

Ship Bottom Taxpayers Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 01/05/23

Attendees: Barbara Bishop, John Hiros, Rob Vidal, Karen Drucker, Greg Fath, Denise Cleveland, Joe Oliver, Kat Leifeste, Dan von Schaumburg, Blair Stiefbold, Bob Van Brunt, and Margaret Van Brunt

Meeting opened at 7:06 pm. Minutes from 12/01/22 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Balance in account is reconciled at \$2,520.95. Rob provided his monthly treasurer's report for December, along with the December TD Bank statement, showing one deposit for \$35 and no outflows from the account. Reimbursements pending for Joe Oliver (Decorations) and Kat Leifeste (Insurance for Chalk Painting). Report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Beautification – Dan said it is quiet now. Still has \$1700 - \$1800 in account. Park looked nice for the holidays. Before we know it, he'll be leading a Spring Cleaning! 😊

Bike/Pedestrian Safety – Karen said no update at this time. She would like to form a committee to provide more movement with this effort. In the interim, she will reach out for Mary Allen Realty to get info placed in rental packets.

Membership/Newsletter – Barbara said she is hoping to get one out next week. The newsletter goes out to every paid member. Barbara is looking to get info on our Facebook page as well. She is going to reach out to Ann Coiley to see if she can assist with it.

JCTA – Barbara said they did not meet in December, so any updates that happen will be shared via email.

Old Business:

Ship Bottom Budget – Barbara stated that the process is underway for next year's budget. She wants to reconvene our small committee along with anyone else interested to push for items we would like for next year. One particular suggestion is bike racks at the entrances to our beaches.

Insurance – Greg did receive one quote from Ryan McCabe. It seemed higher than we expected, so Barbara reached out for the other taxpayer associations to see who their carrier was/is and what the associated current rate. Three of the organizations use US Liability. Unfortunately, the carrier is no longer writing new policies. Barbara said having an agent come to a JCTA meeting to explain exactly what coverages we actually need. Joe suggested us having one main policy with the JCTA and have individual policies for each association. Barbara

recommends us holding off another month and Barbara will bring up a joint policy at their next meeting on Monday. Everyone was in agreement with this plan. Rob did reiterate that we probably could pay monthly.

Audit Committee – Rob was unable to meet with Jim Ulrich and Rich Neff before the New Year. He will get this completed in January.

Wind Farm Survey – Barbara said the JCTA is allowing any individual TA's to put out this survey. Our board decided not to participate mainly because there was no clear path for what would be done with the results of the survey. Joe said the NJ BPU is accepting comments regarding off shore wind and this is open through 1/13/23. We could provide the link to our members if people are interested in sharing comments with the NJ BPU. Barbara will include in the newsletter – just need to be cognizant of the timing.

LBI Consolidated School District BOE – Barbara was at the last meeting with Mr. Pagnotta stating that he was trying to collaborate with the borough. He made it a very positive presentation and how he would work with Ship Bottom on transferring some of the land to the town. At the subsequent town council meeting, the council said there is no way they are going to change the designation of the land being zoned as public use. Period. John explained the potential lawsuits that could arise based on the current stalemate.

New Business:

Membership Growth – Barbara explained that we definitely need to get our current membership of 100 people to renew along with growing our membership. Joe suggested an email blast with an incentive to renew and an associated link to “Pay Now”. Greg suggested a physical mailing to all homeowners. Barbara said that Barnegat Light did have some success with their “snail mail” campaign. Rob shared some ideas on explaining where dues went and what we'd like to do for 2023. Barbara said she has access to the mailing list and she will check with the post office to see what options they can provide to help in this endeavor. Barbara said we have approximately 2,000 homeowners. John said we should try to have auto payments for current/previous members. Givebutter does have this capability. Rob & Joe will look into Givebutter to see what else we can do in this regard and how we can utilize Mail Chimp through them. John's second idea is to simply say, here is your current invoice, and while you are at it, mention our organization to your neighbors.

On a related note, Joe said we should try to include some specific tasks that would be involved with particular committees. John said before we do this, we really need to get a list of our priorities and goals, and then put some times and dates on them so that we can plan accordingly with actual specifics. John also said maybe a fundraiser for our insurance. Joe added that getting a few more volunteers would still be beneficial – kind of a “Catch 22”. Barbara said we need to work on both sides concurrently.

Emphasis of SBTA for 2023 – Barbara asked the board what we want to work on for the upcoming year. For example, Barbara is interested in Open Space planning and budgeting. Another is bike racks at each beach ramp. She said to please send her some ideas on what we think should be priorities. This also includes the continuation of events like Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Parade.

Event Planning:

Chalk Painting – Kat told us that town council did approve the event. She did purchase one day event insurance. It is scheduled for 4/29/23, with a rain date of 4/30/23. The owner of Haymarket is looking into getting the best prices for the chalk. They also agreed to provide gift cards as prizes. We will need judges. Entry fee would be in the \$5 - \$10 range and would include “supplies” (chalk). Kat will send a *Save The Date* for the newsletter. Barbara suggested a news article for the Sandpaper. Kat & Barbara will confirm with Chief Potter that we would not be charged and that they would take care of barricading off the block.

Wine Tasting – Barbara wanted to get consensus on whether or not this is an event the board would like to move forward with this idea. She will put an email blurb together about what she has so far and have the board respond with their thoughts.

General Membership Meeting / Elections – Barbara said this will be discussed at our February meeting.

Miscellaneous News Items:

Project InVolve – There will be an event on 1/16/23 from 1-4 pm with representatives from various community organizations on hand to discuss what they do and how to become a volunteer if interested. It will be held at the library in Surf City.

LBIF Science Saturdays – Barbara provided a list of all upcoming Zoom meetings to be held on Saturdays beginning 1/21/23 through 3/18/23. Each individual session begins at 11 am. Barbara said the presenters are fantastic and that these sessions are worthwhile.

Ship Bottom New Businesses & Owners – There are changes occurring within the town and include the following: Burger 25 is moving into the Surf Taco building. Beach Waves Salon is moving from Surf City into the old Verizon store. The building next to Bageleddies is for the owners to live in (at least for the summer). The downstairs will be deemed retail; however, they aren't sure if they will be renting it. There are new owners at Joe Pops > the previous owners only had it for a year. They are hosting a SANDY BLOWS fundraiser for the Ship Bottom Fire Department on January 14th from 4 – 10 pm.

Ship Bottom Council Update – Barbara said there were 2 Passed Ordinances: No Golf Carts anywhere in Ship Bottom and No Large Group Rentals in Ship Bottom (issue was at Bay Terrace area). More info will be in next week's Sandpaper. New playground equipment has been ordered for the Bay Beach and should happen quickly. Ed English is trying to get bike racks at every beach entrance.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2023: All Leadership Team meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month. They will be via Zoom until at least April/May.

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm. Minutes submitted by Greg Fath.