

Questions for Mayor Huelsenbeck

1. I would like to understand why there is no enforcement of “no dogs on the beach”, especially during the early morning hours. I continue to find owners not cleaning up after their dogs and in actuality, they should not even have been there. Could something specific be done next May when the beaches should be “dog free”?
 - *A few officers patrol the beaches in the mornings and the bay beach in the evening. Looking to hire additional Class 1 officers for next year*
 - *He recommends that if you see a dog off leash, that you report it to the police and they will send out someone to address*
 - *It is a sticky situation when a dog is with someone, you must ask if it is a service dog due to a disability*
2. Is it possible to allow Low Speed Vehicles such as golf carts in Ship Bottom? These are allowed in other municipalities like Beach Haven.
 - *This was researched and an ordinance was set against allowing them*
 - *Ship Bottom is the only way to enter and leave the island*
 - *Too much congestion to provide a safe environment for these vehicles*
3. There are rumors that The Gateway has been sold and may turn into a residential complex. Any rumors to that?
 - *No validity to this rumor*
4. On a related note, what is the future of the old CVS building? I thought the site was approved for an arcade or amusement venue; but there appears to be no movement. In the interim, is there anything that can be done to make the old CVS building look a bit nicer?
 - *Yes, it is still approved to be an arcade. Fantasy Island has acquired the property with plans to make an arcade and amusement center in this location*
5. Our year-round community is an older one – is there anything we can do to help us get over the dunes to enjoy the beauty of the beach? I was told the Mobi Mats are too expensive; however, there must be some cheaper options. And I know other towns on the island have wooden planks to help the situation. (See next question >> related topic)

AND

6. When the beach replenishment work was completed several years ago, the path from the top of the dune to the beach was a hard pack that was easy to walk up and down. Over the years, sand has blown up and it is now loose sand covering the hard pack, which is harder to navigate. Who is responsible for clearing it? If it is the borough, why is this not being done annually (it has not been done since the original beach replenishment)?
 - *Dune paths are graded fairly regularly during the summer, but unfortunately the wind blows sand and it builds up continuously*
 - *Mobi mats are acquired through a grant every 2 years, but they are very expensive and it limits the number we can acquire (Some towns have acquired them as a result of residents on the street paying for them)*
 - *Ship Bottom will be looking into other options to improve accessibility*
 - *There was a railing put on 4th street which some found helpful*

7. Can we do something to beautify Ship Bottom, specifically the 9th Street entrance on the island? I understand these are privately held properties, but the span between Shore Ave and Barnegat Ave just looks terrible. This predates the causeway project, so that is not the result of construction.
 - *Town is well aware. This area is being watched closely, but there have not been any violations which can be cited.*

8. Do you have a status on the pump station on 28th Street? It seems like this is taking quite a bit of time and the last update I can find is that AC Electric is “working on it”. Something more specific with a date would be nicer.
 - *This went “online” Friday, September 27th*
 - *It is being watched closely so that it may be tweaked as needed*

9. I use the post office quite frequently. It is an inconvenience to go to Brant Beach when I was previously able to walk to the post office. Does anyone have at least an estimated date of when it will re-open?
 - *No word as yet*
 - *There is no lease right now*
 - *The area has not gone out for bid to construct the area*

- *Suggests that we write to our legislators to encourage movement on this*
- *SBTA will send out information to members on who to send letters to*

10. My neighbor told me that there is an ordinance when a new home is built or undergoes a major renovation that a sidewalk needs to be included. If that is true, is there a reason why there is no sidewalk in front of the new Walters building? I think a sidewalk would make it much safer.

- *There are plans for curbing and a sidewalk once the road construction is completed*

11. Why does our multimillion-dollar Borough complex look like no one ever pulls a weed, waters existing plants, remove dead trees, etc? Did we pay for this landscaping or was it a donation? Perhaps Buildings and Grounds (or whatever it's called in the township) should spend some of their time doing that, maintaining beach entrances, etc. Who is ultimately in charge of this department?

- *There is only a temporary CO for the borough to use the building. Once it is finalized, contractors will be hired to address the landscaping*

12. Like most taxpayers, I am not happy with the LBI school property going to a "local" developer for what I consider a low price. Could the township acquire the property and turn it into passive open space such as a veteran's park or other ideas with a dog park, ball fields, concert venue, etc? I know this is a hot topic.

- *Council did not want houses on this property*
- *Strongly wanted to keep the school there*
 - *EJ school is built for younger students (K-3) and is not appropriate for the older students*
- *Feel the plan is not reasonable*
- *Lots of money spent for legal fees and \$941,000 given back to Pagnotta from the School Board*
- *School Board is not responsive to comments about the plans*
- *They will not speak to the mayors of involved towns*
- *There is no transparency*

- *They have violated the Sunshine Law several times and have been fined*
- *They answer to the State Dept of Education*
- *SUTA will discuss drafting a letter on behalf of our members; however, it is strongly encouraged to have residents attend the next meeting to voice their concerns (October 15th, EJ School, 6:30 pm).*

13. Can town council meetings be broadcasted via zoom or at least be streamed?

- *This is being worked on*
- *Hopefully by the beginning of 2025*

14. Is there anything more that may be done to make the area between 28th – 31st streets safer for bicyclists? There were small “dismount” signs painted on the sidewalks; however, they don’t seem to be too impactful.

- *Council members Hartman and Tallon are working on this with the county – they are looking for support from our group. More to follow as we look for potential volunteers to assist.*

15. There has been more discussion regarding the NJDEP’s proposed flood zone adjustments. It appears this could greatly impact all taxpayers with increased insurance rates and decreased property values. Has Ship Bottom taken any steps to help mitigate this potential change?

- *This is being worked on by councilmen Hartman and Valyo*
- *There will be many restrictions if it goes according to this plan, so all boroughs on the island are working together to develop resiliency plans jointly*

16. Why is Central Avenue’s speed limit 35 mph while Barnegat is 25 mph? Central is narrower and beachgoers park on the shoulder making no room for bikers or walkers.

- *Chief Potter is working on getting a study done by the county with hopes of addressing this*

17. Could a “No Turn on Red” sign be placed at 26th and the boulevard? On a related note, Dave’s Appliance trucks parking on 26th street makes it too

narrow for traffic (and people) and impossible to see around the corner. Can anything be done about that?

- *This is being looked at and can be partially attributed to a previous ordinance limiting areas for commercial parking*

18. Residents in Ship Bottom have an ongoing problem receiving packages and mail because most the towns on the island share the same zip code. Many, many times, we are driving down to our same house and street number address in Beach Have to retrieve our packages. This is a 12-mile round trip. We need a solution to this ongoing problem – any insights would be much appreciated.

- *Recommends writing to your congressman about this issue. Unfortunately, how the post office is set up does not enable us to make changes like requested.*

19. Can you give us an update on the construction near the bridge? When is the estimated time that it will be completed and what are the next steps in the construction project?

- *Original completion date was 2007. The promised date is now **June 30, 2025***

20. Will there be any consideration about leaving some traffic lights on during the off season? Crossing LBI Boulevard is very difficult. I know 28th Street's light is on year-round.

- *No, this is a county road*

21. Why can't the Candy store, which never shuts off its lights, summer or winter, be made to shut them off to conserve energy? Energy seems to be an issue with everyone, yet they blare their lights 24/7, which is intrusive to residents who live near it.

- *There is an ordinance addressing lights in town*
- *Recommends calling town hall and a "light study" can be done*

22. Will the beach shuttle continue next year? I would like the Mayor to know that it has made a major difference for many of us who would likely not make it across the sand.

- *Yes! Another vehicle has been added.*

23. Is it possible via a billboard or some other form of notification that the speed limit on residential streets is all 25 mph?

- *This is an ongoing problem*
- *Flashing signs are not embraced well by residents*

24. Are there any plans for a dog park in Ship Bottom?

- *No plans at this time*

Additional Questions from the floor

25. Between 8th and 9th on Barnegat Ave is really bumpy

- *Hesse is aware and will address*
- *Mayor also commented on the entrance to the Hotel LBI being unsafe with its proximity to CVS exit*
- *This is being discussed with state and they have agreed to make suggested changes*

26. 15th St needs repaving after work done by Gas Company and a pit has been dug to install a water meter, but no meter has been installed

- *Mayor will address this*

27. How did the land parcel by the LBI School get changed from public land to residential

- *This has not changed. School is still in negotiations for the next 6-7 months*

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Leifeste, Secretary