



Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 Time: 7:04 - 8:15 pm Via: Zoom

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

ABSENT: None

Meeting was called to order by Rand Pearsall at 7:04 pm and a Quorum was established.

Trustees unanimously approved Minutes for November 16, 2021 meeting.

Beach Conditions – Rand, All

- Rand commented LBT has been working on dunes and beaches. Frank Benintendo stated beaches 1, 2 and 3 look good. He observed bulldozers are stationed on the beaches-dune entrances.
- LBT appears to be very committed to improving the Holgate beaches.

Trustee Recruitment Update- Rand

- Rand stated Bob White has prepared an update on Trustee recruitment which will be presented during the Nominating Committee report.

Covid 19 Status – Rand

- Rand advised we should remain cautious despite positive trends. New variants present concerns we will have to deal with leading into entire summer.

Member Survey – Rand

- All Trustees have been sent the JCTA survey results. Rand would like to send a version of the JCTA survey to all HTA members for their input. The survey gives HTA members an option to voice their expressions on possible priorities. HTA can evaluate member concerns versus those JCTA has chosen to see where we can work together.

New Member Meet and Greet -All

- Rand advised he is looking for someone to chair this event, including choice of location (Bonds Park or Osborne Ave Educational building) and pick a date.
- Bill Hutson volunteered to chair the event and suggested June as a good date to consider. Bill Cannon stated he would help communicate the event to members and non-members, plus devising a way at the event to distinguish non-members from members.
- Rand will follow up with Bill Hutson to discuss more details.

2022 Committee Planning – All

- Rand asked committee chairs to review briefly what new activities they would be working on. Their specific plan and financial requirements are to be submitted by end of February so the plans for incorporation in the 2022 budget. Budget to be reviewed at March 15 HTAT meeting.



By-Laws Committee- Frank B

- Frank stated the By-Laws have been updated with all past questions and comments. Next task is to get all Trustees signatures on signature page. Frank will be contacting Trustees to complete this.

Community Events/Safety Committee – TBD

- Rand advised our goal is to do more social events, block parties and meet and greet events.
- Dan mentioned it is important that to do these events a relationship with LBT is important. Rand agreed and will call Dan to discuss.
- Dan Macone volunteered to be chair of Safety; he feels this should be part of the Government Relations Committee which he also chairs.

Dune Planting Committee – Denise

- Dune Plantings –major Spring or Fall planting projects are being planned..
- Next project is to see how plants come back this spring.
- Water for dune plantings - Denise continues to need both water sources and watering groups. It is a major issue when volunteers start to water but stop leaving Denise to do all of the watering. Denise is investigating compensation in the form of gift cards for water sources (if homeowners are reluctant to incur higher water costs) or contacting high school pupils to water for credit towards a school project.
- Susan Avenue dunes – Rand invited Trustees to check plantings that were planted on the west side of the dune, near the walkway. Rand wants to encourage oceanfront homeowners to plant their dunes. HTA will not provide labor or plants but will help educate the owners and try to obtain discounts for plant purchases.

Environment Committee – Bill H, Ted S

- Ted Stiles is making up to five newly designed round greenhead traps; Bill Hutson is making up to five smaller green head traps. These 10 new traps will be ready for testing this Spring. The new traps may be more appealing to home owners to place on their property.
- Bill stated he has received complaints about appearance of the big black traps and the numbers painted on them may be too large.
- Rand mentioned a new member, who is a contractor wants to get involved in HTA, Rand feels with his experience he would be helpful to the Environment Committee.

Government Relations Committee – Dan M

- Welcome to Holgate sign lights have been turning on properly but off too early. Dan to investigate in February. He will continue working with the company that supplied the solar system as we have a warranty on the system. Frank Benintendo commented the amount and angle of sunlight may be a problem during the winter months.
- Holiday Lights. Dan suggested HTA consider buying three additional lights and will check on pricing. LBT works well with Dan to install and remove the lights. The lights were installed prior to Thanksgiving in 2021 which really Holgate homeowners appreciated as many people were on LBI for Thanksgiving.
- LBT Flashing Sign. Dan will contact LBT to confirm the Township electrical sign will continue to be stationed at the entrance to Holgate. The statement on the sign about walking and riding bikes on the Blvd. may be improved.
- ShellAbration Festival. Dan will work with Jamey Beckman at LBT for possible HTA donation of \$200.



- Clam Cove. Lighting for the sign was proposed and a decision subsequently made to determine what LBT projects are planned for this area.
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Signs on the Blvd. All Trustees agreed there are too many signs and too small to be effective. Consider removing some of the small signs and install a larger sign with a more direct message. Suggestion made for HTA to do a stencil on the road about proper way to ride bike and walk.
- Dan suggested Trustees make contact with LBT Police Safety Officer Megan Keller for options that would be acceptable. The current signs were installed by LBT Police Dept a long time ago.

Membership Committee – Bill C

- Bill stated in last three years membership has grown every year for several reasons including increased membership drives.
- The Committee will continue the use of Street Captains.
- Committee was able to get 57 new members from home owners that have owned homes for several years but were never members; 68 members in 2020 (16%) did not renew for 2021. Data of interest, 27% of members are signing up online and those who do online do not make donations as much as those who make payment on PayPal. With changes to new platform for online registration we hope on line donations will increase. We will compare results to prior years
- Membership rates for north Holgate and oceanfront homes have increased but are still lagging and rates for “Mid-North” reflects the success of street captains.
- Membership Committee will meet in early February.

Nominating Committee - Bob W

- Dan Macone read Bob’s report. Rand Pearsall has received several inquiries to be considered to be a Trustee and has talked to all of them. Here is the current status.
- Jeff Lipman and Hank Henninger have requested a petition form which has been sent to them.
- Catherine Jump had not gotten back to Rand (but did make contact after the meeting).
- Barbara Vail, Bob Grossman and Lee John Prochazka inquired but may serve on a committee in 2022.
- Mike Widicoe and Cindy Wanek are deferring at this time.

Treasurer’s Update – Bill C

- Financials attached. All receipts were received and the 2021 results are final.
- Bill commented we took in around \$22,000 and actually spent \$10,000 more or \$32,000 total as planned in 2021.
- Changed bank to TD Bank, Bank of America account will be closed. We lost the ability to use Zelle but will create account with Venmo for electronic funds transfer.
- Changed the platform for on-line memberships to GiveButter which allows members to sign up using credit cards, debit cards, Paypal, Venmo, digital wallet and others.
- Tax receipt letters sent out and 1099-MISC filed.
- Bill requested committee chairs send budget request as reviews well in advance of March meeting.

JCTA Updates – Rand

- Strategic Planning. Committees have been set up for First Responder Support, Flooding, Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety, Taxes, Offshore Wind Farms and Beach Erosion/Replenishment.



- Rand is chair of Beach Erosion/Replenishment. Committee goal is very narrow in effort to get Federal funding for replenishment. 2022 was the year ACOE was to begin next phase of replenishing beaches but this not expected. Rand feels all individuals and taxpayer associations must work together to contact Congressional and state representatives for funding support.

New Business - Rand

- ResilientLBI is a state-funded group focused on LBI issues relating to climate change. Their focus is to recommend plans in stages all the way to 70 years out. Scenarios are to include: Do Nothing, Use a Light Touch, Heavy Touch and 70 years out. This group is different than the Back Bay Study which is Federally funded (Army Corps).
- A major concern will be the implications for how climate-damaged properties will be handled (buyouts, relocations). A visual depicting a long-range projection for Holgate did not appear to look encouraging but we would not be alone. Rand will advise more details at future meetings as the various taxpayer associations are monitoring all of this closely.

Old Business

- Denise revisited our previous conversations about a shed to store HTA items for future use. We have identified a possible unit that could be placed in Rand's garage (certain limitations apply). She will check on details and advise plan at next meeting. Rand asked all trustees to identify what needs to be stored so we can determine if the shed is big enough. Dan said he has the tent and some items. Bill H said the grill is currently stored at Bowkers (and should be relocated).

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:15 and unanimously approved.