

## **Holgate Taxpayers Association Trustees' Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 7, 2024      Time: 7:30 – 9:25pm 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 7:30pm and a quorum was established. Motion to approve August 20, 2024, HTAT meeting minutes and September 7, 2024, HTA Fall Member meeting minutes was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously approved.

### **Holgate Topics – All**

#### **Beach Conditions – Rand**

- Army Corps has started to work on moving sand on dunes in Beach Haven and Holgate is next. Army Corps has stated the dunes should be raised to their original height of 22 feet. Some are currently at 20 feet and making them higher will require sand to cover existing dune grass.
- LBT has stipulated that all oceanfront owners must remove their dune walkovers no later than Friday November 1.
- LBT Commissioner Meehan and the Army Corps will inspect the dunes in 2 weeks and Rand has requested if he could join or be updated.

#### **Treasurers Report – Bill C**

- Treasurer's report is attached. Bill reported income level this year has been excellent based on membership and donations for other projects. Also, we earned \$1,000 in a bank interest-bearing account. Rand commented the interest income is equal to 40 new members.
- Bill stated he has sent donations to Fire Department, First Aid Department, Alliance for Living Ocean and Reclam the Bay and \$100 remains which the Board approved to be given to St. Francis Food Pantry.
- An additional \$1,000 was allocated for Green Head traps. There was additional discussion about expenses for BBQ and Tunes By the Dunes which were all covered in Budget.

#### **Current Membership Totals – Barbara**

- Barbara reported current membership is 513 (down from 548 in 2023), 11 sign-ups with 2 opting in for auto renewal.
- 83 members did not renew, Barbara will follow up with these people and advise why they did not renew.
- Yanni stated Barbara can check with Tax Office LBT to secure names of new Holgate residents.

#### **Proposal for New Traps – Ted, Bill H**

- Bill and Ted sent the following report with Board comments in the meeting included below:

**Outline for trap replacement Program** - This year for the first time I did a 100% walking inspection and inventory of all our traps. Many of these traps go back to 1986 when Bill Hutson and I first started working on the traps. Despite repairing and building a few traps each year we are really getting behind. Many traps are beyond repair and held together by paint. I am proposing a program to repair and replace many of these traps over the next few years.

**Inventory** - 1. Marsh by refuge: About 40 traps that all need repainting some repairing and some too far gone and must be scrapped. 2. Southern section: We have about 45 traps in various states of disrepair. We recently scrapped about 15 that were too far gone to fix. 3. Northern section: John and Joe will have all 39 traps repaired and repainted by Spring. 4. Total: About 125/135 traps.

**Adopt a Trap program**: 1. For the first time we got all the traps (excluding the marsh) safely stored for the winter. Myself, Art Levy, Tom Sansone and Jeff Lipman moved about 40 in the southern section. Also, there 7 traps still stored in the water tower lot. The issue for the Spring will be to get volunteers to reposition the traps in advance. 2. John and Joe have all 39 northside traps in storage at people's homes and the Field Station. **Action 2024: 1. Contact Tom Beatty to build 12 new traps this Fall using 2024 monies. (\$175 X 12 = \$2,100)** 2. Find volunteers or pay someone to repair and repaint many traps before May 1. (?\$). **Action 2025: 1. New square traps: Build 12-24 new traps. 2. New round style: Build 10 new round-style traps. 3. Purchase utility trailer? 4. Spring repositioning: Set two Spring dates in advance to better solicit volunteers for repositing of the traps (perhaps May 31). 5. Get more volunteers.** Bill and I have been doing this for many years and we really must find a way to get some more volunteers to help us on a permanent basis. I turned 83 last August and I am slowing down a bit. Bill has his business to run. So we really need help. With all the advertising and social media experts on the board we should be able to find some way to get more volunteers. **Action 2026 and beyond: 1. Build more traps 12/24? 2. Continue to repair old traps.** Thanks Bill and Ted

- Store traps under cover, this will protect them. Need volunteers to do this.
- Jeff will do spreadsheet on all current traps containing the following information, location, current condition, replace or repair.
- Rand mentioned a number of Holgate residents overlooking the refuge area have told him the old traps really are an eyesore and should be replaced with new.
- Rand proposed at end of discussion a motion to have Tom Beatty build 24 new traps for \$4,200, Bill Hutson seconded the motion and all approved motion. (subsequently, Beatty asked for \$200/trap due to the cost of materials and the Board approved the overage which will be memorialized in the next HTA meeting).
- Everyone agreed 40 traps in good working condition is the current goal.

#### **Purchase of Utility Trailer – Ted**

- Rand brought up purchase of a utility trailer. There was a discussion with comments from most Trustees of the need for a trailer to help in completing many projects and to not have to drive off island rent and then return rental unit.
- Rand asked Ted to check and get back to board with specific model, type and price for new.

#### **By-Laws - Frank – Bill C - Rand**

- 501c3 status is required by NJ to avoid paying state sales tax; HTA has been a registered 501c3 since 1996. Frank made a motion to proceed with this process, second by Barbara and the motion passed unanimously.
- Rand is requesting the number of trustees be increased from “9 to 12” to “9 to 15” to spread project work among more trustees. Frank will make revision for presentation to members. A vote of approval by 2/3 members present is needed to authorize a change.
- Frank will send out updated By-Laws for all Trustees to sign. Yanni volunteered to make an electronic doc-sign document to be sent to all Trustees for this purpose.

#### **Trustee and Officer Elections – All**

- Re-election of 5 Trustees by membership, Frank, Art, Jeff, Dan and Rand were elected in September and announced at the Fall BBQ.
- President and Recording Secretary are up for Board election at next Board meeting.

#### **JCTA Updates – Rand**

- President John Fiore has stepped down. Ron Fiore (Surf City; no relation) is the new president. Kathleen Ries (Harvey Cedars) is the new VP; Greg Fath (Ship Bottom) is the new treasurer.

#### **Other Business/Open Discussion – All**

- Rand to survey the Board to decide on date for added December 2024 meeting (final committee reports for year).

#### **Adjournment**

- Yanni made a motion for meeting to be adjourned at 9:25 and Barbra seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.