

# Brant Beach Taxpayers Association (BBTA)

## Board Meeting

### July 20, 2023

**Meeting Held at** - John's House

**Called to Order** - 1:45 pm

**Attending:** John Fiore, Pete Potochney, David Herron, Ben Tonti, Russ Johnson, Steve Havelka, Anne Johnson, Georgia Glasser, Mike Fahner and Janis Metz.

- Approval of Board Minutes
  - Minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting - motion to accept as amended by David, second by Steve and unanimous approval.
- President's Report - John
  - John noted positive reactions to BBTA projects completed this year.
    - Toy Box at Bay Beach (68<sup>th</sup> Street) - A nice article in the Sand Paper.
    - Bike Racks - A few people questioned the positioning at some of the beach access streets, but overall, very positive comments.
  - The By Laws allow 5 to 13 Board Members and Georgia noted that the President may appoint a new person to fill a vacancy on the Board. After some discussion there was unanimous agreement that all Board Members have voting rights.
  - Membership - John suggested adding a note in the Bulletin inviting members to join the board and made a motion that the Board form a 3 member "Nomination Committee" to review/interview applicants to join the Board. Russ seconded the motion, and unanimous approval. Georgia, Mike, and Anne volunteered for the committee.
  - Annual Membership Voting - Steve summarized that Active Members vote on the slate of Board Members presented at the Annual Fall meeting.
  - Three of the largest JCTA's have a membership address book. Some discussion about adopting for BBTA, but no final decision.
  - The JCTA is contacting the TAs to confirm interest in sending letters to the windfarm companies. The board decided not to participate.
  - The JCTA is encouraging homeowner awareness of the EMT health form program. The forms are posted in the home and/or car glove box. John handed out forms to the board members. Intend to present this at the Fall Membership meeting.
- Secretary's Report - Russ
  - Strasser & Assoc has been filing the annual IRS and NJ Income Tax Information without charge. Russ offered to do the filings going forward.

- **Treasurer's Report (June) - David**
  - Bank Balance - Beginning \$11,062.79, Ending \$11,252.30.
  - Expenses Totaled \$2,804.95; Postage \$151.11, Website support \$13.75, Donation (Clean Ocean Action) \$200.00, Neon \$119.00, Beautification Supplies \$366.16, Marketing (Tri-Fold) \$1,823.13, Misc \$131.80.
  - Dues/Donations Totaled \$2,994.46; Membership (25) \$2,734.46, Donations \$260.00.
    - Note: contributions in excess of the \$25 annual dues charge are classified as Donations.
  
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP's Report - Pete**
  - Pete sent the board members a 4-page re-cap of what towns are doing and plans to discuss at the August Meeting.
  - A key project is clearing storm drains and the board agreed to join the JCTA to constructively engage with the townships. Pete plans to meet with Ann (JCTA) and Commissioner Alexander Meehan to observe the situation at 56<sup>th</sup> Street and discuss remediation plans.
  - **Projects Review**
    - Adopt a Beach path (Mike) - We have 21 volunteers and plan to use NEON to send an email blast midseason for feedback. A couple of grandparents asked Mike to consider their grandchildren for the volunteer project. He had some discussion with the high school about how that would align with the National Honor Society. John suggested using the monthly bulletin to report the streets still needing a volunteer.
    - History Panels (Donn) - On hold.
    - Dune Sign Posts (John) - Mike has received favorable reaction from residents, but he noted there are still old posts visible at some streets.
    - School Board Meetings (Anne) - Only incumbents are currently running for re-election to the LBI board in November. July 31 is deadline to file to run. Anne will provide Pete a report to include in the monthly bulletin.
    - Dolphin Plantings (John) - The landscaper advised that plantings will require irrigation. John has had some discussion with the town, but no commitment. This project has a budget of \$700.
    - Beautification (Anne) – No update.
    - County Meetings (John) - No update.
    - Commercial Membership (Mike/Steve/Georgia) - John suggested that initially we only target businesses located in Brant Beach. Mike, Steve, Janis and Georgia will finalize the communication package in the next two weeks. This year the annual business membership will be \$100.
  
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP's Report Ben - Membership**
  - Currently we have 285 Active Memberships. There are 143 other memberships that paid in 2022, but not yet in 2023 (Lapsed Memberships).

- John suggested that the Board track year-over-year membership numbers. Ben noted that this was difficult when we used Excel files, but NEON has functionality to easily track/report year-over-year membership numbers. Pete recommended that 2023 will be our baseline and requested we have reports from NEON for the monthly Board meeting.
- John initiated a general discussion to define “member” and “household”. Some memberships are LLC or partnerships and John recommended that we have an individual as the contact for these.
- Reviewed the membership timeline “rules/methods” document that Pete drafted.
  - The Board adopted standard terms “Dues” and “Donations” in place of contributions.
  - Reminder letters will be sent to Non-paying members starting in June
  - Mike suggested adding a Dues reminder to the Bulletin leading up to the Spring Membership meeting.
  - Georgia suggested new banners to post at the 2 welcome signs for annual membership renewal and for the annual Membership meetings.
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#### **Other Business**

- Steve reported that the Night Flight event of Kite Fest will be at 68<sup>th</sup> Street this year. Kite Fest is scheduled for Columbus Day weekend. The organizers asked if BBTA could help collect donations at the beach access paths. Steve will inquire if BBTA can make a direct contribution.
- Steve advised that the township is running out of places for placing new memorial benches. Suggested a new concept, a Memorial Garden. Could raise funds by selling commemorative pavers and/or plaques. He had some conversations with Commissioner Meehan regarding sites, plans and costs. Steve also had some preliminary conversations with a local architect who had a wedding ceremony at the 68<sup>th</sup> gazebo and would be interested in the project.
- **Open Items for Follow-up**
  - Define “member” and “household.”
  - Design membership reports for the monthly Board meeting. Pete offered to work with Ben and Janis.
  - Need to establish a process for members that lapse.
  - Pursue enlisting local high school students for volunteer projects.
  - Discuss the 4-page project list from Pete.
  - Three of the largest JCTA's have a membership address book. Some discussion about adopting for BBTA, but no final decision.
  - Steve - Kite Fest donation and assisting in collection donations at 68<sup>th</sup> beach access. Steve will inquire if BBTA can make a direct contribution.
  - Steve - Memorial Garden project.
- **Next Meeting Dates**
  - Monthly Board Meetings - scheduled for the Town Hall meeting room, 1:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month - April thru December 2023.
  - Board Members plan to get together for a Holiday Party (self-pay) after the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- **Meeting Close** - 4:10 pm, motion by David, second by Russ and unanimous approval.

## Standing committees

1. Strategic Planning
2. Membership
3. Marketing/Communication
4. Community Watch
5. LBT Government Liaison
6. Beautification
7. LBI Consolidated School Board
8. Social Media
9. JCTA Liaison
10. Ad Hoc/Public Information
11. IT Support
12. Volunteer Coordination

Member	Title	Committees
John Fiore	President	9
Pete Potochney	1 <sup>st</sup> VP - Committees	1, 3
Ben Tonti	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP - Membership	2
Russ Johnson	Secretary	1
David Herron	Treasurer	1, 2
Steve Havelka	Member at Large	10
Anne Johnson	Member at Large	6, 7
Donn O'Brien	Member at Large	5, 10
Carol Formica	Member at Large	4, 8
Mike Fahner	Member at Large	12
Georgia Glasser	Member at Large	1
Janis Metz	Member at Large	3, 10