

Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 Time: 7:06 pm – 9:25 Via: Zoom

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

ABSENT: Art Levy

Meeting was called to order by Rand Pearsall at 7:06 PM and a quorum was established. Motion to approve HTAT May 5, 2023 minutes was made by Bill Cannon, seconded by Yanni Kaloudis, unanimously approved.

Holgate Topics - All

Beach Conditions

- As of this date Holgate beaches have fared “quite okay” with minimum damage this summer.
- LBT did an outstanding job scheduling bulldozing/grading/ grooming as conditions warranted.
- LBT still wants to install 3 steel groins.
- Rand to meet with Virginia Rettig of the Forsythe Refuge to understand what needs to be done to keep allow building of steel groins.
- Unclear whose approvals are needed and may be delaying the project (Army Corps of Engineers or the Wildlife Refuge, both?)
- A major concern expressed by Township is cost of sand has quadrupled since the most recent steel groin was installed.

Member Request To Have Bob Stern Speak

- Bob Stern is leader of Save LBI and his followers have allegedly been making comments about lack of support from LBI taxpayers associations.
- Rand states our position as follows: HTA respects the opinions of all of our members and we have publicized Save LBI meetings as part of our overall windmill information effort.
- Our members have had plenty opportunities to attend a variety of LBI presentations based on both the pros and cons of proposed turbine farms.
- After Board discussion, Rand summarized the opinions offered:
 1. There will not be a Wind Turbine presentation at the Fall BBQ.
 2. The JCTA may be planning additional information outreach, possible details to follow.
 3. HTA may team with one or more other taxpayer associations to address situation if warranted.

Land Development (Tebco, Newport Tract)

- HTA is very concerned about further multi-unit development in Holgate.
- Rand has had conversation with Mayor Mancini to determine if LBT and Ocean County funding can be used to preserve this property, similar to Clam Cove.
- Mayor stated there is only so much money in the budget for preservation, Holgate already received funding for Clam Cove, there are other areas in LBT that require preservation and some of the land is buildable.
- Most property owners within 200 feet have been legally notified of an application to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection asking for buildable land in the undeveloped area between Tebco Terrace, Newport Drive, Steven Avenue and the bay.
- Visually this area appears to be wetlands, wildlife and vegetation habitat abound but it has to be analyzed by NJDEP to see if it legally qualifies as wetlands.
- The application is being made on behalf of Davies Construction, Susan Shapiro Barash and LBT.
- We will need LBT to be a willing partner in the protection of this land.

- Rand encouraged trustees to address this at a later date based on following:
 1. Discuss this in more detail when the current situation is verified.
 2. Devise a method to solicit and share constituents' opinions.

Fall Membership Meeting/BBQ

- Meeting/BBQ will be at Bonds Park, Sept 9, 5 to 7 PM. Bill Hutson volunteered to be point person for food and other details. Rand will not be available to attend this meeting.
- Tunes By The Dunes will provide a musical group to perform.
- Dan Macone, Denise Brand, Ted Stiles and Yanni will put together list of food from Oakies Butcher Shop and plates, cups, plastic forks and napkins required.
- Bill Hutson and Ted Stiles will get coolers and tables to serve food.

Nominating Committee - Bob White, presented by Rand

- Trustee Election: Candidates, Timing
- There are six Trustees who have stated they want to run for another two-year term, Denise Brand, Bill Cannon, Bill Huston, Yanni Kaloudis, Ted Stiles and Bob White. Barbara Cahn will be a new candidate.
- The election will begin around September 1 and be open for about one week and results will be announced at September 9 Membership/BBQ meeting.
- Voting on Officer positions will be held during November Trustee meeting.

Community Events – Jeff Lipman

- Tunes By The Dunes
- These concerts have been held every Thursday from 6:30 -8:30 PM at the south end of the Refuge parking lot.
- Anyone can bring a chair and a beverage and enjoy the return of live music to Holgate for the first time in many years, comments have been positive.
- Sponsors have been The Boardwalk, Bowkers Deli, Coastal Living Real Estate, The Hideaway, Holgate Marina, Holiday Snack Bar, Lenny and John's Deli and Lorry's Island End Motel. Sponsorship covered the cost of musical groups.

Treasurers Report -Bill Cannon

2023 Budget

- Budget report is attached indicating expenses 2023 compared to previous years thru 2018.
- 2022 actual expenses, 2023 Budget and 2023 actual expenses listing variance and comments are also attached.
- There is also interest income from short term investment.
- Extra donations are higher than last year.

Membership Recruitment - Bill Cannon

- Membership is currently 509 vs 520 last year.
- Membership Committee is analyzing programs to initiate to build membership. Jeff Lipman is proposing doing videos of HTA activities and posting on website.

By-Laws – Frank B

- Current By-Laws need to be signed by all Trustees. Franks will bring to Sept. BBQ

Dune Planting – Denise

- Dates for next planting are September 23 or 30 depending on weather and plant availability.
- Denise again discussed need for help to plant and water plants. Who will manage the watering program.
- Art Levy again stated he would work up a marketing plan for all elements of the dune planting activities. Plan can 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.

Environment Committee – Ted, Bill Hutson

- All traps have been repaired and have been placed in Holgate area.
- Ted reported a new trap he designed has not done well this year but he will build a new sample trap for next year.
- Bill and Ted stated they need help both maintaining and storing traps, Adopt A Trap needs to be promoted so more members can become involved. Traps can be stored under a tarp in members lots.
- Bill Hutson stated traps could be stored in his open lot by Motel if the HTA purchase tarps.
- Yanni suggested a program be developed so traps could put out in the spring then picked up stored and covered with a tarp.
- Jeff said he would do a video about baiting traps so the process can be posted on Holgate website.
- Rand requested a special Environmental Committee Zoom meeting to recap projects and ways to maintain, store and put out traps plus secure new traps.

Government Relations – Dan

- Dan advised he has been working with Deb Thompson LBT to get the holiday lights installed and set for turning on in November. Current total of holiday lights in Holgate will be 15 this year.
- New lights have been added and he will get invoice to Bill Cannon for payment.

Other Business/Open Discussion

- Rand stated crime on the island is increasing, be sure you lock your house when no one is at home.
- Newsletters and posts on website Art Levy is helping; readership of newsletters is very strong.
- Art levy and Jeff Lipman want to work to improve our marketing efforts, they also want to work on videos that can be posted on website.

Dan Macone made a motion to adjourn at 9:25, seconded by Bill Hutson and unanimously approved.