

## **Ship Bottom Taxpayers Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 05/04/23**

**Attendees (in person):** Barbara Bishop, John Hiros, Karen Drucker, Greg Fath, Denise Cleveland, Kat Leifeste,

**Attendees (via Zoom):** Rob Vidal, Dan von Schaumburg

Meeting opened at 7:06 pm. Barbara reminded everyone that our sole focus for the evening would be on reviewing/evaluating our By-Laws along with a discussion on what topics our organization should focus our efforts.

The Board reviewed the Purpose and everyone agreed that no changes were necessary and that the purpose was clearly written and easy to understand.

The next item of discussion revolved around the term limits of the members. Much time was spent on the reality of having ample volunteers in these positions along with ensuring that we don't lose a majority of current members at the same time. It appears that at least two members may need to be replaced in September. To alleviate potential negative impacts to the organization, it was suggested that term limits only apply to 1 or 2 of the positions (e.g. President and maybe Vice President). This would require a change to the By-Laws which we would need to be made prior to October 1, 2023.

The meeting moved to Article VI which lists the standing committees. Initially there were suggestions that we come create at least one more committee that focuses on Community Relations / Activities. Other Taxpayer Associations have a separate event group. However, John circled back to our initial conversations regarding the availability of people to volunteer and explained that we simply don't have the manpower to create another committee. Instead, he said we should incorporate any community outreach events into the current structure. No additional committees were agreed upon; therefore, no By-Law change would be required here.

John had some notes from this group's initial meeting 25 months ago. A few items that had much success included the beautification of Sunset Point and the sharing of information from various borough/council meetings that were attended by many members (especially Barbara). Some items that didn't warrant or receive much attention included marijuana dispensary stores, an event to Open the Beaches, flag sales and block captains. Items that still need to be addressed with the borough include taxes and reviews of the town's budget, boulevard flooding and open space. John did inform everyone that Beach Haven passed an Open Space tax and maybe this is something we should push for as a group.

Before wrapping up our meeting, Barbara briefly went over some areas of focus that our organization could potentially address/improve. These areas covered Communications, Beautification, Borough Budget, Other Tax Impacts and Environmental Concerns. Further discussion needs to occur in connection with the topics listed above.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:30 pm. Minutes submitted by Greg Fath.

Additional items not specifically part of the agenda that were discussed at the meeting are as follows:

- There is a land use board meeting at the Fire House on 5/16 at 6:30 pm to discuss the potential 102 room hotel to be built on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. It would be part of Hotel LBI.
- Due to the inclement weather, our first annual Chalk Art Event was canceled. Kat put much time and effort into the planning of the event and all agreed that we should still do it; however, it will be pushed to April 2024. Hoping lightning won't strike twice (pun intended).
- Kat will be contacting Rob to discuss obtaining tax exempt status from the state. We would have had to pay tax on certain items at the Chalk Art Event because we are only registered as a non-profit organization federally.
- We are moving forward with the liability insurances as discussed in previous meetings. Greg will reach out for the agent to obtain the final quote.
- The group talked about grants and seeing if we can assist the borough in obtaining funds for future projects.
- Barbara has asked the borough to replace the faded beach signs at the entrances and although she has done so multiple times, no new signage has appeared. It is an ongoing issue with the town.
- The group said having the traffic signal operational year-round at 28<sup>th</sup> Street has made a difference. Update: Greg sent an email to the county thanking them for their efforts in making it happen and letting them know that we are appreciative that this will remain as well having the bags over the signals north of 28<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Our Code Enforcer is retiring and the position is being advertised for a replacement. Barbara mentioned that the new Public Works Director is doing well.
- We still need to finalize a speaker for our general membership meeting in September.