



JOINT COUNCIL OF TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS OF LBI  
MEETING MINUTES MONDAY JUNE 6, 2022

ATTENDEES

Ann Barkey	<i>Loveladies</i>	Bill Malone	<i>LBT 10</i>
Barbara Bishop	<i>Ship Bottom</i>	Rand Pearsall	<i>Holgate</i>
Rich Brodman	<i>Barnegat Light</i>	Steve Salvati	<i>LBT 10</i>
Karen Ensslen	<i>High Bar Harbor</i>	Ben Tonti	<i>Brant Beach</i>
John Fiore	<i>Brant Beach</i>	Joanne Veech	<i>High Bar Harbor</i>
Ron Fiore	<i>Surf City</i>	Bill Walsh	<i>North Beach</i>
John Hailperin	<i>Beach Haven</i>	Pete Williams	<i>Consultant</i>

*The meeting was held in-person outside on the patio of the Fiores' home in Brant Beach. Thanks to Noel and John for allowing fourteen of us to show up with two minutes notice as the result of an unexpected snafu with the meeting hall at St. Francis Church.*

*In this document:*

- 1) "Town" refers to any Island town, township, borough, or neighborhood, regardless of its official designation; towns are frequently referenced only by their initials;*
- 2) TA = taxpayer or property owner association;*
- 3) "Extended JCTA" refers to all JCTA voting representatives, alternates who regularly show up, President Emeritus Bill Hutson and Pete;*
- 4) Add-ins, such as explanatory text or reminders, are in italics; and*
- 5) Follow-up items **are highlighted in red** so they do not get lost in the flurry of words.*

► **Call To Order** (John H)

JCTA Vice President John Hailperin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He joked that all of us calmly convening here at a moment's notice demonstrates what a flexible organization the JCTA really is. He reviewed the agenda and said he hoped that we would have an election tonight.

► **Secretary's report** (Ann)

• **Motion to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2022 meeting.** Ann announced that there were no material changes to the May minutes, which she had previously distributed via email to the extended JCTA. Rand made a motion to accept the minutes; Joanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Open item from the May 2 meeting not included elsewhere in tonight's agenda:**

[**NOTE:** *In Kathleen's absence, the following open item was not discussed:*] Kathleen said she will ask the HCTA board member who spoke with us last year about the Southern Regional School District tax situation to provide her with information about two pieces of legislation winding their way through the state legislative process. When she receives that information, it will be distributed to the extended JCTA.

► **Treasurer’s report** (Ann, reading Kathleen’s report)

Kathleen’s report: The current balance in the TD Bank account is \$3,670.45 — no change from the balance reported at last month’s meeting.

As a follow-up to our discussion last meeting, **Bill M said he would speak with Father Francis** tomorrow about what could be done for the St. Francis Parish that would appropriately memorialize and honor Barbara Truncellito.

► **Update on JCTA inclusion on the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce (“SOCC”) website** (Ann)

Ann reported that Lori Pepenella, SOCC’s Executive Director, said that our request to have a JCTA tab included on the SOCC website is an agenda item on the June meeting of the SOCC’s board of directors.<sup>1</sup> Ann said she does not know the day the board meeting is scheduled, but she is confident that Lori will be back in touch after its conclusion.

Ann stated that Lori asked if JCTA members would be willing to offer reciprocity on their TAs’ websites, specifically by including a link to the SOCC website.

Representatives from the following TAs said yes: North Beach; Holgate; Loveladies

Representatives from the following TAs said they would bring the request back to their boards: Barnegat Light; Beach Haven; Brant Beach; High Bar Harbor; LBT 10; Ship Bottom; Surf City

*Kathleen, please advise me if HCTA is in the “yes” group or in the “bring back to the board” group. -- AB*

► **Be Bright campaign** (Barbara)

**[NOTE:** *The PDF of the letter from the LBI Chamber of Commerce (“LBICC”) about this campaign was attached to the email with this meeting’s agenda. Ann sent that email to the extended JCTA on June 2.*]

*Bottom line:* Barbara recommended that we do not participate in the campaign this year. Donating money to fund the production of flyers that are more of an advertising piece than a conveyor of useful information and paying for safety bracelets that no one seems to wear is not a good use of our money. Everyone agreed with Barbara’s recommendation.

*A summary of Barbara’s other points:*

- 900 flyers cost \$2,000 to produce and LBICC mentioned putting the flyers in welcome bags distributed by realtors
- Barbara described a casual attitude toward this campaign displayed by the SB Chief of Police. During a meeting about bike safety that she and Karen Drucker had with the chief, he said that when police officers see kids riding their bikes and doing something wrong, they stop them and hand them a flyer. Barbara also said she noticed the flyers in an unmarked stack in the entry to the police station.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *After discussion in the May meeting, we agreed that on the SOCC website, we would like to see a JCTA link/tab that, when clicked, reveals a list of JCTA member TAs with a link to their websites. In addition, we would like to be able to post updates about our activities, particularly involving the priority committees.*

<sup>2</sup> *And the way she described it made it sound like it was a lonely little pile*

- Based on the chief's comments, what she observed and the fact that she has never seen anyone wearing the safety bracelet, she concluded that there are other, better ideas to promote awareness of bike safety than what is featured in this campaign.

*Other comments grouped by topic for the purpose of clarity:*

*Safety lights and lighted bracelets:*

- Rand commented on the lighted safety bracelets, saying that HTA offered them to people, but no one wanted them and they eventually just gave them out at a membership meeting.
- Barbara said that SBTA is partnering with the Kiwanis Club of LBI and also received 100 back/front battery-powered bike lights as a donation from a local company. SBTA plans to distribute the lights at the bike rodeo at the LBI School on Wednesday.
- John F said that when they had the bracelets at the September BBTA membership meeting, there was interest and people asked about them later, but he only saw the bracelets on the wrists of people's grandkids, lights blinking, while the kids were playing on the beach.
- We all agreed that we have rarely seen the lights used the way they are supposed to be used — or have seen them at all.

*Bike safety card:*

- Barbara displayed a bike safety card produced by Long Beach Township ("LBT") and said SBTA is going to distribute that kind of card as well, although in a larger size.
- Rich opined that distributing these cards is a good thing. He stated that BLTA had a safety card made and they were given out at the BL Borough Hall to everyone when they bought beach badges. Rich stated that BLTA donated \$50 to the LBT police department and that department took care of the production of 3,000 bike safety cards for distribution.
- He displayed the original version of the BLTA card, larger than the one from LBT, with what appeared to be the same information. Rich said the BL mayor complained about the size, so it was remade smaller (the same size as the LBT card).
- Rand opined that an informational card is better than nothing.

John H said that in his meeting with the BH police chief about bike safety, the chief was not aware that the Be Bright campaign existed. John H said that when he asked the chief what JCTA could do to help regarding bike safety, the chief advised to "get involved" and John H recommended that involvement should be at the TA level.

It was announced that two TA membership meetings with local police as guest speakers have been scheduled: SBTA and LBT10. The police will speak about bike safety, the new bike law and safety in general.

The conversation turned to this new state-wide bike law which requires motorists to move over a lane when they pass a cyclist or to slow to 25 mph while passing if they cannot change lanes.; Rich had a copy of the law and Ann said she would send it to the extended JCTA with the minutes [*which she did June 10*].

Pete stated that, based on his recent conversations with multiple police chiefs on the island, the police are not going to enforce this law.

► **Presentation of candidates** (Nominating Committee)

**[NOTE:** *On June 3, the Nominating Committee advised the extended JCTA via email that at this meeting, two names would be put into nomination to fill the unexpired term of president: John Fiore & John Hailperin. Candidates' statements — responses to four questions asked by the*

*committee — were attached to that email and are included as Addendum #1 & Addendum #2 at the end of these minutes. The committee also advised in the same email that we would be discussing the possibility of holding the election tonight to determine who will fill this vacancy, instead of waiting until July.]*

Bill M, on behalf of the Nominating Committee,<sup>3</sup> reviewed the actions of the committee so far, mentioning the email that had been sent, which included an invitation for the extended JCTA to reach out to the candidates or the committee members if they had any questions.

On behalf of the committee, he formally placed the names of John Fiore and John Hailperin in nomination to fill the vacant unexpired term of JCTA president. In addition, Bill M made a motion to hold the election at this meeting instead of waiting until July. Barbara seconded the motion and the floor was opened for discussion.

There was little discussion because everyone was in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously. The two candidates were then invited to speak briefly about their candidacy and they did so.

John F stated that it is hard for him to believe the position JCTA is in today compared to where the organization was when he first started coming to meetings. He said he has seen extraordinary change largely because of the individuals who have come into this organization over the past few years. JCTA has developed into something positive and useful through the efforts of its members who made that happen and the guidance and leadership that Barbara Truncellito set in motion.

John F said that Barbara T inspired him to return to BBTA to help and the BBTA has developed a good program now. He said he feels very strongly that we need to continue and expand on what Barbara T brought to this organization, which he called the “umbrella effect.” Previously, there were ten member organizations at the time all working individually, but now JCTA is looking at the broader pictures across the island (*i.e., all under the same umbrella*).

He said that JCTA’s mission is to make each individual TA stronger by working with each other, helping each other, sharing ideas and being willing to try new ideas when they are shared.

John F stated that his goal is for all of our TAs to have at least 50% of its town’s taxpayers as TA members -- it is important to get the majority of our taxpayers. He said the JCTA is a strong tool that can help us get to that goal. He praised the “good people” in JCTA and said he felt confident that we can do good things working together.

John H said that when he joined BHTA eight or nine years ago, it was on the brink of not existing at all. He stated that he “raised his hand” [*to volunteer*] and he has helped it grow and become a bona fide TA, first as a board member, then as the organization’s secretary and then, six years ago, by becoming BHTA’s president.

He stated that the skill sets he brought to BHTA were bringing people together and building consensus and those same skills are in evidence in JCTA. Our ability to build consensus within our group makes JCTA even stronger.

John H said that one of our accomplishments is exposure so everyone knows who we are, our mission, our value as an organization and our plans. He said the situation was similar when

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<sup>3</sup> *Barbara Bishop and Bill Walsh also served on the committee*

he began with BHTA – no one knew who BHTA was so that organization used social events to reach out to the community, including hosting Meet The Candidate meetings.

John H stated that it is important to have at least 50% of our taxpayers as members in our TAs and he said that he felt very strongly that such a result has to be accomplished by efforts at the local TA level. By way of example, he described how Resilient LBI missed the boat by not getting local municipalities and other local entities involved.

He said it is important to have tactical action plans that map out what we want to do on the local level. He mentioned our committees' efforts and said that everything is interconnected. He opined that it is important to take a step back and build consensus to complete Barbara T's vision and to support that vision with tactical plans.

► **The Election** (All voting representatives)

The election was held by secret ballot; Ann, the presiding secretary, managed the process. John Fiore was elected to complete the unexpired term of Barbara Truncellito, effective immediately.

*[NOTE: For future reference and as a matter of record, the details of the election process are included in Addendum #3 at the end of these minutes.]*

► **Reports from the priority committees** (Committee Chairs)

☆ **Beach Erosion / Replenishment** (Rand)

Rand mentioned an email he had sent today and **asked that responses be sent to him this week via email** — specifically he is looking for agreement with the strategy to ask all our members and their families and renters to lobby their congressional representative for funding for LBI beach replenishment. *[NOTE: The subject line of the email is "The Door & The Flooding Committee" and it was sent to the extended JCTA today at 2:56 pm.]*

He stated that several communities are going after the money and it is incumbent on us to put pressure on the legislators all around the state, not just locally. He said that making a phone call or sending a letter to the representative's office is not effective. Showing up at the office has a greater impact.

Rather than wait for water to break through part of the island before any action is taken, Rand said making this effort now is our one shot at getting the funding. He said that he is going to do a "test run" with his congressman in Union County in July and based on that experience, he will prepare a Q&A so we can be prepared to answer questions.

**Rand said he is looking for feedback on the timing:** Is it better to wait until after the election to meet with legislators because there might be new representatives? Should this effort happen now? Is August a good time?

Rand offered to come to any of our next TA meetings and talk for about 15 minutes about this effort. He said he would present this action as something we want to do, not as a lobbying effort. He mentioned, however, that as a representative of the HTA, because of its tax status, he is not allowed to lobby, but as a representative of JCTA, which has no 501(c) status, he can. **Rand asked that you contact him directly if you would like him to speak at your meeting.**

He said this effort is important now because "the squeaky wheel gets the money" and if we are successful, we have increased our chance to get the money sooner.

Rand also would like to receive input from each of us about beach areas that are in bad shape, particularly after the last storm, e.g., erosion; damaged or cut back dunes; difficulty with beach access; access compromised at high tide.

Rand stated that he has “1½ volunteers” on the Beach Committee and he is seeking more. He acknowledged Bill M, who gave him one name, and Rand said he was happy to have input and ideas from others. John F mentioned his neighbor, who is a well-connected lobbyist. John F said he would talk with her and if she is interested in getting involved, he will advise Rand; Rand was very receptive about having her join the committee.

Rand stated that getting the money is the focus, but the committee is also working on an education component to help people understand the importance of the dunes. He said that educating renters is particularly important and presents its own set of challenges.

Joanne suggested that JCTA put together short letter that could be signed by the eleven of us and sent to the twelve congressional representatives for NJ. We agreed that our boards would need to see the letter before making a decision to sign it. Rand mentioned that some of the talking points that might be useful in such a letter are included in the email that he sent out today.

John H mentioned that he worked in state government for many years so he is very aware that July is budget time in state government. He suggested that if this funding is not a 2022-2023 budget issue, then we may want to wait until the budget is approved before proceeding.

Rand said he wants to go after federal money, not funding from the state. He stated that there is state-level opposition in NJ to beach replenishment because there are some at the state level who have failed to comprehend the bigger picture and think that replenishment only benefits oceanfront owners.

Rand concluded by stating that the Army Corps of Engineers has already approved the 7-year replenishment schedule in perpetuity. There is no money funded to do that. Now is the time to fund the replenishment that should have already been budgeted.

#### ☆ **Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety** (Pete)

Pete mentioned that he had sent his report to everyone<sup>4</sup> and summarized the meetings that committee members and he had had recently with police chiefs: everyone in the meetings, to a person, was very welcoming, cooperative and happy to answer questions.

He reported that no area of discussion was out of bounds. Sometimes the conversation branched out into a couple of different areas because the chiefs look at safety as the big picture. Pete mentioned that all the police departments are very different, but they are all proud of what they do.

Pete praised committee members who managed the meetings for being well prepared and for representing their TAs and JCTA well. John F praised and thanked Pete, saying he did a wonderful job putting this effort together and crafting the way we presented ourselves to the police chiefs. John F said it showed we were prepared and making a serious effort.

John F said he has been to many meetings at the Township at which there were handouts about bike safety available, but no one takes them. He opined that placing a handout in every renter’s bag would be better idea, although handouts are generally not a useful tool. He

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<sup>4</sup> Email with subject “Bike Safety” sent May 31 at 11:51 am to the extended JCTA by Pete

suggested that we have to think about how we want to reach out and engage people who are interested in making that happen.

John H said he had a meeting with the BH police chief to talk about bike safety. John H said that the biggest issue for the police is the lack of cooperation within the business community, e.g., refusing to put signs with a bike safety message in front of their stores; declining to donate lights and helmets to be distributed at the bike rodeo (ultimately, the BH FOP donated those items).

John H suggested that maybe JCTA can take an active role in engaging the business community to be more engaged in bike safety efforts.

We all agreed that the Bike/Pedestrian Safety Committee should take all the suggestions, think about them and come back with a proposal, understanding that the issues and answers may be very different in different towns.

Rich, a dedicated cyclist, concurred. In addition, he recounted seeing frequent instances of cyclists going through red lights, ignoring stop signs and riding on the wrong side of the road. He said these kinds of unsafe activities increase with the renters coming on the island, and he has occasionally stopped people doing the wrong thing to advise them about the right things to do. He suggested that change comes from education of both pedestrians and cyclists.

#### ☆ **First Responder Support** (John F)

John F recounted that he had made the point in a recent BBTA membership meeting, at which representatives of the SB Volunteer Fire Company spoke, that LBT has no volunteer fire company, EMS or first aid squad, relying on the companies and squads in other towns to supply these services. For example, a BH ambulance is plugged in by the LBT Municipal Building, so [*that all things electrical like computers, batteries and pumps*] are available when needed. He said we should expect to see more blue ambulances [*dispatched from Hackensack Meridien Southern Ocean Medical Center*] on the island helping out because the local companies are saying that they need the assistance.

He reviewed the situation: Fire companies on the island (and everywhere else) continue to experience a significant lack of volunteers and need help. This dire situation is also true for police departments and emergency services squads.

No fire company on the island is fully staffed or comfortable with the number of people they have. The statistics are staggering: SB Volunteer Fire Company reported that it receives 300 calls per year, and 50% of those happen within four months. Fires do not go out by themselves and not going away so we have to figure out solutions.

John F reported that a retired NYC fireman has joined his committee, and John F hopes that he has some ideas that will be useful. He mentioned that he is meeting tomorrow with a BH resident whose ideas, based on many years of experience with local emergency services, will undoubtedly be valuable.

Without ideas that can be executed to mitigate this situation, John F opined that we might be looking at paid services.

John F described the following idea: Work with administrators and teachers at Southern Regional School District to create a two-year curriculum beginning at age 16. By age 18, graduating seniors would be certified and licensed by the state and be able to volunteer in any first aid squad, private or all-volunteer. If such a program could produce three or four

students per year from LBI, that would solve at least some of the problem. He opined that the education system must take responsibility to help build a solid volunteer base.

John H briefly described the BH Volunteer First Aid Squad's fight to continue to do their own background checks and mentioned that it concurs with John F's comments.

### ☆ **Flooding** (John H)

[**NOTE:** *Addendum #4 is a slightly tweaked version of the original minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of this committee distributed to the extended JCTA via email by Ann on June 3.*]

John H began by thanking Steve for preparing the minutes of this second meeting in May. John H described the meeting as "very educational" noting that the presenter was Angela Andersen, who is involved with Resilient LBI and responsible for securing grants for LBT — all concerned with how to protect the island and restoration.

John H described the next step for the committee: Reach out to all the municipalities on the island to gather information about capital improvements related to flooding and prepare an inventory. He said that Resilient LBI came in without an inventory and without coordinating with local governments and his committee wants to use a more comprehensive, coordinated approach.

### ☆ **Offshore Wind Farms** (Ann)

Ann said that issue #2 of The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up is ready and she would be sending it out to the extended JCTA at the end of the week. [**NOTE:** *She did via email June 9.*] Topics covered in this issue are right whales, migratory birds, aviation lighting at night and fact checking, based on questions received about the survey Bob Stern's group sent out, referenced in a May 18 letter to the editor at *The Sandpaper*.

She encouraged JCTA members to provide feedback about questions and comments that they are receiving from TA members and others. She said that information is very helpful when the committee is crafting future issues of The Round Up.

John F asked about the decommissioning process. Ann said that was an excellent topic to cover in a future Round Up issue.

### ☆ **Taxes**

There was no discussion about this committee and its future.

### ► **Quick Hits**

❖ *Ship Bottom Volunteer Fire Company's 100 Year Anniversary* (Barbara) Barbara said that lots of activities will be going on, so check *The Sandpaper*. Barbara reported that there will be a corn hole tournament as part of the festivities and, as an aside, mentioned that professional corn hole tournaments are covered on ESPN. [**NOTE:** *We all appeared to be as astonished as she to learn that.*] She noted that when you drive through SB or go to the boat ramp, you will see American flags. If you donate \$50 to the SB Volunteer Fire company, you get a flag to honor a loved one or anyone you choose to celebrate.

❖ *Drift, The Movie* (Bill W) Save Barnegat Bay is presenting their documentary film Drift<sup>5</sup> and is looking to make presentations to organizations who are interested. The entire film is one hour and 20 minutes long, but they are separating it into little modules that might lend itself more readily to presentations in front of groups who are looking for a shorter program.

Please get in touch with Bill W if your TA would be interested.

❖ *Reclam the Bay* (Bill W) If your TA has an interest in hearing about what this organization does and what it has accomplished, please contact Bill W.

❖ *In honor of Barbara Truncellito*. Rand made a motion that JCTA purchase a \$50 flag to support the SB Volunteer Fire Company in honor of Barbara T. John F seconded and the motion passed unanimously. **Barbara B, Ann and Kathleen will figure out next steps.**

**The End** Ben made a motion to adjourn and Joanne seconded. There were no dissenting votes; we adjourned at 8:14 pm.

The next JCTA meeting is scheduled for Monday July 11, 2022 at 7 pm in-person somewhere to be determined. **John F and Ann are working on it and Ann will advise.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ann Barkey, JCTA Secretary*

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<sup>5</sup> *From the Save Barnegat Bay's website: "Drift tells the story of Barnegat Bay through the voices and eyes of people who cherish the Bay as a natural, recreational, and economic resource for the local community and all of New Jersey. The film allows the viewer to DRIFT through 50 years of complex issues through a series of short vignettes, using a variety of perspectives, viewpoints, and experiences."*

## **ADDENDUM #1**

JCTA Nomination for Interim President

JOHN FIORE

# 1. What are the current areas of critical concern to you as a taxpayer on Long Beach Island?

There are 3 areas that I feel the JCTA, in conjunction with its member associations, should focus on which are critical to all the taxpayers on Long Beach Island.

### **Volunteer Fire Co's and First Aide Rescue Squads:**

We, Long Beach Island taxpayers, have a long standing, all volunteer program for these services housed in the 5 LBI Boroughs. Long Beach Township has contributed financial support, as well as their residents' within the township as volunteers to these volunteer Fire and First Aid Squads. The looming issue is the lack of resident volunteers more than financial support. Municipalities in New Jersey are required to provide Fire protection, but not First Aid/EMS service. If either of these volunteer services were to go to partial of fully paid it would have a substantial impact on our property taxes.

### **Beach Erosion:**

Without the replenishment and grooming of our beaches and dunes, both the safety and value of our properties would be adversely affected. We must, through our member associations, lead an effort to get every property owner to directly contact their Congressional representatives and get our beach replenishment back into the federal budget.

### **Flooding:**

This should not be just a municipality problem. Both the State and County need to be part of the solution. Tourism and vacation home ownership on Long Beach Island is an economic engine that reaches all the way to Toms River and Trenton. This is the one area that we need to get all the municipalities to work in unison to best address the problem. We, the members of the JCTA, should be the catalyst to get them together.

#2. What are your interests, ideas and skill sets that you bring to be the president of JCTA?

I find my willingness to listen and learn from others critical in getting individuals to work together in an effort to set a direction with goals that reach our mutual aspirations. I've been a leader in most every organization that I have been associated, but do it best with others via teamwork. My marketing and sales background have served me well in revitalizing the Brant Beach TA. Providing the JCTA with a logo, gave it a visual identity. Adding the MEMBER logo, gave each TA the ability to use that visual demonstrating that it's part of a larger umbrella organization addressing island wide concerns. BBTA is educating its members in our correspondence, webpage and Facebook notifications about the efforts, long and short term, of the JCTA.

#3 & 4 What are two goals you want to achieve as President during your term?

How do you see the relationship of the JCTA and the local taxpayer associations?

From day one, I have worked to improve the Brant Beach TA organization. When I first started attending JCTA meetings (2017) I realized that there was a wealth of information and lessons to be learned from the other member TA's. I created and circulated questioners asking basic questions on how each organization was set up and functioned. I shared that information with the other JCTA board members.

I believe that is the core strength and reason for membership in the JCTA. Whatever we do, it must be coupled with how it can help the other member organizations improve. I would like to create a standing committee that works with the Membership and Communication committee members of each JCTA member organization. We really are not competing with each other for members. We have defined areas from which to draw members.

When taxpayers asked to join the old Brant Beach Homeowners Assoc.(BBHO) from the area south of BB to BH it sounded great. Then I learned that there once was a TA that covered that area. I was asked by the JCTA President to see if I could revive the former organization or start absorbing its residents into our BBHO.

After several months of research, I found someone at the G Anderson Agency that had an old, maybe last existing, mailing list from LBT10. About the same time Barbara Truncellito asked me to meet with a friend that she thought could help my efforts at BBHO. She either purposely neglecting to tell me he didn't live in Brant Beach or she purposely set me up to kick start LBT 10. Either way it worked and now BBTA is learning from the LBT10.

The bottom line, the larger the active membership in each area of primary responsibility (APR) the more our municipalities need to work with us in managing their municipality and therefore our taxes. That is the secret to getting the best results for our island and out taxpaying members.

Respectfully submitted,

John

John Fiore  
President  
Brant Beach Taxpayer Association

## ADDENDUM #2

### JCTA NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT JOHN HAILPERIN

1. What are the current areas of critical concern to you as a taxpayer on Long Beach Island?

A: The area of greatest concern is island-wide flooding. As Chair of the Flooding Committee, I was successful in recruiting Frank Little of Owen Little and Associates as well as Angela Anderson. It is critical we have subject matter experts to address this issue. The former is the Chief Engineer for current island wide flooding mitigation tactics from Beach Haven throughout Long Beach Township to Ship Bottom. The latter, working with Owen Little and Associates was successful in securing grant funding for NJ Bay Island Initiative and Bay Island restoration planner modeling project tool.

However, it is my belief that these initiatives can not be addressed in isolation. Other JCTA Committees are doing good work that are interrelated to Flooding

including the Offshore Wind Committee and the research on the impact on climate change and the Beach Erosion/Replenishment Committee. These areas are of critical concern to the economy of LBI including its impact to tourism and property values. This is not to mitigate the work of the other JCTA Strategic committees. As your President, I will serve to realize the strategic vision of our past President to assure tactical action plans are implemented for all of our Committees. It is important our findings and recommendations are communicated effectively to all local taxpayer and property associations.

2. What are your interests, ideas and skill sets that you bring to be the President of JCTA?

A: I have a Masters Degree in Public Administration which allowed me to serve 8 years in leadership positions in New Jersey State Government. Additionally, I was the leader in the Financial Division of the corporate office of your local hospital, Hackensack Meridian Health, as their lead contracting administrator. It is in this position that I have maintained a relationship with the executive team of Southern Ocean Medical Center.

I have been President of the Beach Haven Taxpayers Association (BHTA) for over 6 years and when BHTA was facing extinction, I made BHTA relevant. I heighten BHTA awareness in the community through an improved website; having a voice at Council meetings and exposing BHTA in the Sandpaper so the Community knows what BHTA is about. As Vice-President of JCTA and its Public Relations Director, I provided the same skill sets to JCTA. During 2021, four (4) articles about JCTA appeared in the paper.

Related to the economy, I am active in community revitalization and support for initiatives that attract commerce, positively impacting the Beach Haven's tax base, and increasing property tax revenue. We actively advocated with the State Government to eliminate taxation without representation due to the SRSD tax inequities. Related to the environment, we successfully advocated for a plastic bag ordinance and during this past year BHTA held several forums relative to the planned Offshore Wind Energy initiatives by the State of New Jersey and were an active participant with the Federal Bureau of Energy Management, advocating for both the mitigating effects of climate change via renewable

energy and the creation of jobs in our community. In this role, I was able to bring a subject matter expert to present to JCTA.

During the past year, we continued to take positions that sustain and enhance public safety. These actions included, but were not limited to, calling for code and regulatory enforcement, supporting the ban of retail cannabis businesses, and becoming an active participant and promoter of the Beach Haven Neighborhood Watch Program. BHTA continues to advocate and support our volunteer first aid and fire companies.

I have served on numerous for profit and non-profit boards as an Officer building consensus on issues affecting the communities. These are the same skills I will bring to JCTA as your President. I will strive to improve the quality of life of the residents and taxpayers of Long beach Island, promote efficiency and economy within our government, and study and make recommendations of common concern.

3. What are two goals you want to achieve as President during your term?

The first goal is to continue the vision of our past President by implementing tactical action plans for all of our Strategic Planning Committees that will serve to improve our infrastructure. This includes but is not limited to alleviation of flooding and its impact on erosions of our beaches and back bay islands. In accomplishing this goal, we shall create regular information exchange to/from local taxpayer and property associations to be distributed to JCTA membership and to taxpayer associations for further distribution to memberships. It is in this way we can learn from each other.

The second goal is to implement public safety programs. This includes but is not limited to police and fire programs, EMS Programs, bicycle and pedestrian safety and code and regulatory enforcement.

4. How do you see the relationship of the JCTA and the local taxpayer associations?

As indicted above, it is critical to create regular information exchange to/from local taxpayer and property associations to be distributed to JCTA membership and to taxpayer associations for further distribution to memberships. It is in this way we can learn from each other. It is critical we create general and public awareness across all LBI municipalities and to plan/gain support within individual JCTA member associations for recommended tactics. This will continue our efforts through various media campaigns to create awareness.

### **ADDENDUM #3**

#### **2022 JCTA Election Process To Fill the Unexpired Term of JCTA President**

- May 2 In the JCTA meeting on this date, JCTA members in attendance passed a motion authorizing the creation of a Nominating Committee and directed its members to create and present a slate of candidates for this position at the June 6<sup>th</sup> JCTA meeting.
- TA presidents Barbara Bishop (SB), Bill Malone (LBT10) & Bill Walsh (NB) had previously indicated a willingness to volunteer for the committee and all present unanimously accepted their offers to serve as members of this committee.
- May 16 Via email, the Nominating Committee invited individuals to declare their interest in being a candidate and to submit a brief write-up to the committee focusing on the following questions:
1. What are the current areas of critical concern to you as a taxpayer on Long Beach Island?
  2. What are your interests, ideas and skill sets that you bring to be the President of JCTA?
  3. What are two goals you want to achieve as President during your term?
  4. How do you see the relationship of the JCTA and the local taxpayer associations?
- Responses were due by May 31.
- The members of the Nominating Committee continued their work, setting their own schedule.
- June 3 Via email sent to the extended JCTA, the Nominating Committee advised that the committee would be submitting two names for nomination: John Fiore & John Hailperin.
- Further, in the same email, the committee advised that they will be making a motion to hold the election at the June 6 JCTA meeting, instead of waiting to vote until the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- June 6 Both candidates were invited during the meeting to make a 3-minute statement and both candidates did so.
- Ann asked voting representatives to sign their names next to the name of their town listed on the voting representatives' sign-in sheet. After they did so, she gave each voting representative a printed paper ballot.
- The following was printed across the top of the ballot: "Per the JCTA by-laws: To be elected, a nominee must be affirmed by no less than 50% of all Joint Council members."

Below that was the following sentence: “The two candidates for the unexpired term of JCTA PRESIDENT are listed below. You may vote for one.” The two candidates’ names were listed below that sentence. Voting representatives indicated their choice by checking the box next to the nominee’s name. Voters could also return a blank ballot.

Ann collected the ballots from each voting representative by asking each person to place his or her folded ballot in a large plastic envelope which she carried and offered to them.

All JCTA member organizations participated in the voting process: ten voted in-person at the meeting; Kathleen Ries was not present and voted *in absentia* by communicating with Ann prior to the meeting and advising Ann how to mark her vote. Ann marked Kathleen’s ballot exactly as instructed and put the ballot in the large plastic envelope before the meeting.

Ann took all eleven ballots, which were still in the large plastic envelope, out of the main room and counted the votes in an empty adjoining room. She then asked the two candidates to join her in that private room and told them who had been elected president.

All three then joined their colleagues and Ann announced the name of the new president.

The ballots and sign-in sheet have been placed in a sealed envelope in Ann’s personal files where they will reside for seven years until they are shredded. They will never become part of JCTA’s files or archives and they are not passed along to the secretary who succeeds her or to any other officer or JCTA member, present or future.

At no time will the numerical count of the election ever be revealed. It is sufficient to know that the candidate who prevailed met the criteria for election as stated in our by-laws.

Please note that Ann keeps the ballots because she is the current JCTA secretary. The JCTA secretary runs the election process and keeps the cast ballots and sign-in sheet because those responsibilities are inherent in that position.

Should the sitting secretary be up for election and ***not*** be running unopposed, either the vice-president or the treasurer would be responsible for organizing and running the election during the meeting.

**ADDENDUM #4**  
**JCTA FLOODING COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MAY 18, 2022**  
**LBI Historical Museum**

**Attendees:** John Hailperin, Chair  
Denise Cleveland  
Christophe Arbet-Engels (via Zoom)  
Mary Ann Crutchlow (via Zoom)  
Angela Andersen (via Zoom)  
Steve Salvati

- 1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:** The Committee reviewed the Minutes of the April 20, 2022 Meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and by a unanimous vote of the attendees the Minutes of the prior Meeting were approved.

John also confirmed that the Meetings of the Committee will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, at the Holgate Field Station, and via Zoom.

- 2. Beach Haven Storm Water Pumping Station Project Update:** Frank Little and Allison of Owen-Little Associates were not able to attend the Meeting to provide an update on this project. However, John advised that according to Frank a pre-construction meeting of the contractors is schedule to be held next week. The project is scheduled to begin in September 2022. The details of this project were contained in the press release that John provided at the April 20, 2022 Meeting.

- 3. NJ Bay Island Initiative/NFWF Grant Project Update:** Angela Andersen provided a comprehensive update on these matters. Below is the summary provided by Angela subsequent to our meeting:

**NJ Bay Island Initiative- (NJBII)** is a group that Long Beach Township (“Township”) formed back in 2019 to look at marsh islands with attention to back bay floodings. The group includes the Township, Stockton, Monmouth University, The Nature Conservancy, USFW, Army Core of Engineers, DEP various divisions, DOT, Barnegat Bay Partnership, American Littoral Society, Mordecai Land Trust and citizens to name a few. The goal is to inventory and assess bay islands and explore the potential of the restoration of all the islands within Barnegat/Little Egg Harbor bays. The group continues to meet monthly and is ready to launch the **Bay Island Restoration Planner-(BIRP)** a computer modeling project tool the team has created of all bay islands.

1. The grant team for the Township project entitled “ **Restoring Bay Islands for Community Resiliency – Long Beach Township NJ.**” meets weekly. This support was granted in January 2022 by, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (**NFWF**). One of 40 projects chosen in the country. This is for 5 islands off the Township for restoration initiatives.

2. We are awaiting the contract for the first phase of the NFWF grant which is to **install tide gauge, pumps and bulkheads at the Holgate Field Station**, use the BIRP to confirm which 5 islands off of the Township will be targeted and Stockton Coastal Resource Center will do preliminary assessment and Monmouth Urban Coast Institute will do preliminary

restoration design ( 30%- Clam Cove Reserve and Western Marsh Island-Spray Beach are top 2 in the group). Islands are 51% owned by Ocean County and 49% owned by the Township.

3. We were selected to submit a grant application for the **second phase of the Community Resilience project – the application is due June 1** and will finalize the design of the top 2 islands as selected by the Mayor and take it to permit phase. We have brought Owen/Little into this phase of the project. We received a letter of support from Holgate Taxpayers Association for this application. Through the Open Land Trust, we receive a penny for every dollar of assessed value.

4. The Field Station spaces are written into the grant, and we will present a **scientific public access floating dock and ramp** into the grant for the research vessels to access the lab and meeting space.

5. We are hosting a full group field trip to the field station and boat trip out to the bay islands in mid-June- The core grant group took a kayak around Clam Cove.

**4. Resilient LBI Project Update:** Angela indicated we applied for a grant funding administered through HUD.with Owen and Little Associates in 2017. LBI was one of four (4) regions selected in NJ. Since Owen Little worked on the grant they can not be involved in its implementation. Initial grant was for at risk and underserved populations which is being ignored. John continued the discussion by summarizing his reaction to the RLBI Advisory Committee meeting held on May 16. In essence John mentioned that at this late date in the RLBI Project (nearly two years with a project end date in July 2022), it is quite disappointing that the RLBI Project management is just now planning to approach the six municipalities with the Actions Plans that have been developed without the benefit of real-time participation of the municipalities government officials in the entire RLBI Project process. This led to a lively discussion by all, which can be summarized in the following major points that were made:

- a. John was concerned that a 40-page slide deck as proposed by RLBI to share with municipal government leaders without any background or presentation of what RLBI is about, and why RLBI Project team is seeking “buy-in” from the municipalities, will not capture the audience that RLBI is seeking. As we discussed at the May 16th meeting, a more prudent approach is for the RLBI team to ask for 30 minutes to make a presentation to the municipal leaders including what the "ask" is. The RLBI team needs to need to boil this down to a more manageable option to catch their attention.
- b. Steve Salvati added, as mentioned to Julie Conroy, the RLBI Project manager, at the Advisory Committee meeting of May 2, that what is now needed in the RLBI Project is an evaluation and prioritization of what actions and projects in what time frames should be undertaken, and development of a comprehensive coordinated plan toward resiliency for all of LBI, in 3 steps:
  - i. The municipalities’ evaluation and prioritization of RLBI’s recommended Action Plans for feasibility, cost-benefit analysis, funding, and time frames.
  - ii. RLBI’s evaluation and prioritization of the municipalities’ resilience and flooding intervention plans and projects to date (bay island restoration, dune enhancement, beach replenishment, bay dredging, road elevation, surface water drainage, storm sewers, pumping, systems, flap values, bulkhead improvements, building codes and ordinances, zoning, etc.) for effectiveness, cost-benefit analysis, funding, and time frames.

- iii. A reconciliation of issues and positions of the municipalities and RLBI as respects the above steps, and development of an agreed upon comprehensive and coordinated plan toward resiliency for all of LBI.

Angela mentioned that she was having a meeting with Julie Conroy on May 19, and that she would relay to her our points as summarized above. We also noted that we would be pleased to meet with Julie to discuss these points in more detail. We are seeking a more coordinated approach.

It was suggested that there may be an opportunity for the JCTA Flooding Committee to add significant value by encouraging the RLBI Project team and the municipalities to work in a coordinated manner toward resilience for all of LBI and the benefit of our respective memberships.

5. **Ordinance Update:** Denise Cleveland has obtained a schedule of the Floodplain Ordinances in each of the six municipalities. Due to time constraint on the Meeting, further discussion on this will continue at the next Meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, John advised Denise we are interested in capital improvement projects and not Floodplain.
6. **New Business – Communication to Local Taxpayers’ Associations:** Due to time constraint on the Meeting, this matter will be held for the next Meeting.
7. **Future Agenda Topics:** Due to time constraint on the Meeting, this matter will be held for the next Meeting.

**Action Items: Angela will summarize her meeting with RLBI of May 19<sup>th</sup>. John will continue to work with Denise on island wide capital improvement ordinances.**

**Next Meeting: June 15, 2022**

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned.