

## **HOLGATE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES**

**VIA ZOOM MAY 4, 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 7:09 PM by Rand Pearsall who thanked all that joined ZOOM link. Quorum was established. Dan Macone made a motion to approve the March 23 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously approved.

### **PROPOSED OPERATING POLICIES DISCUSSION**

- Rand Pearsall emailed the attached updated Operating Policies to all Trustees and asked if anyone had additional comments.
- The current document has addressed concerns and questions that were discussed at the March 23 meeting.
- Rand stated he felt the current proposal was a much-improved document based on past discussions.
- Rand requested there be a motion made to accept this Operating Policies document and have it added to the By-Laws as the By-Laws are updated. Yanni Kaloudis made the motion and it was seconded by Dan Macone and unanimously approved.

### **COMMISSIONERS MEETING UPDATE**

#### **BONDS PARK**

- Rand reported LBT wants to have an overall plan for Bonds Park.
- Mayor Mancini asked Rand to check with residents about adding additional activities to the park area.
- There has been a request to put a Pickle Ball court on the Tennis court. The proposal would be to keep Tennis court and install lines to make court into 2 Pickle Ball courts.
- Trustees had an open discussion of various projects that can be done such as updating the playground equipment, adding more equipment, update the basketball area and add bicycle racks to all entrances.
- Several Trustees mentioned about not altering or ripping up the vegetation areas or the walkway and benches. The benches are used daily to watch sunsets.
- There were discussions about Pallotta's entrance to their property, keep the entrance from West Ave. and not consider cutting thru the vegetation from Joan Rd. to their property.
- Rand agreed he would go back to LBT to hear their ideas for the entire area and then start a dialog with residents based on both parties agreeing on upgrades.

## **JCTA UPDATES**

### **WINDMILLS STATUS AND POSSIBLE PUBLIC FORUM**

- Rand advised there are so many questions about this project, from both Federal Government and Atlantic Offshore Wind perspectives it is hard to identify all the key issues.
- Rand is working as a committee member with 3 other JCTA personnel to try to identify public concerns.
- There have been discussions held by several local organizations already to help understand the concept and what will the local effect be to LBI.
- Best approach is to offer a base line of information to let people understand what the project entails both from Government and AOW stand point.
- Bill Cannon suggested there needs to be a base line of understanding, Windfarms 101, basic information then go to more detailed information. Frank Benintendo suggested an information sheet be put together listing facts in bullet point form.
- Basic summary is windmills are a complicated and controversial subject. People will disagree with the facts, but available information about what we do know and problem areas need to be summarized and made available by HTA.

### **REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXATION AND FUNDING FORMULA**

- Rand advised Harvey Cedars Taxpayer Association has several members that are experts understanding local options for the regional school district tax and funding formulas.
- There has been a discussion that revealed the New Jersey State Legislation may pass guidelines at the Assembly and Senate level to designate where school funding should be spent.
- Rand has been told, by a well-respected anonymous source, the NJ State Legislation is 6 weeks or so away from having agreements on the funding allocations.
- LBI school children may not be forced to attend Southern Regional schools, which will also have a bearing on funding.

### **BIKING AND WALKING SAFETY**

- LBI Chambers of Commerce is looking to partner with JCTA on a biking and walking safety program. They also want to get local bike shops involved.
- These groups investigating having lighted safety bracelets, powered by batteries made available at \$270 donation for 100 lighted bracelets.
- Dan Macone made several comments about biking and walking in Holgate area and the need for a program like this idea to promote safety. Dan volunteered to help with this project. Rand will put Dan in touch with the JCTA person to follow up on implementing a program in Holgate.
- Rand made a motion for Dan to spend up to \$300 to test the bracelet safety program in Holgate. Dan M seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- Bill Cannon reported 403 current members, which is a record number for this time of the year. We usually receive a membership bump at the June General Membership meeting.
- Bill recently sent an email to all members requesting help appointing Street Captains to help with membership by street, he received four responses.
- There was a request for someone to help with the Traylor Park. Ted Stiles volunteered to cover this area.
- Bill advised there have been no community events scheduled this Spring, but will have a Fall event.

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

- Rand proposed Bonds Park as the best place for June 5 General Membership Meeting.
- Commissioners have been invited.
- There was discussion about a portable PA system. Rand will share with the Board his ideas about buying a specific system.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

- Bill Hutson reported there is very little bait remaining from last year and he will need to order more bait for this year.
- Ted Stiles advised he is still working on two new trap designs and should have them completed by June. He will test how effective they are and advise all of the results.
- Dragon fly ponds are being worked on by Ted. He commented he is still checking if the ponds attract more flies than they kill.
- Ted asked for locations to put a dragon fly test pond. Bill Hutson advised his lot is available and Yanni Kaloudis stated there is a neighbor who has a pond that could be used. Rand requested these two locations be used as a test and report the results.

### **BY-LAWS**

- Frank Benintendo reported he is making changes that have been discussed at past meetings so there may be an updated document by the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- This document will then be sent to membership so there can be a vote to accept changes.
- With the resignations of Marianne Hurley and Frank Lowry and their commitment to serve out their term until the September General Membership meeting and the resignation of Eileen Bowker there will now be only six Trustee candidates for election.
- The election process will now potentially be balanced with six Trustee and Trustee/Officer candidates each year, depending upon when new Trustees are added.

## **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**Clean Up-** Dan Macone reported the Holgate Clean Up is scheduled for May 29. He has contacted LBT to advise them and has requested a dumpster for the south parking lot.

- Dan will purchase items needed.
- There are 4 Zones, 2 South starting ~ 8:30 AM and 2 North starting ~ 9 AM.
- Several Trustees volunteered as Captains: Rand Pearsall, Yanni Kaloudis, Ted Stiles and Frank Benintendo.
- Dan mentioned there will be a special certificate given to children that want to work.

**Lighting Welcome to Holgate Sign-**Dan presented an update on the lighting of Welcome to Holgate sign with solar lights.

- There was a visual presentation made from various Distributors of solar light kits. The prices ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,000. There is also a need to have a plug to set up Holiday lights.
- When the solar lights are selected Dan will advise LBT for approval.
- There is also one neighbor that is close to the sign and Dan will check for approval.
- Rand asked Dan to proceed with the project to determine what solar lights are needed with the goal being to minimize cost, then report to Trustees what his final opinion is based on cost and light source options.

**Mobile Police Sign-** Dan is checking with LBT on positioning the lighted sign at Holgate entrance that states "Walk into traffic and bike with traffic".

**Donations Surflight and Bayview Park –** Dan advised he has not done any additional work on this project.

- Rand said he will check with JCTA group to see what they are doing and report to all.

## **DUNE PLANTING**

- Denise Brand reported planting date is May 22. She has ordered the needed supplies and advised they will be dropped off at each entrance with the plants.
- Based on 2021 budget of \$15,000, there will be \$7,500 for Spring and Fall plantings. This will provide plants for at least 10 dune entrances.
- Watering plants is the major concern after planting and for the next few months. This process still has to be confirmed.

## **NOMINATING**

- Bob White's report was given by Rand. The following Trustees and Officers have confirmed they want to run for another two-year term in 2022 and 2023. Trustees Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand. Bill Hutson and Ted Stiles and Officers Bill Cannon Treasurer and Yanni Kaloudis Corresponding Secretary.
- Bob was notified by Marianne Hurley that she has been a Trustee for 26 years and is resigning. Frank Lowry advised Bob that he was not going to run for another term as a Trustee.
- Rand has asked them to confirm their final decision in writing this week and asked them each to stay on as Trustees to complete their term which is complete September 11.
- Eileen Bowker previously resigned and left the Board.
- The Nominating Committee will review candidates for the three open positions.
- Current slate of candidates to be announced at June 5 General Membership meeting.
- Voting for the slate of candidates will be done electronically in August and the results will be announced at the September 11, General Membership meeting. Trustees will vote on the Officers slate at the November 7, HTAT meeting.

## **TREASURER'S UPDATE**

- Bill Cannon reviewed the Treasurer's Report, attached, that was sent to all Trustees.
- Income is around \$19,000 and donations have been higher than last year.
- Most of the bills for expenditures have not come in as yet.
- Marianne agreed to do the annual audit of the Treasurers records.

## **BEACH CONDITIONS**

- LBT started working on the Beach entrances very early in 2021. Rand met with the Commissioners and thanked them for this commitment so much earlier than previously.
- The bulldozers used to work the beaches are still at the entrances and continue to work.
- Beach three has been improved and hopefully there won't be an early storm to erode the work that has been done. Beach four is much steeper. The work is typically completed by Memorial Day.
- Rand mentioned he had contact from an oceanfront homeowner about the entrance to beaches from their dune walkover are really steep and not useable.
- One of the oceanfront homeowners is a lawyer and has notified Rand that owners were required to give LBT an easement from their property to the beach. He is tired of waiting for something to be done to improve the dune from their dune walkover to the beach. It is too steep to walk to the beach area from the end of their dune walkover.
- Oceanfront homeowners who have received permission to place walkways over the dunes to the beach in the Spring have to remove them in the Fall.
- Many oceanfront homeowners and renters do not understand the permissible ways to walk over the dunes to the beach.

- Yanni was asked to draft a letter to be sent to all oceanfront homeowners explaining they must have approval from LBT to put a walkway from their house across the dunes to the beach and provide signs facing both ways along the walkway.
- The letter should provide the procedure if you see someone walking on the dune to the beach. A polite warning should be offered; if people are uncooperative, pictures should be taken and turned over to the police with information where the people are staying.

### **COVID 19**

- Rand commented news reports are getting more positive about the control and treatments. The overall status has the numbers trending sharply down. Masks and social distancing are still the safe requirement.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Denise Brand reported some very bad activities are happening on the property south of their home.
- Denise stated a rifle was being shot at their property last night. The noise was heard by husband Brian and her and sounded as if it hit their house.
- There has also been late night partying, racing of vehicles and many other undesirable loud activities on this property.
- There is a dirt road from Jeffrey Ave. that winds all the way to the bay, where there is an area where people frequent late at night.
- There is also a large trailer there for a long time that has become a place for people to dump unwanted items that the trash collection companies won't pick up.
- Denise contacted LBT with this information, but feels they are not particularly interested in getting involved.
- Rand commented the police must be told all the details and a request for their help to control these issues that affect our entire community.
- If the police do not react, Rand will help organize and lead a group to have a meeting with officials to get an action plan.

### **UPCOMING HTA EVENTS**

- Spring Dune Planting May 22
- Spring Cleaning May 29
- Spring General Membership meeting June 5

### **NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING DATE**

- Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Zoom

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Yanni Kaloudis and unanimously passed at 9:07 PM.