

Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 Time: 7:01 pm – 8:50pm Via: Zoom

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

ABSENT: Ted Stiles

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

Motion to approve Minutes for March 21 meeting was made by Rand, seconded by Dan Macone and motion was unanimously approved.

Holgate Topics – All

- Beach Conditions – Rand stated beach conditions are good with sand appearing to migrate south from the north end of Holgate, beach entrances should be open by Memorial Day. Mayor Mancini was hoping steel groins would be OK'ed In Holgate area before beach replenishment but does not see this being done until 2024.
- Water/Sewer Fees – Rand advised second reading of the ordinance which reduces water fees for duplexes and triplexes took place in April. Sewer fees remain unchanged.
- Passing of Ralph Bayard, Commissioner of Public Works, was announced. A very professional person always available to listen, Ralph dedicated his retirement years to township public service. Mayor Mancini has appointed Allie Meehan to fill this position for the remaining term.
- Spring Membership Meeting – Rand confirmed this year's meeting will be Saturday, June 3 at Marine Field Center, 10AM-12PM. Angela Andersen will attend, Mayor Mancini will not be available, Allie Meehan may attend.

Committee Plans – All

- Rand asked for Committee plans to focus on resource needs.

Dune Planting Committee – Denise

- Denise reported entrances for Spring planting event May 20 are Tebco, Susan, Magnolia and a fourth to be announced depending on availability of water source.
- 14 members have signed up to participate. Trustees should continue to encourage more members to support planting and all HTA events.
- Denise reported frequent watering is the major problem for new plants. She and Brian end up doing a lot of the watering themselves. Mention was made to try soaker hoses, be set up with timers that can be programed to water. Again, need home owner to supply water. Denise stated they have not tried this.
- Denise questioned who is going to manage the watering program? People to do watering all week and home owners to supply water are the issues to manage.
- Bill Hutson offered the lot at his Motel to do barbecue after planting sessions, this helped in years past.
- Art Levy stated he would help work up a marketing plan for all elements of dune planting project. Art also suggested doing a video of planting process that could be put on HTA website showing how planting really helps improve the beach entrance site as well as making it more stable.
- Rand suggested he, Denise and Art Levy make a plan involving all aspects of Dune planting activities. Plan can be used to help organize for next Dune planting program so work can be planned and supervised by several Trustees and/or members, so all pre and post Dune planting projects do not all have to be responsibility of Denise

Spring Membership Meeting – Rand

- Meeting confirmed to be June 3, 10-12AM at Marine Field Center
- Rand has purchased water that can also be used for Clean Up and Dune Planting. He has also arranged for coffee and crumb cake.
- Rand will be using new microphone and speaker system for meeting discussions.
- Plans are to very briefly review key topics that we want members to know about. There will be Q & A session.

By-Laws Committee- Frank

- Frank reported there was a good discussion about the need to establish a firm number of Trustees in the By-Laws.
- The decision was made to leave minimum number at 9 and maximum at 12 and then continue the discussion via email with members on what the top number should be.
- Frank stated the previously approved By-Laws still need to be signed by all Trustees.

Clean-up – Dan

- Rand will do invite email so we can see who shows up vs responses to invitation; Memorial day weekend should provide a lot of volunteers.
- Dan commented volunteers usually have a specific area they want to work. Dan will organize based on schedule.
- Starting time is 8:15AM areas 3 & 4, 8:45AM areas 1 & 2. Team leaders are Rand, Yanni, Frank and Jeff.
- Several Trustees said they have sticks of various designs that will help pick up trash. Yanni mentioned he has Ivy Guard for protection against poison ivy.
- Denise will provide HTA vest, for workers to wear.
- Dan has picked up 30 blue buckets for use gathering trash that will be put in trash bags then left at south parking lot and Rand's parking area. Dan will notify Angela Andersen when and where to pick up trash bags.

Treasurer's Report – Bill C

- With 409 members and receipts \$19,500, we are running behind last year based on YTD comparison. May of 2022 membership was 465, so we are about 10% behind YTD.
- Lack of funds is not an issue, but drop in membership is of concern.
- As it is early in the year not much has been spent only \$3,600 for 2023 expenses.
- Last Treasurers report we discussed moving money into CD account. Bill C put \$22k in a CD which returns 3.76% on annualized basis. There is \$23K remaining in checking account. Later in the year he will check on where funds should be and amount.
- Audit of 2022 financials performed by Jeff Lipman who reported everything is in order.

Membership Committee – Bill C

- Bill's opinion is to re-start the Street Captain approach again along with letter campaign.
- Art inquired about an approach which involves putting membership by street vs home owners by street on our website to get a competition started on which street has most members. Art asked Bill to send him info and he will work up a program.

Nominating Committee – Bob (Rand read report)

- Please review the attached schedule developed by Rand and I which reflects what has happened to date and what should happen going forward with elections.
- Election of VP and Treasurer (Dan and Bill C) this year at the same time so we can maintain the alternating officer election schedule.
- By-Laws state the officers of the Corporation shall be nominated and elected by the Board of Trustees after the Fall Membership meeting and based on the following schedule: President, and Recording Secretary in even numbered years: Vice-President, Treasurer and the Communications Director in odd numbered years. Communications Director responsibilities currently being fulfilled by Rand so this position will remain open.
- Election of 6 Trustees this year. Denise, Bill C, Bill H, Yanni, Ted and Bob are up for reelection. Rand believes we may have at least one new candidate and there is one potential open seat.

Environment Committee – Ted, Bill H

- Ted and Bill are moving along on repairs and placement of all traps. Placed 3 new traps for testing at end of West Ave. John Prochazka hopes to finish a few more by Memorial Day.
- John P also placed the 10 traps he repaired at the Beach Street access starting at Clam Cove south.
- Joe C has the 10/15 traps that were stored over the winter. Ted will check with him to confirm number of traps.
- Bill said his workers have been repairing and baiting 37 traps that are behind Shackeltons in the marsh, a very difficult area to access.
- Bill's workers are also repairing the 9 traps stored at a house on end of West Ave.
- Traps stored by water tower; Bill is asking Township to get these 45 traps out so repairs can be made.
- Total of all traps listed above is 116/120.
- Bill and Ted requested 150 new plaques and the stencils by May 30.
- There was uncertainty about the number of privately owned traps in member's yards, these need to be baited, mentioned in next newsletter and at June Membership meeting.
- Ted will have a table and a trap at June meeting to discuss Adopt A Trap and also biting black flies test. Bill said we don't currently know where all traps are. Rand asked for a written plan about Adopt A Trap so everyone will be aware how it works.
- Jeff said he will do a video at June meeting about baiting traps so the process can be posted on Holgate website.
- Bill said last year was the best year of performance of traps in the 25 years Bill has been ruining the program.

Government Relations – Dan

- Dan advised new holiday lights have not been received by supplier as yet. When received he will be notified and will pick up and pay for new lights.
- Rand suggested a video to show people Holgate is not dark in the winter months so more people should come down and see how bright the holiday lights make the community.

Social Activity – Jeff, Art

- Jeff advised the cost to print all signs shown at last meeting was about \$4,000, so he trimmed back to \$1,711 a quote is attached from Typestries. We will also need to pay for spray paint and spray adhesive.
- Since Dan is already working on signs at the bottom of the dunes, Jeff suggested we eliminate the 2-sided signs that we were going to place at the bottom of each private beach entrance.
- We should keep the signs on the observatory beach entrance benches, although it was recommended that we use the “Lifeguard” signs as they may be taken more seriously and make people think.
- We would keep all of the greenhead trap stencils as they are important.
- We should hold off on the road stencils for now since LBT just put-up cyclist and walker signs along the Boulevard. Let’s see how this works this year although Dan indicated it would be ideal to try to do at least one.
- Attached is updated and trimmed down plan for Community Events.
- Jeff recommends that HTAT check the HTA page e-invite on Holgate Life.
- Jeff also recommends that you invite any Holgate friends to the event that Rand posted on the HTA page. If we do this for all of our events, we’ll hopefully see an up take in attendance.
- Rand and Dan to meet with new Police Chief about HTA use of flashing signs.

HTA Bags - Membership Committee – Bill, Denise

- Denise stated 1,000 HTA bags have been received and can be used for membership recruitment.
- There was a discussion about printed material to be put in bags before they are distributed. Denise will do a flyer on bike safety.
- Subjects discussed, educational flyers about HTA projects, Bike Safety. Art requested an outline of subject you want covered send him by May 22 and he will write them, you print and included in bag.

JCTA Updates – Rand

- First Responders – Have had a great success, there are more people available to help than they have a budget to cover. They do need drivers for ambulances.
- Wind Farm Survey – Wind farm survey results have gone out to all LBI Tax Associations. One Tax Association is trying to make information public and express a negative opinion, which is not the intended policy of JCTA, their policy is to be neutral just update all on status.
- National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2 at Bay View Park. Group is asking for donations from each TPA of \$63. Rand made a motion to contribute \$63, second by Bill H and passed unanimously.

Open Discussion -All

- Denise mentioned a problem with very bright lights on new houses across from her house really disturbing at night, and more units will be built. Several others mentioned lights in south parking lot.
- Rand stated he will discuss when he visits LBT offices to see if there are restrictions on these and will advise.
- Notice of election of Trustees will be given at June meeting and sent to all in early July with goal of having results at September Membership meeting.

Dates/Locations for Future Meetings – Rand

- Spring Dune Planting – May 20
- Spring Clean Up – May 27
- General Membership spring Meeting Osborne Field Station- June 3 10AM
- Trustees Meeting Zoom, August 22, 7:00 – 8:30PM
- General Membership Fall Meeting and BBQ Bonds Park – September 9

Yanni made a motion to adjourn at 8:40, seconded by Frank and unanimously approved.