

# Brant Beach Taxpayers Association (BBTA)

## Board Meeting

February 13, 2023

**Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - 1:30 pm

**Attending:** John Fiore, Pete Potochney, Ben Tonti, Steve Havelka, Anne Johnson, Donn O'Brien, Mike Fahner, Carol Formica, Georgia Glasser-Nehls.

President's Report - John

Financially the BBTA is in very good shape.

Great committees and projects moving forward for this year.

Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes – Pete

Minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting were sent out by Russ - motion to accept was seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Pete

Treasurer's Report was sent out by David. Bank Balance - Beginning of January \$8,323.04 and \$8331.00 at the end of the month.

1<sup>st</sup> VP's Report - Pete Potochney

Project Planning/Tracking - Pete distributed copies listing 20+ projects. Each project has a Chair and will be used to track Status and Next Steps. Review of the project plan will be part of the monthly agenda.

### **Projects/Committees**

1. Adopt A Beach Path - Mike

Draft of the plan was sent out. Guidance is needed on establishing a link for volunteers to enroll – perhaps on the new platform. Carol suggested a volunteer link also on Facebook. Peter volunteered to acquire “pincers” to assist picking up the debris and labels on each indicating “BBTA” recognition. Pete suggested acquiring data midsummer as to the amount of debris collected. In addition, consideration should be given to recognizing those who adopted a path perhaps at the fall general meeting.

2. History Panels – Donn

Project is on track and he will be meeting with Rielly Sharp on Monday. Goal is to be done by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and to pass it along to Marie for final edits. The printers indicated a two week completion from the day the project is received. Donn still waiting for one more quote. Once received, determination will be made as to whether installation will be on posts or brackets into concrete footings. The grant for this project was through a County of Ocean Cultural and Heritage Committee Grant. We remain in good standing as long as a cancelled check for the project (payment to the printing company) clears by March 31, 2023. Updated costs are as follows: 3 triangular columns (\$1200/column) consisting of 3 panels each (total of 9 panels) for a total cost of \$3600. If

we do not print on the 3 back panels, the total would be reduced by \$600. John mentioned at the last meeting that utilizing the 3 rear facing panels would trigger ADA consideration due to the terrain. He also stated Kyle needs all info no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to schedule installation. Board to consider a sponsorship plaque beneath each of the six panels.

3. Dune Sign Posts – John, Mike & Anne

Mike reported there are 44 blocks (not all have beach access and 1 in the township access). John will contact Kyle to obtain paperwork for when this project was performed previously to determine materials description as well as where purchased. Project needs to be fast tracked so that Public Works has the time to create and install.

4. Update Bylaws – David

Completed – no update at this time.

5. Brant Beach Bulletin – Pete

February Bulletin has not been sent yet so as to not collide with the Wind Farm Survey. It will be sent the following week.

6. Bike Rack Placement – Mike & Steve

Steven and Mike sent the township their recommendations on placement of the bike racks and also those areas that needed pruning.

7. Dolphin Plantings – John

John will get final estimates but cost is likely \$3500.

8. Grow members >500 – John

John states he is on a path to this goal. LBT10 used a mailing program. A dues letter and a return envelope were sent to recipients and no postage was charged at that time. Postage was only charged when the recipient used the enclosed return envelope to remit dues at a cost of \$1.50 per envelope. The dues letter encouraged recipients to pay for membership via the website rather than using the return envelope.

9. Website Update – David & Mike

Website has been updated. It was suggested that the COA Mission Statement be removed and replaced with Mike's reel.

10. Software – Ben & David

Neon One contract has been signed and orientation has begun. The product has internal mailing capabilities so we will be able to discontinue use of Mail Chimp (for which there will soon be a fee). Their technicians will load our data in a few weeks (i.e.: membership, status of accounts, dues paying). Target date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

11. Tri-fold/New Resident Mailer – John

John stated estimated cost to be under \$250. One panel can be an application for membership. Photos from Mike's video can be used. John will have a draft for the March meeting.

12. Showcasing BBTA – Mike

Mike made a video reel of some of last years accomplishments. It will be on the website. Some photos to be used in future mailer/trifold brochure. Members encouraged to take photos at all events to use for publicity.

13. Toy Box (at bay beach) – Steve & Pete

Cost will be approximately \$120 for lumber and stainless-steel screws. Pete volunteered to put it together. He will also work on a sign to credit BBTA. Dave indicated in a conversation with Kyle they the township is in support but will not be responsible for placement or storage. We need to keep that in mind moving forward.

14. Grants – Georgia

Because we are not a committee that is appointed by the Mayor, there are several grants for which we are not entitled. However, there are grants that involve historical projects as well as public safety. There is also a grant to facilitate ADA accessibility to such things as picnic tables on beaches which we could consider at the bay beach in the future. The dune posts and solar lighting would qualify for a public safety grant most likely. A few sites require pre-registration/screening to validate 501c3 status in order to be placed on a preapproved list prior to applying for grants. Georgia will forward such documents to John and Steve for completion.

15. Flag Pole On Pier – John

Item is on hold until next month.

16. Beautification – Anne

Anne will look at what needs to be replaced at the plantings at the two "Brant Beach" signs. John suggested she consider plants that will help to keep in moisture and requested she report back with a budget.

17. School Board Meetings – Anne & Georgia

Anne has contacted the BOE office regarding meeting times and agendas are not readily posted. Meeting times were changed without notification. At the last meeting they indicated that executive sessions are moving to 6pm and public session to 6:30 moving forward. Georgia indicated that there is a lack of discussion amongst their board members and no transparency. Preliminary budget hearing is March 14, 2023.

18. County Meetings – John

County Commissioners voted on a referendum to cease the wind farm project due to negative ecological effects pending further investigation.

19. PR/Outreach – John

COA is due in April.

20. Zoom Methodology – Pete

Complete at this time.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP's Report - Ben Membership – Ben

- A. No New Activity this month.
- B. Current status of members is as follows: 363 Active Members (of which 98 are full-time residents) and 74 Inactive Members. John suggested using the new software to target the Inactive Members to consider rejoining. As of March, these 74 members will no longer receive regular information from the association.
- C. Per the bylaws, dues are due by May 31. The dues payment period is already open. Therefore, all members who paid in 2022 (regardless of when) will become Inactive Members as of June 1, 2023.
- D. Dues will be for the calendar year – not rolling like a subscription.

**Old Business**

Windmill Turbine Project Survey: Dave stated the survey was launched this morning. Data should be available in less than two weeks.

**New Business**

BBTA Logo Protection - John suggested the board consider this option. The logo is being used by websites not affiliated with BBTA. John to check with other JCTA members as to whether they went through such a process.

**Open Discussion**

BBTA General Membership Meeting - John suggested the meeting be in June. A PowerPoint presentation would be worthwhile to visualize completed and ongoing projects as well as the budget and committees.

Civic Meeting – John suggested a civic meeting (to include Ship Bottom, Surf City, and LBT) with a guest speaker (Reclam the Bay, Clean Ocean Action, etc.) sometime in the summer in the early evening.

Long Beach Township Commissioners Meeting – Meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> and Congressmen Van Drew and Smith are expected to attend. In addition, the township budget must be to the state by April 1. Peter suggested the mayor give a budget review with emphasis on big ticket items and items that increased beyond inflation.

Next BBTA Board Meetings - 1:30 pm on March 16<sup>th</sup> via zoom. We will meet at 1:30 in April, May and June and from 2-4pm in the summer.

Meeting Adjourned - 3:45 pm.

