

Ship Bottom Taxpayers Association - Board of Directors Meeting

04/06/2026 – 4:00 pm

Location: Title Office

Present – Greg Fath, Karen Drucker, Joanne Tallon, John Montone, John Hiros, Kat Leifeste **Via Zoom** – Dan Von Schamburg and Blair Stiefbold **Absent** – Karen Cygal

Approval of minutes – March Minutes approved unanimously

Guest Speakers – Duane Watlington (SBVFC) – President Watlington gave us a detailed description of the needs of our fire department and the commitment needed from Ship Bottom Boro. Bottom line is they are requesting our support in encouraging town council to provide the requested funding needed to provide service to our community in 2026. The same funding request has been made to Long Beach Township, and they have agreed to provide the money to the Fire Dept on condition that Ship Bottom does the same. Town Council has yet to make this commitment. The misconception by the residents of Ship Bottom is that the fire dept is funded through our taxes. This is not the case. It is funded by fundraising and a budgeted amount from our borough.

Treasurer's Report – Blair (report attached)

Starting balance - \$18,303.68

Income (deposits) - \$660.00

Expenses - \$1548.50

- EMS breakfast
- ZELLE - Jeff (website)
- NJGOV annual report

Ending Balance - \$17,415.18

Pending income - \$885.00 (Givebutter and one check)

Reconciled balance - \$18,300.18

Committee Reports:

Beautification – John M

- proposed an adopt a bulkhead program on the bay. Plant flowers at the end of the streets. This has been done on 2 streets. We could reach out to the membership for volunteers to do this.
- Old CVS – revised plans are being submitted to the Boro for an updated building permit
 - Suggested putting up a banner saying “coming soon”

Membership – Karen C – not present

- Greg reported we now have over 400 members
- He stated that inputting member data is a lot of work
 - Blair brought up a platform Association Sphere which does it all – we will look into it

Communications – Greg/Karen subcommittee status.

- Greg and John M met with Kathleen Flanigan and as a result a survey was developed and sent to the membership. So far there have been 48 responses
- Karen has no update as yet from Chief Potter
 - Dan Gentile has developed a Short Term Rental member website

JCTA – Next Meeting tonight at 6 pm. Minutes to follow.

- Islandwide beach cleanup on 4/18 – details to follow
- Discussion about Fire District and Fire Commission – more to follow

Old Business

Website Update – Greg

- Some upgrades made
 - Easier to navigate
 - More secure

Chalk Art – Kat

- Met with Chief Potter 3/23
 - Officer on site
 - Barricades
 - Clean site
- Product w a purpose
 - Provide and paint shells white
 - We can bring extras as well just in case we need them
 - Volunteers to help
- Susan Hay
 - Provide chalk – having problems obtaining it this year
 - We will buy paint markers for the shells (Susan is ordering a case for us)
- Water and snacks? - not this year
- SandPaper – Kat to reach out to Gina Scala about the event for coverage
- Fliers –
 - John volunteered to distribute fliers around town
 - Joanne volunteered to bring fliers to St Francis and the Beach Haven School
 - Dan will post flier on social media
- High school students to help again through interact – 10 in the AM and 10 in the PM
- Grammar school art teacher to market to the students and parents

EMS Breakfast Recap – Karen D

- Went well
- Karen would like to change the venue next year
- Perhaps LBI Table – they don't do buffet, but we could have a limited menu

New Business

Spring Fling '26 – Karen D –

- Poor attendance last year
- Maybe Joe Pops – either a brunch or perhaps a Thursday evening

Police appreciation brunch – Karen D

- Tabled til the fall
- Coffee with cops?
- We will donate again to the Fire Company
- Lifeguard recognition tabled for now

Adopt a Beach Walkway kickoff – Greg will address when he returns from Portugal

(giveaways like SBTA hats or T-Shirts)

Summer Concert Sponsor – do we want to be one? - \$200 donation

Dollar General store suggestion – Karen D

- Many local residents concerned about parking

Joe Valyo unable to attend, but has asked for our help in building up the living shoreline

- Collect shells from restaurants to be dumped into the bay
 - Reclam the Bay should be involved
- He will update us at our next meeting

Other uses for funds – not discussed due to time constraints

Monthly Borough Meetings (calendar with rotating volunteers to attend) – Whomever attends should send a “highlights” recap to our board which can also be sent to all active members via email.

Land Use Board meeting: Tuesday, April 21st - Joanne

School Board meeting: Tuesday, April 21st - Kat

Town Council meeting: Tuesday, April 28th - John H

NEXT SBTA MEETING: May 4, 2026 – Start Time 4:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 6 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Leifeste, Board Secretary