

Ship Bottom Taxpayers Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 03/02/23

Attendees: Barbara Bishop, John Hiros, Rob Vidal, Karen Drucker, Greg Fath, Denise Cleveland, Kat Leifeste, Dan von Schaumburg, Blair Stiefbold, Jacquie Valerio,

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm. Minutes from 02/02/23 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Balance in account is reconciled at \$2,467.969. Rob provided his monthly treasurer's report for February, along with the monthly TD Bank statement. Report was accepted unanimously. Rob said we got a renewal notice for our PO Box; he will take care of this task.

Committee Reports:

Beautification – Dan said he has \$1900 in their account. Outside of that, it is still winter, so nothing new to report.

Bike/Pedestrian Safety – Jacquie gave the bike safety pamphlets to the town hall and they agreed to give them out with beach badge sales this year. Karen mentioned magnets; however the cost is approximately \$2 each, so the consensus was to not move forward with this option. Next year Karen will look to print forms to be included with the annual information that the borough mails out. Karen's goal is to have every house have bike safety rules in each house, especially for rentals. Karen will also contact AAA for street signs. Barbara said Surf City is looking to re-paint their bike path to make it more visible. Barbara also mentioned safety posters for bike shops. John reminded us that there are still issues with automobiles in connection with this issue. Finally, Barbara spoke with Pete Rossi regarding the upcoming bike rodeo, and he suggested that "it is always good to have new people show up".

Membership – Rob said he needs to get together with Joe. Joe is away and Rob will follow up with him to move forward with this action item.

Newsletter/Facebook – Barbara said the most important issue tonight is the approving the draft of Facebook rules. The end goal is to have it on our Facebook page to help maintain our objective of being a non-biased place for Ship Bottom residents to go for information >> not a page for controversial issues. Barbara made a motion to approve the document and once reviewed by an attorney, have it posted on our Facebook page. It was unanimously approved.

JCTA – Barbara said we were one of three taxpayer associations who did not participate in the wind farm survey. Results are pending. D&O insurance will be discussed at Monday's meeting on March 6th. The LBT 10 did a door-to-door canvass for their membership the week before Memorial Day. They did get 200+ new members using this method. They are now proposing a direct mail campaign to every home on the island. Another option would be to get a non-profit classification; however, this may be a more costly way to acquire new members.

Barnegat Light uses a reply card to be returned to their organization. After Monday night's meeting, Barbara will share additional information.

Old Business:

Ship Bottom Budget – Barbara reminded us that Kathleen Flanagan is out on extended leave. Kathleen said she would be available via email. Although there has not been any communication back from Kathleen yet, Barbara did send a document of questions/concerns that we have discussed previously as a board. She also provided the questions that were submitted to the borough with this week's agenda.

Insurance – We are awaiting JCTA meeting on 3/6 in which an insurance representative will be present. Last month's presentation was pushed to this month. We should have a better sense of direction on this topic very soon.

Audit Committee – Rob shared the consolidated financial statement since 2021. Receipts were down in 2022 versus 2021. He shared that we will definitely need to increase our revenue sources based on the year over year analysis. He will share this report via email to the board. Rob also provided the Independent Auditor's Report for the past two years ending 2021 and 2022. Richard Neff and James Ulrich were the signees who opined that the financial statements were presented fairly.

2023 Focus – Barbara said the general consensus is that we need to decide internally what our main focus will be. Multiple people did say that cleaning up our town would be a main objective. On that note, one of the owners of Surf City fishery (Marty) spoke with John who had asked if they would be open to have a small group work on cleaning up the area. They seemed open to the idea. It is private property, so we do need to get their permission first before any work can be done. Barbara said it would be a way for us to "give back" to the community. John said he would follow up / organize the effort. Tentative day would be April 15th, 9 am. Another issue brought up was bike racks at the beach entrances. Barbara believes this will be happening.

New Business:

New items were discussed during other reports included in this report.

Event Planning:

Chalk Painting – Kat and Barbara met with Chief Potter and the community relations officer will most likely be the one who attends the event. They asked specifically if there would be any cost and Chief Potter said they would be able to handle the cost for the officer. Kat shared some of the logistics that she has been working through, including speaking with The Haymarket again regarding chalk and additional details. She is thinking chalk sections will be 5x5 or maybe larger based on how many people attend. Barbara suggested getting the art

teacher and head of Interact to meet at the site to discuss further specifications. Judges have been selected to assist in picking “winners”.

Wine Tasting – Barbara said that we are not moving forward with it in 2023.

General Membership Meeting / Elections – We really need someone to take control of this item. Barbara said she would work on securing a date; however, again, someone will need to take ownership and planning of the meeting. A potential speaker could be someone from the Marine Mammal Stranding Center. Chief Potter is another potential speaker. Kat said she would help if another person would volunteer with her.

News:

- Barbara said that the borough has applied for a community development block grant to purchase two gators to help folks get on/off the beach. According to the town, the gators have been ordered. Individuals will need to go to the beach patrol headquarters on 26th street and then the individuals will be brought to any beach in Ship Bottom. Approximately 4-5 part time employees will be hired to handle the anticipated demand. In addition, the town is going to focus on improving the beach entrances including potential railings on some of them.
- Barbara has requested that our town council provide more detailed information with their monthly status reports, e.g., status of CVS building and 7-11 store, number of break-ins (not just house checks), focus on State of the Borough with details.

Next Meeting: April 6, 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 8:32 pm. Minutes submitted by Greg Fath.