

Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 Time: 7:01 pm – 8:50pm Via: Zoom

ATTENDEES: Frank Benintendi, Denise Brand, Bill Cannon, Yanni Kaloudis, Art Levy, Jeff Lipman, Dan Macone, Rand Pearsall, Ted Stiles, Bob White

ABSENT: Bill Hutson

Meeting was called to order by Rand Pearsall at 7:01 PM and a Quorum was established.

Motion to approve Minutes for February 7, 2022 meeting was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Frank Benintendo and motion was unanimously approved.

Holgate Topics – All

- Beach Conditions – Rand P stated beach conditions are good with sand appearing to migrate south from the north end of Holgate.
- By-Laws - Frank B reported there was a good discussion about the need to establish a firm number of Trustees in the By-Laws. The decision was to leave minimum number at 9 then continue the discussion via email with members on what top number should be and then membership to vote to approve.
- Keep off Dunes Signs - Dan M reported LBT will provide 25 double sided signs and install them in May, but HTA must purchase the poles. Frank said we can purchase 8-foot poles and cut in half. Additional discussion stated a goal of adding signage that would potentially be more engaging.
- LBT Municipal Budget Review- Rand reported the 6 taxpayer associations in LBT will have the opportunity to review LBT budgets and be able to provide comments on key issues. In the past there has not been much visibility to the Township budgeting process.
- Water/Sewer Fees – Rand advised second reading of the ordinance which reduces water fees for duplexes and triplexes will take place on April 3. Sewer fees remain unchanged.
- Passing of Mayor Mancini's daughter-in-law - Katy Mancini, passed away on May 12 leaving a 5-year-old son and her husband. Katy was also a Township employee. The Board expressed its condolences to the Mancini family.

Treasurer's Report – Bill C

- 2023 Budget – Bill reviewed the attached budget for each Committee Chairperson to comment on and confirm the amount listed will cover all activities planned for 2023.
- Ted Stiles reported Environmental Committee will inventory greenhead traps in April to check what are good and what needs to be rebuilt. The plan for 2023 is to build 10 of the new designed traps, cost is about \$200 each. They are also checking with trap bait supplier to check any deals that might be available for bait purchase at discount.
- Jeff Lipman and Art Levy both mentioned a lot of their activity plans for 2023 will benefit other Committees. Rand stated there should be a separate meeting with himself, Jeff and Art to review their planned programs and best way to coordinate activities with other Committees.
- Total Budget for 2023 is \$31,675, current Bank balance is \$20,000 and there should be a \$20,000 Reserve Fund balance at years end 2023
- Bill confirmed our intention is not to have reserve to grow each year but to use budget on beneficial programs for HTA members.
- Rand stated we will vote to accept 2023 Budget at May 16 Trustee meeting and at June 3 General Membership Meeting.
- Reserve Fund Investment Option – Bill advised he will put some of reserve funds in Capital One CD's that will receive tax exempt interest of 3%-4%-5%.

Committee Plans – All

- Rand requested all Committee Chairs give brief update on their final plans for 2023 based on the update Bob W sent out confirming Committee Chairs and members.
- Bill C. stated he felt we should do mailing to all Trustees stating we are looking for Committee members and reference what Committees do, special skills required, number of hours required.
- Rand stated he will send a format to all Chairs within one week to outline what would be required to be a committee member and this document will then be sent to all HTA members requesting their interest in becoming a committee member.

By-Law Committee – Frank

- Frank presented his update in opening Holgate topics.

Promotional Ideas – Jeff, Art, Denise

- Bike and Walking Lanes – Presented updated signage, copy attached, to be stenciled on Boulevard creating 6 ft wide lanes for walking and riding bikes. Signage is simple, direct and international symbols were used in design. Main issue is to advise walkers to use side next to homes and cyclist use side next to traffic. Plan is to meet with Chief Mahon to gain approval on paint and stencils planned for use.
- Greenhead Fly Traps – Created series of different signs, copy attached, that are graphic and eye catching and can be spray painted on 2 sides of Fly Traps in bright green, an informative plaque explaining purpose for traps can also be attached. We would pick 6 or 8 different designs. Pictures of designs would also be posted on Facebook App and other social media websites. Consider contest would be run encouraging people to take pictures post them and if all designs are posted they would receive a prize.
- Dune Signs - Created signs that appeal to people's emotions about protecting the dunes based on what the sign says. Beach front homes who rent benefit from having these signs put on edges of dunes, people who rent don't really know how walking across dunes destroys dunes.
- Rand stated now that there has been feedback from Trustees get back to Board with recommended signs to be used, estimated cost to make them, check on budget available, pick an area to try this summer and see how home owners and renters respond.

Environment Committee- Ted

- Ted stated he would start in April to see condition of traps that have been stored this winter plus check with members that stored traps on their property this winter.
- He can then determine traps that need repaired and replaced. He will check with bait company to purchase bait for 2024 and 2025 depending on deal that can be negotiated.
- Complete new design of traps, we have 6 and plan to build 4 more.
- Ted is proposing a new trap design that may work best in 3/clusters. He is planning to build 10 new traps and will be buying a weed Wacker.
- Rand mentioned we should give a packet of bait to each person that stored traps this winter.

Dune Planting Committee – Denise

- Denise confirmed May 20 for Spring planting so volunteers will have advance notice to schedule their time this Spring. This will be a good date so we can use ocean front home owners' water for new plants.
- Denise will start working on signup sheet at Tebco for May 20 planting and is planning a Dune Committee Zoom meeting to encourage Committee members to reach out to their friends and neighbors to commit for Spring planting.
- Comment was made about planting plants in groups and not trying to stretch across entire entrance area this will look better and planted area will expand each year, plus watering is faster, don't have to water entire entrance. Good example is green bay berry bushes.
- Concern about planting too close to the boulevard problematic due to both summer heat and traffic on boulevard is hard on plants.
- Denise mentioned scheduling in September has also been a good time to get good turnout of volunteers.
- A point was discussed about having a contest and give recognition to members that have entrances that look the best each year. This will give home owners pride of dunes ownership and encourage work on entrances.

Government Relations – Dan

- Dan advised he would use a series of documents for his update.
- He has given LBT Holiday lights list by location for them to install lights and help with their loading trucks when installing.
- Dan shared details he located on website about the State of New Jersey Cyclists and Pedestrian fatalities history for 2023 thru March 18 compared to past years, these numbers are updated daily. There have been no fatalities on LBI so far this year.
- Ocean County had most of its fatalities last year in 3 townships, Lakewood, Jackson and Toms River. So far this year Ocean County had 6 fatalities, 5 drivers and 1 pedestrian. Age group information shows highest number in 2022 has been 16 years old and under, plus 40-49 and 60-64 age groups.
- Cyclists and Pedestrian fatalities for New Jersey have been on the rise. Dan plans to meet with LBT Police Chief to go thru all this information.
- A question of concern do LBT police correct cyclists when they do not obey sign? Several Trustees stated they have seen cyclists go thru stop signs without stopping and should be informed of infraction.
- Trustees commented about the need to inform bikes riders that their bikes should be seen by drivers on LBI roads both day and night. Dan stated he has front and rear lights he turns on when riding during daylight hours.
- Question if bike rental establishments provide rental bikes with required lights?
- Denise advised it is a state law when riding at night both front and rear lights are required, do bike rental businesses advise their customers, if there are no lights on their rental bikes the customer must provide them? She further stated this might be a really good subject for HTAT to check on and consider making this a project.

Membership Committee – Bill C.

- Bill stated membership is a little behind last year, but he is not concerned.
- A Committee meeting is being scheduled and plans will be made as well as a mailing.

Nominating Committee – Bob

- This report is based on By-Law terms for Officers, President Rand Pearsall and Recording Secretary Bob White and Trustees whose 2-year terms are finished in 2023.
- The following Trustees will be contacted to see if they want to run for election In August/September 2023 for 2-year term 2024 and 2025, Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Bill Hutson, Yanni Kaloudis and Ted Stiles.
- Officers Rand Pearsall President and Bob White Recording Secretary will be contacted, based on By-Laws even numbered year term, 2024 and 2025, to see if they want to run for Trustee 2-year term at August/September 2023 meeting and will be elected President and Recording Secretary by the Board of Trustees at the November 2023 Trustee meeting.

JCTA Updates- Rand

- First Responder - still a looming major concern is getting more First Responders for LBT.
- LBT is creating a program to pay high school or college students if they get certified and will pay for their training as well.
- Wind Farm Survey Status – Rand stated the JCTA survey has been completed. Project is now to get results published and shared with as many people as possible. Results show there are mostly negative results from those that took survey.

Trustee Bios – Rand, Art

- Art thanked all Trustees for completing Bios and sending picture.
- The Bios have been posted on HTA website, with label “Meet Your Trustee”. Click on picture and you will see Bio.
- If there are any changes, please let Art know.

Dates/Locations for Future Meetings – Rand

- HTAT Zoom Meeting - May 16
- Spring Dune Planting – May 20
- Spring Clean Up - May 27
- General Membership Spring Meeting Osborne Field Station - June 3
- General Membership Fall Meeting and BBQ Bonds Park - September 9

Dan Macone made a motion to adjourn at 8:50, seconded by Bill Cannon and unanimously approved.