

Ship Bottom Taxpayers Association - Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes 01/10/2024 – 6:30 PM

Present: John Hiros, Karen Drucker, Joanne Tallon, Blair Stiefbold, Rob Vidal, John Montone, Greg Fath, Kat Leifeste and Dan Von Schaumburg (on Zoom) Special guest – Mayor Huelsenbeck

School Consolidation Update

The mayor spoke at length about the history of the LBI school.

Of note:

- School has always been zoned as Public Land.
- Judge invalidated Ordinance 2021- 05 because the adoption procedure was not in accordance with Municipal Land Use Law - it should have only gone through the Land Use Board (Town Council should not have been involved)
- Master plan needs updating to include a housing element addressing the town's affordable housing obligation.
- Several problems with LBI school
 - East wing pilings were rotting above ground, this was fixed, but West wing was never addressed
 - Heating unit in the basement was flooded during Sandy – it was repaired, but not replaced
- If Pagnotta wants to build 24 homes, needs to:
 - Obtain a use variance from the Land Use Board and an approved major subdivision.
 - Consider the current value of the land
 - Consider cost of a water tower (increased demand)
 - Consider the new ordinance requires underground wiring and sidewalks
- Very low enrollment (40% from mainland) and scores are ranked very low in the 50s
- Alternatives are to keep the school, consolidate or have children educated withing Stafford Twp

Approval of minutes – December Meeting - unanimous

Treasurer's Report – Rob Vidal report attached

- As of meeting, balance is \$5330.09
- Will do audit in March using the same non-board members we used last year and will continue to audit each year in March

Committee Reports:

Beautification –

- Dan Von Schaumburg (Sunset Point) – there is over \$3100. in the account
- John Hiros met with mayor to plan a walkway between the new house and the park in a space created during construction of the home. This path will connect to the current walkway in the park
- Greg said that John Montone needs to have a concrete proposal to present to the board before we can move forward with plans to plant dune grass in the cutout

Membership –

- Stuff-It Round 3 will be 2/7 at 4 PM. Karen will procure the office on 16th St that we have used for our leadership meetings.
- Our focus will be on “owner – non-occupied” residents
- Blaire will provide labels

Communications – nothing at this time

JCTA – Karen/Greg –

- Greg shared January summary.
- JCTA will be looking to have an expanded meeting to focus on membership initiatives.
 - Rob proposed bringing in a consultant to speak to JCTA leadership on how to improve membership
- Many of the other boards sponsor events such as mini golf tourneys, sand castle & free throw contests for children, and wine & cheese membership/social events.
- LBI is now first on the list for beach replenishment since the other 2 communities ahead of us in line are involved in litigation
 - Dredging of Holgate inlet was also mentioned as FEMA approval would be required before work proceeds. If approved, beach replenishment could begin this Autumn.

Old Business

Ship Bottom Budget – Will be finalized in March

Insurance –

- Greg / on hold until after membership drive – SBTA is still only group without insurance.
 - May want to get basic coverage soon
- Blair asked about possibly including cyber-insurance

New Business

Thank You Breakfast for EMS/Firefighter Volunteers

- Karen spoke to Deb Whitcraft (head of First Aid Squad)
- Aiming for March or April
- Karen to verify details, including venue (possibly Joe Pops)

Chalk Art 2024 –

- Kat reported that she has been in touch with Linda Ramsey who will act as a judge
- Blair will contact Lisa Bonnani who had offered to be a judge last year
- John Montone knows 2 retired art teachers who may be willing to help out with the event
- Kat has confirmation from Lisa Benjamin, the art teacher from the LBI schools, that she will help promote the event with her parents and students
- Darlene Parks (Art Supervisor at Southern) has asked the INTERACT club to assist the day of
 - Confirmation from an officer of the club received
- Need to get event insurance prior to going to Town Council for approval

Pump Station Update –

- Karen sent out information in an email
- She will follow-up
- Kat will include this in the newsletter

Monthly Borough Meetings (calendar with rotating volunteers to attend) – Whomever attends should send a “highlights” recap to our board

Land Use Board mtg: 1/17 – 7 PM - Joanne will attend

(Moving to 3rd Tues at 6:30 PM beginning in February)

Town Council mtg: 1/23 – 6:30 PM - Greg will attend

School Board mtg: 1/16 – 6:30 PM - We should pull together some questions to ask prior to the meeting and go as a group

NEXT SBTA MEETING will be in March >> Stuff It Session on 2/7 will serve as a pseudo meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Leifeste, Secretary