

Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 29, 2024 Time: 7:01 -8:39 pm Via: Zoom

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

Meeting called to order by Rand Pearsall at 7:01 PM and a quorum was established. Motion to approve HTAT November 4, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Frank Benintendo, seconded by Barbara Cahn and unanimously approved.

Holgate Topics

Beach Conditions – All

- South-end beaches in Holgate have eroded quite a bit this winter, most entrances will need a lot of work done this Spring.
- At this time, if you are on beach one you must walk all the way to beach six to exit.
- LBT will shape beaches and the entrances so they can be used during the Summer season.
- Our understanding is beach work will be out for bid this Spring for Fall replenishment.
- Steel jetties are also planned for Holgate beaches but approvals from NJ are pending.

Water/Sewer Fees

- Currently LBT purchases water from Surf City and Ship Bottom, which increases our costs.
- Water and sewer fees are expected to remain the same.

Water Treatment Facility Plans

- LBT plans to build a larger structure within the water tower site for updated water processing and treatment. Construction may take place later this year.

LBT Budget Meeting with TAs

- LBT is continuing use of township employees for previously bid-out projects (water mains, LBT municipal building re-siding). This is already providing significant savings.

Treasurer's Report - Bill C

- As planned, 2023 budget was exceeded by \$600.
- A portion of reserve funds will continue to be invested in CDs.
- An initial 2024 budget was presented and will be finalized based on committee requests by the March HTA meeting.

Proposed 2024 Committee Plans -All

Audit - Jeff

- Completed; all HTA finances were reviewed and accepted.

By-Laws – Frank

- Frank will contact Trustees to sign previously approved By-laws. Frank is also exploring use of DocuSign.
- Frank mentioned minor wording in By-Laws can be changed by vote of Board of Trustees. Major changes must be presented to HTAT membership to be approved.
- Key issues under review in 2024: Size of Board (# of trustees); replacement of trustee who leaves during their term.

Community Events – Jeff

- Increase Awareness of HTA & Membership through “Tunes by the Dunes” events through weekly HTA news
- Promote the natural beauty elements that make Holgate a unique and special place on LBI
- Promote and enhance Spring and Fall dune planting followed by a social gathering

Dune Planting – Denise

- Requested the same budget as last year for Spring and Fall planting.
- Keys continue to be getting volunteers to help plant and, most importantly, to water.
- Tentative dates are May 18 and September 22; need to confirm dates for both plantings
- Denise will be traveling in early September and will check with Reynolds Nursery when she returns to finalize date based on selection of plants available.
- Mention was made to consider BBQ or other incentive after September planting date.

Environment – Ted and Bill H

- Requested \$2,000 to bait and repair traps. Previously purchased bait purchased is still available.
- Goal is to build six new traps with updated version of new trap built last year, for total of 12 new traps to see how they work.
- Ted stated biggest issue for south end is finding places and way to store traps in offseason. North end adopt a trap program has been successful.
- Dan Macone was asked for his opinion on traps success last year. Dan stated last year was a late start, normally see insects early June, but last year it was mid July.
- Denise asked if there were extra traps that could be put on Mark Davies property which is twelve acres. Bill H said he would check number available traps and advise Denise.

Government Relations – Dan M

- Holgate clean-up to be held May 25, potentially with 9am breakfast in south parking lot.
- Holiday lights worked well and will be scheduled for installation mid-November.
- Pedestrian/Bicyclist directional stencil on Boulevard (county road). Based on Jeff’s design. Plan is to pick areas where road pavement is wide enough to display message on both sides of road. (LBT later determined not to be supportive).
- HTA offered to donate lights on Clam Cove sign to Township, using same lights as Welcome to Holgate sign. 100-watt solar panel costs around \$1,200. Approval given to proceed.
- Check with LBT on location and timing for installation of “Keep off the Dunes” signage. Dan Macone will confirm with LBT and schedule installation.

- Denise is aware of vehicles driving up beach entrances and destroying plants. Frank suggested LBT could put stakes in beach entrance to stop this. Rand also asked for photos of license plates for Police to use.

Marketing – Art

- Art stated he has some budget to support other committee projects.
- Working on website updates. Seeking greater emphasis on what HTA does for Holgate.
- New video posted on Holgate Update viewed by 1,600 people as of this meeting. Largest viewing day was Thursday of each week. Will refresh video and post again.
- Need to determine if QR code is being used.

Membership – Barb

- Key goal is to increase trailer park membership by demonstrating HTA benefits in order to have 25% of trailer owners become members of HTA.
- Work with owners of trailer park to determine best way to reach residents. Ted suggested April 13 and 14, as key dates for return of residents to LBI.
- Rand suggested a survey of HTA members and will work with Barb to develop.
- Membership and Marketing to work jointly on projects.
- Automatic annual membership renewal was discussed, and will be further reviewed at next Trustees meeting.

Nominating – Bob W

- Nominating information will be discussed at March 26 meeting

JCTA Update – Rand

- JCTA is planning a summit meeting for all Taxpayer associations this year to discuss best practices for increasing membership.
- Another summit meeting is under consideration to review best practices about TA committees and events.
- JCTA also beginning to attend Ocean County Commissioners meetings; a high percentage of our taxes goes to Ocean County.

Next Trustee Meetings

- Tuesday, March 26, Trustees Zoom, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday, May 18, Trustees In-Person, Time TBD
- Saturday, June 8, Spring Membership meeting at Field Station
- Saturday, September 7, Membership meeting/BBQ at Bonds Park

Yanni made a motion to adjourn at 8:39PM, seconded by Barb and unanimously approved.