

HTA January/February 2025 Newsletter

We are expecting a great Summer season with the completed replenishment and several activities planned (including an expanded Tunes By The Dunes!) but we need your support to achieve all of our goals for Holgate.

It is a great benefit to Holgate if you sign up or renew your 2025 membership now: <https://www.holgatetaxpayers.org/web/membership/membership-signup/>

And please be sure to volunteer to attend our events and support the community as noted below!

Your HTA Trustees

January/February Highlights

1. Beach Conditions
2. HTA Audit Volunteer Needed
3. Wind Farm Updates
4. Green Head Fly Traps
5. Avian Bird Flu on LBI
6. Oceanfront Private Dune Walkovers
7. Water App (Clarification)
8. Resilient LBI Final Public Meeting
9. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates
10. Relevant Township Ordinances Passed on Second Reading
11. Relevant Township Ordinances Moved on First Reading
12. Reminder: NJ PACT Issue
13. JCTA Updates
14. Save The Dates

Updates

1. Beach Conditions

- Replenishment, including new dune grass, has been completed. As expected there has already been some erosion but we are in much, much better shape than last year.

2. HTA Audit Volunteer Needed

- We need a detail-oriented person to conduct our annual audit of the HTA's books for 2024. This does not require specialized knowledge although some accounting experience would be a plus. It should be expected to take approximately 5 hours in total. ***Please respond to this email if you can help.***

3. Wind Farm Updates

- With all of the news reports about the cancellation of offshore wind projects, please note that the Atlantic Shores farm off LBI has not been officially cancelled.
- We are also now paying close attention to any potential oil/gas drilling off the Atlantic Coast.

4. Green Head Fly Traps

- We will need a number of able-bodied volunteers to get our new and refurbished traps out of storage this Spring and back into the marshes

and street ends. We've invested in special carts to help move them and to make the job easier. ***Please reply to this email if you can help.***

- Thanks again to all of the homeowners who agreed to store traps for the Winter. We will need more homes for storage next Fall and we will be knocking on a few doors closest to where the traps will be placed.

5. **Avian Bird Flu on LBI**

- There have been several reports of multiple dead birds on LBI. While we await scientific testing to confirm cause of death, ***please be sure to keep family members and pets away from these birds.*** In addition, report any bird deaths as noted in the following link: <https://nj.gov/H5N1/>

6. **Oceanfront Private Walkovers**

- We have received a report of one LBT homeowner destroying newly-planted dune grass when placing a walkover on their dune. In addition to being both a Federal and Local crime that may result in prosecution, it is foolish to destroy the very plants that help stabilize and protect our dunes.
- As a reminder to all oceanfront homeowners: 1) you need to have a permit issued by LBT to have a walkover; 2) only LBT is authorized to cut an opening in your dune fence for the walkover and you must schedule this with the Township; 3) dune walkovers can only be put out between April 1 and November 30. LBT has promised to more strictly enforce these requirements.

7. **Water App**

- LBT has confirmed there is no separate app for your water usage and you must sign up to track usage online: <https://www.longbeachtownship.com/watersmart-info/>

8. **Resilient LBI Final Public Meeting**

- The final public information session for this phase of the project will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and anyone is welcome to attend.
- “Work performed in this phase has included activities like additional desktop studies, field surveys, feasibility assessments, conceptual design progress, the basis of design definitions, capacity building, grant applications and public engagement,” said team member Shelby Smith, senior planner with consultancy company Ramboll. “All resilience initiatives have been developed in close coordination with municipal and community stakeholders.”
- “This meeting,” she explained, “will provide a comprehensive update on the progress to increase resilience on LBI. Attendees will learn about the latest developments and have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the project team.”
- The Resilient LBI website is updated with new resources including an interactive map allowing the community to visualize proposed projects and LBI locations. This tool offers a way to learn more about initiatives aimed at protecting LBI’s future.
- Register for the public information session at bit.ly/ResilientLBIPublicInfoSession. To learn more about Resilient LBI, visit bit.ly/ResilientLBIWebsite

9. **LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates**

- **Commissioners were sworn into office in January:** After taking the Oath of Office, their first order of business was to vote to re-affirm Joe Mancini as mayor. There are no changes in each commissioner's area of responsibility: Dr. Joseph Lattanzi, Director of Revenue & Finance; Alexander Meehan, Director of Public Works & Water/Sewer; Joseph Mancini, Director of Public Affairs & Safety.
- **Storm Drains:** Ongoing storm drain work on the Boulevard expected to be completed by Memorial Day. Work to date has improved the flooding that often occurs at some locations. Work at additional locations will resume after the summer and the entire effort should be completed within two years.
- **Sewer Maintenance:** LBT approved the purchase of two trucks - a "camera" truck and a sewer cleaning truck to better maintain our sewer system.
- **Beach Volleyball:** The Township has been working with the Great American Volleyball company to conduct a beach volleyball tournament currently scheduled for Sunday, July 1 along with weekly (age-specific) clinics that will run from July 9 through August 6. Great American is well known for the events it holds along the Jersey Shore.

10. **Relevant Ordinances Passed on Second Reading**

- **25-01.** The annual update of compensation, salaries, overtime and holidays for Township employees was the only Second Reading ordinance discussed and adopted.
- *Adopted ordinances in the process of being incorporated in the Township's code can be found here: <https://ecode360.com/laws/LO1479>*

11. Relevant Ordinances Moved on First Reading

- **25-02**. This annual ordinance is based on a NJ legal requirement requiring municipalities to limit their annual budget increase to 2.5% unless the municipality passes an ordinance to increase the limit to 3.5%. Every year LBT passes this ordinance just in case and to date it has not been needed.
- **25-03C**. Requires that pilings be placed under a load bearing wall but removes the requirement that pilings shall be placed not more than eight feet apart. How deep they must be sunk remains unchanged (pilings must penetrate to a minimum of minus ten feet mean sea level). It clarifies that the *primary* floor elevation of the structure supported by the pilings should meet the standards contained in the same two sections currently noted in the regulation.
- **25-04C**. Establishes specific, detailed criteria for acceptable advertisements on Township properties and in Township facilities used for revenue-generating activities. Defines permissible locations and identifies acceptable sponsors for advertisements. Advertisers would be required to file an application for the advertisement and to have that application approved before proceeding.
- **25-05**. Authorizes the Township to hire temporary entry-level police officers who have not completed the Basic Course for Police Officer training, provided they complete the training within nine months from the time of appointment as temporary entry-level officers. Establishes that no one may take the Basic Course unless they have this temporary appointment.
- *First-reading ordinances are not currently available due to revisions being made to the LBT website.*

12. Reminder: NJ PACT (New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats)

- This is a 2020 executive order signed by Governor Murphy. While it might sound positive, it makes a number of distant climate-related projections out to year 2100 but would require much more immediate changes to our flood ratings and homes.
- We encourage everyone to become familiar with this initiative and the recently proposed amendments. For example, it would require homes to be raised by an additional 5 feet over current ordinances. This would apply to new construction and substantial renovations.
- If you support LBT's position (see link below) regarding NJ PACT, please let your state representatives know.
 - NJ Pact overview: dep.nj.gov/njreal/overview
 - NJ PACT proposed amendments: dep.nj.gov/rules/proposal.pdf
 - Long Beach Township's response: <https://www.longbeachtownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/NJPACT-Letter.pdf>

13. **JCTA Updates**

- The JCTA (Joint Council of Taxpayers Association of LBI) is finalizing priorities for 2025. This is expected to include continued support of LBI's first responders system, bicycle/pedestrian safety, dune preservation, and creating a better understanding Ocean County taxes (the largest part of our property taxes).
- Two additional goals for Holgate: a) use the JCTA's visibility with the Ocean County Commissioners to learn more about, and advocate for, possible repaving of our Boulevard; b) begin to educate Ocean County about the need for greenhead traps in marsh areas on the mainland.

14. **Save the Dates**

- Commissioners Meetings:
 - Monday, March 3, 4pm
 - Monday, April 7, 4pm
- Spring Dune Planting: May 17, morning
- Spring Cleanup: May 25, morning

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HTA Membership

Our mailing address is:

Holgate Taxpayers Association
PO Box 1326
Beach Haven, NJ 08008-0166

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