HTA September/October Newsletter

Due to several days of pounding surf, the beaches in Holgate and several other LBI and NJ communities took a beating and the dramatic scenes were featured on local TV news. This was likely the worst storm since Sandy and it is still very early in the storm season.

If you own an oceanfront home, there could be no greater reminder of how perilous these storms can be and how close we all are to the water. Some owners have already planted their dunes, as the deep and thick-rooted plants will help protect your property. The HTA has also shown what can be done with our test planting area on the Susan Avenue dune. Please stop by and see what is possible.

This does not just affect oceanfront homes. If the dunes are breached, other homes and infrastructure will be damaged. If you own an oceanfront and want to plant, the HTA stands ready to advise you on the best ways to go about it.

Your HTA Trustees

<u>September/October Highlights</u>

1. Beach Conditions
2. HTA Trustees Election Results
3. Marina Status on Osborn
4. Wells and Pole Barn on Janet/West/Joan
5. Fall Member Barbecue
6. Fall Dune Planting
7. Fall Refuge Cleanup

8. Greenhead Fly Traps
9. Beach Toy Boxes
10. JCTA Update
11. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates
12. Relevant Township Ordinances Passed on Second Reading
13. Relevant Township Ordinances Moved on First Reading

Updates

1. Beach Conditions

- As mentioned above, Holgate beaches were severely eroded in the last major storm and rough surf continues to weaken our dunes. We are extremely grateful to the Township for quickly mobilizing several bulldozers (at a considerable expense) to recreate a slope on the beaches to help break the wave action.

2. HTA Trustees Election Results

- We announced the election of three new trustees at our annual Fall BBQ. Please join us in welcoming Nick Dottino, Dave McCarthy and John Prochazka as our newest trustees.
- Current trustees Frank Benintendo, Art Levy, Jeff Lipman, Dan Macone and Rand Pearsall were re-elected to two-year terms.
- In addition to voting on trustees, members approved the 2026 HTA budget.
- The Board will hold elections for President and Recording Secretary in the next Trustees meeting.

3. Marina Status on Osborn

- We are aware of reports that the Township has indicated a desire to obtain the marina on Osborn with the goals of improving the marina operation and gaining parking for the Marine Field Station. The owners of the marina property are not in agreement and appear to want to maintain some marina operations while building a single family home on the property.
- It is the HTA's long-stated policy of not playing any role in individual real estate disputes beyond facilitating meetings - if requested - between the involved parties. However, this policy of neutrality does not not include large tracts and multi-unit developments.

4. Wells and Pole Barn on Janet/West/Joan

- During a meeting with Holgate residents at the Marine Field Station on September 22, the critical need for at least one new well was communicated by the Township. Holgate is down to one operating well. This meeting was attended by Commissioner Meehan, Township Administrator Ominski, DPW Director Martin and Water/Sewer Superintendent Clark.
- The only potential location for the new well is the Township-owned land adjacent to the sewer pump station on Janet. This likely means that any consideration of a pole barn is on hold pending resolution of the water well location.
- Approvals for the new well could take 3 years or more.
- In the meeting, residents stressed the need to mitigate the impacts of any projects that are required for Holgate.

6. Fall Clean-up

- The Fall Clean-up took place Saturday, September 19 at 10am in partnership with ALO and the Forsythe Refuge. There was a great turnout and a lot of trash was picked up. Thank you to the volunteers who attended.

7. Fall Dune Planting

- Several volunteers helped with our annual Fall dune planting on Saturday, September 26. More than 34 new plants were located on the test areas on the Susan Avenue dune. We invite everyone to see what is possible when planting the dunes.
- Special thanks to trustee Gary Katz, with expert support from Jeff Lipman and John Prochazka, for installing our first drip-irrigation system. If proven successful, this will allow us to plant additional areas without the need for watering volunteers (which have been very hard to come by).
- For oceanfront owners: *Spring planting when your water is back on represents a great opportunity to plant your dune. For a step-by-step guide to greening your dune, see our video at:* https://www.holgatetaxpayers.org/web/dune-vegetation-project/

8. Greenhead Fly Traps

- John Prochazka, Joe Chieffo and their teams of volunteers did a great job of getting the traps out of the marshes this Fall and recapturing them after storms threatened to float some of them away. Traps have all been picked up for repairs and winter storage.

- Despite several conversations with Ocean County Commissioners and other staff, we were never able to definitively learn the locations of their 33 mainland traps. We will continue to work with the County to be sure their program will grow.

9. Beach Toy Boxes

- Jeff Lipman and his volunteer supporters did a phenomenal job of getting toy boxes at every beach entrance this year. While other LBI communities initiated this program, we believe Holgate has, by far, the most toy boxes available. Special thanks to the Township for allowing us to temporarily attach the boxes to their benches during the Summer season.
- If you accumulated extra toys this past summer please consider donating them to the HTA so we can have a good supply going into the 2027 season.

10. JCTA Update

- The activation of the BESS lithium battery in the center of Beach Haven remains a significant issue. The goal is to store electricity to be tapped for high usage periods. This technology has been used safely in many places in the US.
- However, there is also local concern about the project's safety and Beach Haven is reviewing its original approval of the project. Should the batteries catch fire, they are reported to be extremely difficult to be extinguished. You can find more information on the Beach Haven TA website: https://www.bhtaxpayers.org/battery-information

11. LBT Commissioners Meeting Updates

- Cost savings: By moving to a self-insurance strategy, the Township has saved $18,000 *per each family-benefit plan* versus the NJ insurance plans.
- Dogs on beach (off-season only): Please remember that dogs must be on a leash. This is to protect you (potential liability) and your dog.
- Emergency Medical Squad Program. Commissioner Lattanzi was particularly pleased with the success of the Township's EMS program over the summer. This pays for training for individuals who volunteer to become emergency medical technicians and pays them a stipend when they work on the Beach Haven First Aid Squad. Because of this program, the squad was fully staffed with certified volunteers.
- Ocean County Recycling is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Program at the LBT recycling yard (7910 Long Beach Blvd) on November 1. Pre-registration is required: https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC/SolidWaste/frmHHWP.aspx.
- All Township recreation events are posted on the LBT website calendar: https://www.longbeachtownship.com/?post_type=tribe_events

12. Relevant Ordinances Passed on Second Reading

- **26-12.** Authorizes the issuance of a bond up to $4,000,000 for the construction of the new well in Holgate.

Adopted ordinances in the process of being incorporated in the Township's code can be found here: https://ecode360.com/laws/LO1479 and are also attached to the meeting agendas found under the Government section of the LBT website

13. Relevant Ordinances Moved on First Reading

- **26-13C.** Repeals an old law that prohibited sleeping on boats. When this law was passed, living on boats was rendered practically impossible because of the lack of waste disposal facilities. That situation has changed dramatically over the years with the existence of holding tanks and appropriate disposal facilities in marinas.

First-reading ordinances can be viewed at the Clerk's office in LBT Town Hall.

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HTA Membership

Our mailing address is:
Holgate Taxpayers Association
PO Box 1326
Beach Haven, NJ 08008-0166