

HTA March 2025 Newsletter

We appreciate everyone who has already signed up to be a 2025 member, especially those who generously donated funds on top of their \$25 annual dues.

If you have not had a chance to do so, please sign up or renew your 2025 membership

now: <https://www.holgatetaxpayers.org/web/membership/membership-signup/> . This will ensure continued receipt of our detailed newsletters.

We continue to ask for anyone interested in becoming a trustee this year. It can take less time than you might think, you will work on projects for which you have a passion, and we could really use the help. Happy to further discuss with you and answer any questions.

Your HTA Trustees

March Highlights

1. Beach Conditions
2. Rental Home Registration
3. HTA Audit Volunteer
4. Wind Farm Updates
5. Avian Bird Flu on LBI
6. Reminders Regarding Oceanfront Private Dune Walkovers
7. Resilient LBI Final Public Meeting
8. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates
9. Relevant Township Ordinances Passed on Second Reading
10. Relevant Township Ordinances Moved on First Reading
11. Reminder: NJ PACT Issue

- 12. JCTA Updates
- 13. Save The Dates

Updates

1. Beach Conditions

- While replenishment and dune grass planting has been completed, we are seeing an expected high degree of erosion due to Winter storms. Some of this sand will come back in the Spring but there is a great deal of frustration that NJ DEP and Fish & Wildlife continue to withhold approval for the steel groins that would keep much of this sand in Holgate.
- The HTA is in full support of Mayor Mancini's and LBT's efforts to get these groins approved.
- Additionally, the HTA is asking *all oceanfront owners* to consider an aggressive dune planting program. Dunes with mature bayberry and other plants survived much better than dunes without plantings. These plants also do a much better job of holding blowing sand than dune grass.
- We are working on an educational program for all oceanfront owners to inform them about what can be done to build a stronger dune and protect their home investment.

2. Rental Home Registration

- Business and rental homeowners must file a state-mandated registration with LBT and pay a \$100 fee. This ordinance passed in February 2023 and we are trying to learn more about how it didn't surface on anyone's radar screen until this month. *Please be sure to note, the deadline is April 1.* For more

information: <https://www.longbeachtownship.com/business-rental-property-owner-registration-information/>

3. HTA Audit Volunteer

- Three members have offered to help with this important task. THANK YOU!

4. Wind Farm Updates

- The final Wind Round-ups have been posted to the Membership section of the HTA website. Given the probability (but not yet certainty) that the Atlantic Shores project will not proceed, production of further Round-ups has been suspended indefinitely. You must be a current member to access this section.

5. Avian Bird Flu on LBI

- There continue to be multiple 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*. It might also be wise not to wear shoes in the house and to wash feet thoroughly after being barefoot on the beach.
- Report any bird deaths as noted in the following link: <https://nj.gov/H5N1/>

6. Reminders Regarding Oceanfront Private Walkovers

- If you already have a dune walkover permit for a dune walkover, you are set as it is not necessary to reapply every year.
- If you don't have a permit, you need to apply for one before you put down a dune walkover. Call the LBT Zoning Department at 609.361.6679 to begin the process.
- You must transplant any vegetation that would be in the path of the dune walkover. Severe fines apply to any damage done to dune vegetation.
- Do **NOT** cut an opening in the dune fence at the beach side yourself. Call the Department of Public Works at 609.361.6676 to schedule or you will be fined.
- Walkovers must be less than four feet in width.
- Dune walkovers need to be removed each year no later than October 31 and cannot be placed on the dune until April 1.

7. Resilient LBI Final Public Meeting

- The final public information session for this phase of the project was held virtually on Wednesday, March 5.
- While a great deal of the planning focused on flooding and bay initiatives, we were heartened to see that the Resiliency plan included support for the proposed steel groins in Holgate. To learn more about Resilient LBI and review their resiliency planning, visit bit.ly/ResilientLBIWebsite

8. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates

- Construction Dumpsters: Construction sites in LBT are required to have on site a garbage can with a secure lid so food and other non-construction items can be discarded in it. If you notice that a construction site is missing this receptacle, call the LBT Building Department at 609.361.6679 and ask for an inspector to look at the

site. Likewise, if a dumpster is unsafe or overloaded, alert the Building Department.

9. Relevant Ordinances Passed on Second Reading

- **25-02.** LBT is allowed by NJ to increase its annual budget this year by no more than 3.5% (2.5% is the cap without this action). This action was not used in 2024, nor has it ever been invoked in the past 16 years.
- **25-03C.** Requires pilings to be placed under a load bearing wall but removes the requirement that pilings shall be placed not more than eight feet apart. Clarifies that the *primary* floor elevation of the structure supported by the pilings must meet the current standards.
- **25-04C.** Establishes specific criteria for acceptable advertisements on Township properties and in Township facilities used for revenue-generating activities.
- **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 after their hire.
- *Adopted ordinances in the process of being incorporated in the Township's code can be found here: <https://ecode360.com/laws/LO1479>*

10. Relevant Ordinances Moved on First Reading

- **25-06.** Allows the issuance of a \$1,520,000 bond toward a \$1,600,000 appropriation to buy the building housing the LBI Health Department. While LBT is making the purchase, other LBI towns will be sharing the cost of the building's expenses, per the towns' shared services agreement.

- **25-07.** Updates the ordinance passed last December with the current list of all employee salary ranges and announced township holidays.
- **25-08C.** Reinstates the zoning ordinance that regulates how much outdoor seating a restaurant may have, returning that number to pre-Sandy levels. Restaurants may apply for increased outdoor seating through requests to the LBT Land Use Board.
- *First-reading ordinances are not currently available due to revisions being made to the LBT website.*

11. 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>

12. JCTA Updates

- As previously reported, one of the JCTA's 2025 initiatives will be to increase efforts to preserve LBI dunes. The HTA's dune planting program is expected to take the lead in sharing information about how other communities and homeowners can take steps to achieve this goal. During Superstorm Sandy, highly vegetated dunes survived much better than dunes with little/no vegetation.

13. Save the Dates

- Commissioners Meetings:
 - Monday, April 7, 4pm
- Spring Dune Planting: Saturday, May 17, morning
- Spring Cleanup: Saturday, May 24, morning

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HTA Membership

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