-resident tax payers on local matters. Chris Christie stated any changes in New Jersey voting would require a state Constitutional amendment.
- Rand is reviewing within the auspices of the JCTA any consideration to non-residents voting on local matters. The concern is if the attempt to get this accepted would be a major time- consuming and expensive matter.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP

- Bill Cannon reported membership is currently 360. This is the best membership HTA has ever had this time of the year.
- Denise Brand is preparing a laminated information sheet to be distributed by members of the committee.
- Street captains have become an excellent way to solicit membership by streets.
- Several committee members have also mentioned holding block parties and have HTA info about joining presented. Yanni Kaloudis mentioned if block parties are scheduled HTA could contribute up to \$100 per event. Money will come Community Events budget.

- Bill Cannon stated he has contacted Atlantic Offshore Wind to do a conference call and invite prospective residents for HTA. AOW is happy to help with this event.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Bill Hutson reported 20 new greenhead traps were made last year, numbered and will be put out in the next several weeks. Mayor Mancini suggested 10 traps be put at the edge of the Wildlife Preserve. The other 10 traps will be put close to the Wildlife Preserve. Plans are to bait the traps 3 to 4 times this year.
- Bill also mentioned when LBT helps pick up and store the traps many get damaged. Bill will have his group do this instead.
- New more concise signs should be developed and attached to greenhead traps, two signs per trap, to explain what greenhead traps do. Denise Brand and Dan Macone are working on a wording up date and will order signs.
- Bill Hutson stated 2020 was very successful for use of traps, Bill received many positive comments.
- Ted Stiles advised he has seen a new style trap made of plastic which cost around \$60, he plans to order one to evaluate if it is determined to be durable.
- Ted is working on two new designs, one made of MDO which is a new product but very durable, the cost is close to wood cost to build a trap and should be ready by May 1st. The second trap is a new design, which should cost less to build.
- Rand asked the committee to set their priorities as discussed at the 12/8/2020 meeting.

BY-LAWS

- Frank Benintendo has received an approval from the attorney on holding the special election. HTA is a New Jersey nonprofit 501c3 non-profit corporation and can have a Special election at any time.
- At the January 26, 2021 HTAT meeting an approval was given to hold the Special election, copy attached, with the Lawyers approval.
- This Special election will balance the election from 3 and 8 Trustee positions up for election every other year. This will realign the election process to have 5 Trustees elected one year and 6 Trustees elected the following year. These numbers may change slightly if we return to a full Board of 12 Trustees.
- In May information on the Special election and electronic voting process will be sent to all members. The results of this vote will be announced at the June 5 General Membership meeting and the 6 Trustee candidates and two Trustee/Officer candidates will be introduced.
- Voting for these 8 candidates will be electronically in August and the results will be announced at the September 11 General Membership meeting.

- Newsletters will also announce the purpose of the Special election and the vote process in May for the Special election. The Trustees and Officer/Trustees names will also be announced in Newsletter, along with information on the electronic voting process in late August/early September and the results will be announced at the September 11 General Membership meeting.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Dan Macone advised the two new Holiday lights, Anchor and Snowflake, will be delivered this Summer.
- Spring Clean Up date was selected to be May 29th.

DUNE PLANTING

- Denise Brand reported planting date is May 22. The availability of plants is expected to be excellent this time of year.
- Budget for Spring and Fall plantings is \$15,000 total, \$7,500 for each planting. This will provide 22 plants for each of 10 dune locations, 220 total.
- There has been a good response for people to help based on membership forms returned per Bill Cannon.
- Denise advised she had not heard there was some damage to plants where LBT is working on the dunes. Some unidentifiable Trustees reported that LBT had removed plants to park the bulldozers in Washington Avenue area. Denise said she will stop by the area to confirm damage. Rand stated LBT should be made aware of this. Yanni Kaloudis stated LBT should replace the plants or give HTA money to replace them.
- The ocean front homeowner meeting by Rand has been postponed to secured more information on the Windmill status in the ocean but will be scheduled soon.

NOMINATING

- Bob White stated now that the Special election has been approved by the attorney, we will continue with the election process.
- Bob will send an email to the Trustees scheduled for election to confirm they want to run for another two year term.
- The slate of candidates will be announced at the May 8, HTAT meeting and June 5, General Membership meetings. Voting for the slate of candidates will be done electronically in August and results will be announced at the September 11, General Membership meeting. Trustees will vote on the Officers slate at the November 7, HTAT meeting.
- Guidelines for nomination of a Trustee by HTA members will be published in several monthly newsletters.

SAFETY

- Dan Macone and Rand discussed they will contact LBT to bring one electrical sign to Holgate entrance by Memorial Day. The sign will state walking and riding on the correct side of the Blvd. is required. All Trustees commented this was successful last summer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Bill Cannon reviewed the attached 2021 Budget and asked all Committee Chairpersons to review their individual requests listed in the Budget.
- Budget for donations was briefly discussed.
- Bill reminded everyone that \$19,000 was the income estimate for 2021 and we are at \$43,000 spending as we decrease reserve funds as previously agreed by the Board.
- Rand asked all Chairpersons to send in expenses on time in 2021, as we do not want to carry over expenses into the next year. This makes budgeting difficult. If receipts are not received on time as approved by the Board in the past, there will be no reimbursement.

BEACH CONDITIONS

- Holgate lower beaches were hit very hard this winter. LBT has been trucking in sand for the last 30 days. Their work started above Jacqueline Ave. and are working south.
- LBT is using two bulldozers working on the entrances and dunes the last 30 days.
- LBT has rarely started this early, but this is a good indicator that LBT wants to improve the entrances and beaches.

COVID 19 STATUS

- Rand advised reports indicate New Jersey may be moving the wrong way. Hopefully everyone gets their shots before Memorial Day and the hospital doesn't get overloaded with cases in beds.
- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has announced April 1 he will permit more access to inside restaurants and other public places.
- Governor Murphy also mentioned New Jersey may pause reopening's to check the numbers of cases and evaluate where we are before Memorial Day.

DONATIONS TO SURFLIGHT THEATER AND BAYVIEW PARK CELEBRATION

- Rand stated these remained as two open items he discovered following a discussion with Bill Hutson and looking over past meeting minutes.

SURFLIGHT THEATER

- Dan Macone advised HTA is considering a half page black and white add for \$650 in their Playbill. The artwork and layout must be completed by May 1.
- HTA has supported Surflight in the past, but not since Sandy.
- Rand will check with JCTA members on comments and email Trustees so they can decide before the May 8, HTAT meeting.

BAYVIEW PARK CELEBRATION

- Dan Macone reported he had been contacted by Joni Backum about HTA's support for Bayview Park Celebration. Dan checked with Rand, and because the park is far up the island, it wasn't necessarily ideal for Holgate. Dan went back to Joni Backum to tell her HTA won't be supporting their event, even though HTA did support for \$200 last year.
- There was additional discussion about the events at the Celebration. To summarize, there are three days of events, Friday Fire Pits, Saturday park is open all day with food trucks/ planned events and Sunday with several Bands.
- Several Trustees expressed this has become a successful event and Holgate residents have attended the events.
- After additional discussions it was decided Rand will check with JCTA to get a feel for other Tax Associations comments and advise the Trustees by email. Then we may approve a budget expense to contribute.
- Bill Cannon advised the amount we contribute will have to come from an existing item in the 2021 budget.

Next Trustee Meeting Date: Saturday, May 8, 3-5PM, @ 3001.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Macone , seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously passed at 9:40 PM.